



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



**CFCPS Annual General Meeting**

Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June 2020, 14:00 EST

Virtual Zoom Meeting

**1. Call to order:**

- Executives:
  - Dr. Tim Lau (President, Ottawa), Dr. Paola Diadori (Vice President, Montreal), Dr. Jim Lane (Past President, Vancouver), Dr. Sephora Tang (Treasurer, Ottawa), Dr. Thomas Fung (Secretary, Calgary), Bishop Gregory Bittman, Mrs. Natasha Gajraj

**2. Opening Prayer – Bishop Gregory Bittman**

**3. Approval of Agenda**

- Motion to approve the agenda of the 2020 AGM
- Moved by Montreal; Seconded by Vancouver
- Motion carried

**4. Approval of Minutes**

- Motion to approve the 2019 AGM minutes
- Moved by Montreal; Seconded by Vancouver
- Motion carried

**5. President's Report – Dr. Lau**

- Full report in AGM package. 2019-2020 highlights include:
  - A. Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) Expansion
    - Medical positions papers were produced to address concerns over government's planned expansion of MAiD, in partnership with Christian Medical & Dental Associations (CMDA), Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCCB), Canadian Catholic Bioethics Institute (CCBI), Canadian Physicians for Life (CPL), and Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP).
  - B. World Medical Association (WMA)

- Delegates represented Canada at the WMA meeting in October 2019 to highlight the lessons learned from the legalization of euthanasia in Canada.
- Encouraged protecting the practice of medicine from euthanasia in jurisdictions in other parts of the world.

C. Catholic Christian Outreach (CCO)

- Sponsorship of Rise Up 2019 to increase involvement with university (medical) students and mentorship support for trainees.

**6. Summary of Keynote Reflection** – Archbishop Christian Lepine. *(Check against delivery)*

- Why consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus?
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus comes from the cross & Christ himself. We are all called to contemplate Christ crucified. When we do, what will we begin to see? The love of Jesus Christ.
- The Cross is the first victory – Jesus loved to the end, to the extreme. Nothing could stop him from loving humanity and from praying to God the Father. This is the victory of the Cross over sin, suffering, & death.
- Second victory is the Resurrection – love is stronger than death. Upon seeing Jesus’ wounds from the passion, the Apostle Thomas recognized in it the infinite love of God, thereby proclaiming “my Lord and my God”. Nothing can stop the love of Christ. In receiving the water and blood that proceeds from Christ’s wounds, Baptism and the Eucharist has the power to transform & purify us.
- In the prayer of the consecration to the Sacred Heart, we ask Jesus, meek & humble of Heart, to give us a heart like His, so that we too, may participate in His love to the end.
- The heart is like a meeting place of the body & soul. To see the person in front of us, to see the dignity of the other, even when they are sick and dependent, we have to ask Christ, who has the power to give us that vision, to transform us into a better doctor & servant. God’s love is for the whole of humanity. Every person, regardless of condition, has the full dignity of the whole human being.
- Jesus promised that those consecrated to His heart will have the power to touch other people’s heart. Everything we have is from God, and we are to use every gift we receive to love & serve others.
- It is important to pray for those whom this is not obvious, whom may be blinded by the power of sin, that by discovering the mercy of God, they can permit themselves to be forgiven, to be renewed in their hearts and to regain a sense of hope.
- To consecrate ourselves to Jesus’ heart is to be a witness to His mercy. We need to know that Forgiveness exists. The power of the Sacred Heart is to touch and soften people’s heart in order to bring them into His forgiveness. As such, the more we need

to promote the sacredness of life, the more we need the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We need to be an instrument of His heart, His meakness, humility, forgiveness, serenity & peace. The peace of Christ is with us.

- Philosophy & intellect is not enough – since we carry our sins, sufferings & fears in our hearts, we are in need of the grace of God through the heart of Jesus Christ.
- When we consecrate ourselves, it is a moment of contemplation and adoration to grow in the recognition of the love of God for us & humanity - to answer that love by giving love in return, in a personal way.
- As we minister to the sick person, we must serve not only with arguments & reasoning, but also with the mercy of God. Once we know that Mercy exists beyond a concept – in the person of Jesus Christ – then it becomes possible to reconsider our life and the choices we have made in our (individual) life and in society.
- You are invited to consecrate to the Sacred Heart in a personal way and also as a body of doctors who desires to share the love of God – to serve patients and witness to them the beauty & sacredness of life from conception to natural death. The vocation of every human being is the Eternal Life. Let us pray for hearts to be open to the beauty of life, even when it is most frail.

#### **7. Consecration to Sacred Heart – Dr. Lau & Dr. Diadori**

- Full text in AGM package.

