



CANADIAN FEDERATION
OF CATHOLIC PHYSICIANS & SOCIETIES
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE
DES SOCIÉTÉS ET MÉDECINS CATHOLIQUES



CFCPS Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Friday, 31st May 2019, 09:30 EST

Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto

1. Call to Order Dr. Tim Lau

Executives:

- Dr. Tim Lau (President, Ottawa)
- Dr. Paola Diadori (Vice President, Montreal)
- Dr. Jim Lane (Past President, Vancouver)
- Dr. Philip Fitzpatrick (Treasurer) – regrets
- Dr. Vanessa Sweet (Secretary) – regrets

2. Opening prayer Bishop Gregory Bittman

3. Approval of Agenda

- Motion to approve the agenda of the 2019 AGM
- Moved by Calgary; Seconded by Toronto
- Motion carried

4. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the minutes of 2018 AGM
- Moved by Calgary; Seconded by Vancouver
- Motion carried

5. President's report Dr. Tim Lau

Full report included in AGM documentation. Highlights below:

A. CPSO Court of Appeals Case on conscience protection

- Joint appeal of Divisional Court decision with 5 individual appellants, CMDA & CPL¹.
- Entered new evidence focused on 2 areas: medical re-training is difficult for physicians who desires to practise in accordance with their conscience; and scope of practice would be limited, as all specialties are affected.
- May 16th, 2019: Ontario Court of Appeals in 3-0 unanimous decision sided with Divisional Court, agreeing with them regarding the constitutionality of the CPSO policy,

¹ CMDA: Christian Medical and Dental Association; CPL: Canadian Physicians for Life

recognizing that the rights of patients were more vulnerable when balanced against the rights of physicians. However, the Court of Appeals disagreed with the Divisional Court regarding the impact the CPSO policy would have on physician conscience objectors.

- Outcome of legal action was the definition of what an 'effective' referral entails, and the creation of College fact sheet regarding this policy.

B. World Medical Association (WMA) meeting

- Representatives from CFCPS and CMDA attended the WMA meeting in Iceland in September 2018 to oppose efforts from Canadian Medical Association (CMA) and Royal Dutch Medical Association delegates to change the WMA's opposition to euthanasia, and the language around it (i.e. using 'assisted' death or dying).
- CMA delegates promoted Canada as an example of a right balance in supporting physicians on both sides of the euthanasia debate, but failed to mention the reality that objecting physicians in Canada do not have much legal support and college representation.
- Members of the WMA appreciated the presence of conscientious objectors from Canada voicing their concerns and sharing their experiences with the legalization of euthanasia.

C. Membership

- Membership status has expanded to include affiliate (non-physician) members and individual memberships for those who are not part of a local guild.
- There is still potential to expand and reach out to more people in the face of current challenges and political climate.
- Moving forward, will focus on increasing the awareness of the federation to non-members, and to broaden our coalition with other religious and secular pro-life groups to work together at political advocacy.
- Condolences to Montreal guild for sudden passing of Dr. Richard Haber.

D. Dr. Dave McCann Award

- Recipient: Dr. Jessie Thuswaldner (Ottawa), for her winner paper on human dignity.
- Award and presentation to take place at evening reception.

E. Website

- Thank you to webmaster, Mr. Colin Gajraj for his work at <https://canadiancatholicphysicians.com>
- Twitter feed available during this conference: @cfcps09 or #cfcps2019

F. Administrative support

- Special thank you to Mrs. Natasha Gajraj for her work and support of the federation in its 11th year, and continuing to build on its existing infrastructure and membership connections. Her help with organizing the Toronto conference has been invaluable.
- Thank you also to Dr. Ramona Coelho (London, ON) for help with multimedia interviews representing the federation.

G. Episcopal Connection

- CFCPS is grateful for his Excellency, Bishop Bittman for his pastoral support and involvement at the meetings.
- Future plans to present the Federation and its activities to the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops in order to increase connections to dioceses across Canada.
- Thank you also to Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, Apostolic Nuncio to Canada, along with Fr. Pablo Requena, the Vatican representative of the WMA, for hosting and supporting our delegates in preparation for the meeting in Iceland.

H. Annual Educational Conference

- Thank you to the Toronto guild for organizing and hosting this year's conference.
- Next year's conference to be held in Montreal, Quebec: May 1-3, 2020.

