

# ADVOCACY UPDATE - 2025 RECAP AND LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

## 2025: Engaging Policy Makers, Elevating the Voice of our Members, and Being Invited to the Table

2025 has been a landmark year for CAS' advocacy efforts, from strengthening our position as the national voice of anesthesiology to being invited to key federal and provincial policy tables, CAS has delivered tangible progress on issues that matter most to our members and contributing directly to improve the safety of Canadian patients. This year was defined by credible, visible, and substantive results, delivered by the unwavering commitment of our leadership team who work tirelessly on behalf of the profession.

## Raising the Profile of Anesthesiologists Across Canada

CAS made significant strides to ensure anesthesiologists' expertise and realities were clearly understood by government leaders and health authorities. We increased our presence at policy tables, showcased the essential contributions of our members, and positioned CAS as the go-to national authority for anesthesia-related issues.

## Our efforts supported advancements in:

- **Environmental Sustainability**, through the launch of our Position Statement.
- Health Human Resources (HHR), with increased in residency positions and reduced barriers for international trained physicians.
- Drug access and safety, through close collaboration with Health Canada.
- National understanding of the anesthesiologist shortage, via direct input into CIHI's workforce study.
- Most notably, CAS was called on several times to provide expertise at policy tables, and for the first time, **invited to provide expert testimony** to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA), on the impact of immigration policy and barriers to integrating internationally trained professionals in our healthcare system.



CAS President, Dr Giuseppe Fuda, provides testimony to House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) for their study on the impact of immigration policy and barriers to integrating internationally trained professionals.

## Strategic Government Engagement with Policy Makers in 2025

### Provincial Meetings:

- New Brunswick – Dr John Dornan, Minister of Health
- Saskatchewan – Jeremy Cockrill, Minister of Health
- BCAS/CAS – Joint Meeting with Josie Osborne, Minister of Health
- Nova Scotia – Staff - Nova Scotia Health and Wellness
- Saskatchewan – Consultation requested by Executive Director, Health Human Resources on Pathways to Anesthesia Assistants
- Ontario – Assistant Deputy Minister, Environment + Staff, Climate Change

### Federal Meetings:

- Environmental and Climate Change Canada
- Joint Meeting – Environment and Health Ministry Staff
- Environmental Champion – Eric St. Pierre – new Montreal MP
- CAS provides testimony to the Parliamentary Committee on Health (HESA) for their study on the impact of immigration policy and barriers to integrating internationally trained professionals
- Health Canada, Director General, Human Health Resources Taskforce

## Delivering value through Strategic Initiatives

Building on our connections with politicians, political staffers and senior civil servants, CAS continued to provide health and safety bulletins on medications working with Health Canada, and led several key initiatives including:

- Providing input into **Canada's Critical Vulnerable Drug List**
- Endorsing **WFSA Declaration of Patient Rights to Labour Analgesia**
- Creating a "For the Public" section on the **CAS website** and launching a Public Awareness Campaign, through strong support from the **Public Affairs Committee**
- The establishment of **CAS' Anesthesia Taskforce** to address fundamental issues in anesthesia care and delivery

## Looking ahead to 2026

As CAS heads into 2026, we will continue to build on our connections throughout the coming year. We plan to take full advantage of the Annual Meeting being held in Ottawa in June by hosting an in-person event for MPs and participating in targeted meetings for our leadership while in the capital. We will also hold a session at the Annual Meeting on the progress made with CAS' new Strategic Plan, with a spotlight on our advocacy work to date.

CAS remains committed to advocating for safe and sustainable anesthesia care, elevating the profession, and ensuring members receive meaningful value. Thank you for your continued support – your membership truly matters.