#### **8. Vote of Thanks to His Grace Archbishop Lepine**

#### **9. Dr. Dave McCann Award**

- The winner of the 2020 award is Samantha Rossi (Toronto), with the winning essay on the protecting conscience rights for physicians, as judged by Drs. Lau, Lane, and Diadori. Formal presentation and award ceremony will take place at the 2021 annual conference.
  - Samantha Rossi shared her experience of being one of the participants in Rise Up 2019, where CFCPS had co-sponsored an information table in collaboration with the new student group *Canadian Catholic Medical Students and Residents* (CCMSR) to better support the needs of medical trainees.
- As per previous council vote, guilds are to contribute \$100 per year towards this award, which will cover the registration fee and travel expenses of the recipient at the annual CFCPS conference.

## 10. Strategic Planning Committee Report – Dr. Tang

- Formed after 2019 AGM to plan for future growth of CFCPS.
- 4 Subcommittees:
  1. **Resources** (Rep: Dr. Donna Romano)
    - Bioethics formation
      - Use website as repository of searchable articles on medical bioethics.
    - Faith & Spiritual formation
      - Link to helpful Catholic Resources.
      - Listing of spiritual directors for discernment and renewal.
    - Prayer Support
      - Communicating local / guild updates to the wider CFCPS community for prayer and spiritual support.
      - Virtual online prayer meetings / devotions (e.g. First Fridays).
    - Sharing resources between guilds (e.g. guest speakers) through virtual technology.
    - Website: Consider adding “Member’s Only Section” for access.
    - Provide workshops in specific areas (e.g. Media Relations / Evangelization).
  2. **Mentorship / Networking** (Rep: Dr. Luigi Castagna)
    - Mentorship and referral opportunities through national network of Catholic physicians and students in various disciplines.
    - Improving communication between CFCPS and local guilds on national medical issues affecting the church (e.g. information flow between guilds and the CCCB).
    - Partnering with other university organizations (e.g. Catholic Christian Outreach / Rise Up) to increase visibility.
    - Supporting delegates through scholarships to attend affiliated conferences (e.g. CMDA leadership conferences, CPL workshops etc.).
    - Foster connections and collaborate with other Catholic Associations of Canada (e.g. Catholic Health Alliance of Canada, National Association of Catholic Nurses etc.).
  3. **Guild Support** (Rep: Dr. Fok-Han Leung)
    - Assist in formation of new guilds (e.g. provision of bylaw templates).
    - Partnering with local guilds & dioceses to increase awareness of CFCPS .
    - “Guild-exchange” of information/ideas by virtual pairing of guilds for support (e.g. Ottawa & Toronto, or newer-older guild pairing).

- Sharing of resources with local guild (e.g. subscription to virtual meeting platform).
4. **Fundraising / Administration** (Rep: Dr. David Chan)
- Obtain charitable status - process may take several months to years.
  - Collection of “seed money” for CFCPS expansion through donations (currently not tax-deductible).
  - Potential to temporarily partner with CMDA to collect tax-deductible donations for start-up costs, if necessary.
  - Increase administrative support: to increase from \$6000/year to a 0.5 FTE admin position (= \$20,000 annual salary).
  - Re-visit Membership Fee Structure and Dues

## 11. Treasurer’s Report – Dr. Tang

### A. 2019 Fiscal Year End Report

- **Opening Balance = \$11,276.72**
  - Total Revenue = \$5,750.63
    - *Membership \$5,550.63*
    - *McCann Scholarship \$200*
  - Total Expenses = \$9,148.86
    - *Admin salary \$6000*
    - *Conference costs \$2,288.91*
    - *McCann Award \$443.40*
    - *Office supplies \$378.55*
    - *Banking fees \$38*
- **Closing Balance = \$7,878.49**
- Motion to accept 2019 Fiscal Year End Report (Jan – Dec 2019)
  - Moved by Calgary; Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried.

### B. 2020 Financial Report – Status Update (as of June 11, 2020)

- **Opening Balance = \$7,878.49**
  - Total Revenue = 7,473.55
    - *Membership \$4,461.79*
    - *Conference Revenue \$1,179.48 (from 2019 conference in Toronto)*
    - *Conference Seed Money \$1,179.48 (also from 2019 conference; for future use)*
    - *McCann Scholarship \$652.80*

- Total Expenses = \$5,073.20
    - Admin salary \$3000
    - Admin support (webmaster) \$947.76
    - RiseUp Sponsorship (new) \$500
    - WMA Membership Dues (for 2018 & 2019) \$327.25
    - Misc (Banner) \$288.69
    - Banking fees \$11.50
    - Conference costs \$0
- **Closing Balance = \$10,278.84** (as of June 11, 2020)
  - Additional expenses for remainder of calendar year
    - Admin salary \$3000
    - Banking fees \$40
    - Office supplies / PO box \$187.50
    - Website cost \$1,500
- **Projected Year-End Balance = \$8,112.84** (December 31, 2020)