6. Treasurer's Report Presented by Dr. Tim Lau, submitted by Dr. Philip Fitzpatrick

A. 2018 Financial Statement

- 2018 budget was based on projected membership of 200 people (Actual = 96). It was the first year that memberships were tracked individually.
- Opening balance (Jan 1st) = \$5772.78; Closing balance (Dec 31st) = \$11276.72
- Net change = +\$5503.94 (Projection = loss of -\$390) contributed by revenue generated from the annual conference in Halifax, donations, as well as lower-than-expected cost of website.

B. 2019 Budget / Status Update

- Summary of 2019 financial records included in AGM documentation
- Opening balance (Jan 1st) = \$11,276.72; Current balance (May 20th) = \$8214.77 (net change of -\$3061.95)
- Total income thus far = \$2714.66 from dues and conference fees.
- Total expenses thus far = \$5926.53

- Projected 2019 income = \$8250.
- Projected 2019 Expenses = \$10690 (increased from original budget in recognition of the administrative support provided by Mrs. Natasha Gajraj).
- Projected 2019 net change = -\$2440; Projected profit from conference = \$500.

C. 2020 Proposed Budget

- Breakdown included in AGM documentation
- Projected opening balance \$5675, and closing balance \$3235 (net change: -\$2440), assuming nominal conference profits, and no significant increase in income and membership dues.

D. Membership Dues

1. Guilds - Dues for 2020 remain the same \$50 / member based on the number of members in each of the guilds.
2. Individual Members - remain at \$50 for 2020
3. Affiliated Member - remain at \$30 for 2020

- **Discussion from floor**

- i. **Evaluating membership fees:**

- A larger annual budget can create a more stable operation for CFCPS, and allow an expansion of services and activities.
 - Current fee structure of \$50 / \$30 is relatively very small compared to other societal fees / professional dues.
 - Dues can be claimed as business deductions / professional expense, which is more tax favourable than a tax-deductible donation.
 - Consider appealing for one-time levy / donation from members to increase the CFCPS operational infrastructure & administrative support.

- ii. **Keeping fees low:**

- Any increase in membership dues should be justified by a specific strategic plan.
 - Some members may be more committed to their local guild than to CFCPS, and be reluctant to pay higher membership dues.
 - Guild sizes vary by region – changes in fee structure will have to be judicious and be discussed with local guilds.
 - Retired members do not have the option to claim membership dues as a business expense.
 - Alternative to increasing fees would be to increase revenue through appeals for project-based donations.
 - Consider applying for charitable status, or partnering with CMDA to offer tax-deductible donations.

- iii. **Expanding CFCPS membership:**

- CFCPS should provide tangible benefits / services to attract membership.
 - Marketing & promotional materials will help increase exposure, but will require funding.
 - Members desire spiritual formation, networking opportunities, fellowship, resources, and support. Role for expanded website, podcasts, and discussion forum?
 - Encourage student and affiliate memberships by offering discounted dues and/or through campus focused outreach. Can appeal to members for donations towards sponsoring student conference & membership fees.
 - Consider partnership with CMDA and other similar organizations to develop a coordinated complimentary strategy & identity.
 - Members will benefit from a broadened scope of services from CFCPS. A multi-pronged strategy on the mission and vision of CFCPS is needed prior to any change in fee structure.

- **Motions:**
 1. From Toronto: Formation of working group for strategic planning & evaluation of fee structure for CFCPS
 - Amended by Halifax: Findings to be presented to Council for review
 - Seconded by Hamilton
 - Motion carried. Interested members to contact Mrs. Natasha Gajraj.
 2. From Calgary: To accept proposed 2020 budget and to keep membership fee as proposed, with possible amendment at future Council meetings pending the recommendations from the strategic working group
 - Seconded by Vancouver
 - Motion carried.

7. Elections

- Returning Officer: Dr. Tim Lau, Ottawa; Dr. Paola Diadori, Montreal
- Officers to be elected:
 - i. Secretary
 - Nomination for Dr. Thomas Fung, Calgary AB.
 - Nominations from the floor: none
 - Dr. Thomas Fung Secretary by acclamation
 - ii. Treasurer
 - Nomination for Dr. Mary Egan, Brandon MB (*Absent*)
 - Nominations from the floor: Dr. Sephora Tang, Ottawa ON
 - Dr. Sephora Tang elected Treasurer

8. 2020 Conference

- Montreal, QC to host the 2020 AGM and annual conference May 1-3, 2020.

9. 2021 Conference

- Expression of interest for joint conference with CMDA in Edmonton, AB.

10. Guild Reports Moderated by Dr. Tim Lau (Official reports in AGM package)

- Halifax
 - Upcoming event planned to commemorate Pope Francis' consecration of physicians to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 23, 2019.
 - Connections formed from last year's conference joint conference with CMDA continue to grow, despite no formal guild in Halifax.
- Montreal
 - Prayer request for the unexpected death of Treasurer, Dr. Rick Haber.
 - Planning for next year's CFCPS conference well underway. Archbishop Msgr. Christian Lépine will be present for the whole conference.

- Involved with 2 secular organizations against Euthanasia: 'Physicians Alliance Against Euthanasia' and 'Vivre dans la Dignité'.
- Ottawa
 - 10-15 members meet regularly in homes to discuss an article in Bioethics
 - Particular emphasis on reaching out to medical students and residents, in partnership with Catholic Christian Outreach.
- Toronto
 - Treasurer Fok Han working on budget for this year's conference.
 - Thank you to Lucas & Natasha, whom are responsible for the logistics of this year's conference
 - Colin, Lucas & Pascal also helped with the spiritual development of the guild, having organized Advent retreat on the topic of "Infinite longing" with Fr. Eric Ma.
 - Student reps Alex & Roman have organized meetings with fellow students to discuss conscience in clerkship, assisted suicide, suffering, artificial nutrition / hydration, authentic women's health, and role of physician in moral crisis.
 - Recordings of past talks are archived and searchable under 'Toronto Catholic Physicians' on Apple Podcasts. Talks from this year's CFCPS conference will be uploaded. Please subscribe & share with others.
- Hamilton
 - Meetings held at Canadian Martyrs Church. This year saw 3 new family medicine residents join.
 - Held two joint meetings with CMDA.
 - Testimony from David & Jane on their evangelization from attending their first federation conference in Ottawa.
 - Encourage CFCPS to pay particular attention to student outreach and to provide funding for students to attend the annual conference.
- London
 - Active dinner meetings and discussions on ethical and conscience issues.
 - Over 30 physicians have confirmed attendance at upcoming mass and dinner meeting.
- Calgary & Edmonton
 - Alberta just elected Jason Kenney as premier.
 - Fr. Michael Shumacher, a priest who was in Rome the last 2 years and who just finished his dissertation on conscientious protection, will be the speaker for the upcoming St. Luke's banquet in Edmonton.
 - Calgary Catholic Medical Association under new leadership (non-physician) is currently not affiliated with the federation. Will continue to have St. Luke's mass annually.
- Vancouver
 - Two major events thus far:
 - White mass followed by award banquet: Award recipients were Dr. Howie Bright and Ms. Stephanie Gray, with over 150 in attendance.
 - Talk from Dr. Romyne Gallagher, palliative physician, on "The Lived Experience of People with Dementia".

- Meetings usually held after evening mass with dinner and talk, opened to non-physician members. Members not always in attendance.
- Looking for greater involvement from younger Catholic physicians.
- Vancouver Island (NEW)
 - First official meeting this past weekend. Anticipating 10-15 physicians from across Vancouver Island
 - Will be organizing the executive structure over the next few months.

11. Other Business

- Dr. Rene _____(Ottawa): Point of care ultrasound and training available – may be helpful in the office during crisis pregnancy. Interested members can contact him for more info.
- Dr. Thomas Bouchard (Calgary) has had high success rates for abortion pill reversals. Please contact him for more info.
- Mr. Colin & Natasha Gajraj at CFCPS administration invites everyone to send them local updates & developments to bring greater awareness of news & events across the country.
- Dr. Pascal Bastien (Toronto) is available to provide instructions on how to set up podcasts recordings at local guilds.

12. Closing Remarks Dr. Tim Lau

13. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: Dr. Tim Lau; No opposition
- Meeting adjourned at 11:45 EST

14. Closing Prayer Bishop Gregory Bittman

ACTION ITEMS

- **Working group:**
 - Explore direction of CFCPS and present recommendations to Council by next meeting in September / October.
 - Review of membership structure and fees
- **Treasurer:**
 - Financial statements to be categorized and finalized for 2018 fiscal year.
 - Possible amendment to 2020 budget pending the recommendations from working group & Council.
- **Next Council Meeting:**
 - Review and pass completed 2018 financial statement.
 - Review recommendations from strategic working group.