### C. 2021 Proposed Budget

- Expected Membership Revenue \$6000 (status quo)
  - Amount will increase to \$11,000 (with \$50 fee increase for ~100 active member).
- McCann Scholarship award \$1,500 x 2
  - Will be doubled, as both 2020 and 2021 recipient will be awarded at the same conference.
- Expected Closing 2021 Balance \$17.84 (status quo)
  - Amount will increase to \$4,767.84 (with \$50 membership fee increase).
- **(New) Proposed Revised Membership Fee Structure**
  - MD (Active Practice) Members: \$100 (from \$50)
  - MD (Retired / Resident) Members: \$75 (from \$50)
  - Associate (Affiliate) Members: \$50 (from \$30)
  - Guilds would collect membership fees based on same fee structure for individual members.
- Discussion
  - Membership dues are received at various times of the year, creating uncertainty in revenue throughout the fiscal year.

- Setting a fixed membership deadline of April 30<sup>th</sup> of each year will improve CFCPS budget planning, and to make it possible to send renewal reminders for outdated memberships.
  - Guilds to remember to send in their \$100 McCann Scholarship contribution, without which, the amount will be paid for out of the CFCPS operational budget.
  - 3 ways to increase operational budget for CFCPS:
    - 1) Increasing membership / dues
      - Promoting timely payment of dues through online submission / autorenewal.
      - Consider different levels of membership fee / sponsorship levels.
      - Include membership benefits (eg. Conference discounts, NCBC subscription).
    - 2) Increasing conference fees
    - 3) Optional levy to help kickstart CFCPS and to provide admin support.
- **Motion to accept proposed membership fee structure & increase**
  - Moved by Hamilton; Seconded by Halifax. Vancouver Island abstaining.
  - Motion carried.
- **Motion to accept 2021 Proposed Budget**
  - Moved by Montreal; Seconded by Hamilton. Motion carried.
- **Motion to accept deadline for membership fee payments to be fixed at April 30th.**
  - Moved by Vancouver Island; Seconded by Montreal. Motion carried.

## 12. Election of Officers – Dr. Lane

- Returning Executive Officers, 2<sup>nd</sup> year of term:
  - Treasurer: Dr. Sephora Tang
  - Secretary: Dr. Thomas Fung
- Election of President, two-year term:
  - Nomination: Dr. Tim Lau. No nominations from the floor (3<sup>rd</sup> call out). Position acclaimed.
- Election of Vice President, two-year term:
  - Nomination: Dr. Paola Diadori. No nominations from the floor (3<sup>rd</sup> call out). Position acclaimed.

### **13. 2020 Conference in Montreal – Dr. Diadori**

- Modified virtual program to take place on Saturday Oct 17<sup>th</sup> & Sunday Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Program will begin with 1hr of French content followed by 3 hrs of English content on each day, from 9AM-1:30PM EST, with possibility of group discussions during lunch (bring your own).
- Montreal guild will confirm conference fees depending on the cost of virtual media platform and accreditation with McGill University.

### **14. 2021 Conference in Edmonton**

- Joint conference with CMDA. Tentative date: May 26<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021.
- Suggestion from Dr. Bouchard: for Edmonton guild to look to CMDA to oversee logistics and organization of conference, and to overlay CFCPS AGM and additional sessions onto the conference schedule as appropriate.
- Dr. Cormier: Halifax had collaborated with CMDA during the speaker selection process. Cost-sharing was determined depending on whether participants identified as CMDA vs CFCPS members.
- Dr. Ferrier: suggestion to include a clause in the contract with the conference venue to refund booking fees in the event of public health orders restricting group gatherings.

### **15. 2022 Conference Invitation**

- Open invitation to guilds to host. Consider joint conference in Victoria with CMDA 2023?

### **16. Guild Reports: (See AGM Package for additional reporting)**

- Toronto – Dr. Vivas
  - AGM & Dinner with guest speaker Cardinal Thomas Collins
  - Trainees have a separate track of activities within the guild.
  - Talks include topics of MAID, conscience rights, authentic women's health, mission, medicine, vocation of Catholic physician.
  - Retreat reorganized virtually, led by Maronite eparchy in Ontario;
  - Virtual talk by Dr. Bouchard: "Pilgrimage of Patience: a Virtual Tour of the Seven Station Churches of Rome", using the seven station churches of Rome as a



point of reflection on patience and our hunger for the sacraments during the pandemic.

- Rheanna Bulten – Facebook group CCMSR has grown to 85-90 members.
- Ottawa – Dr. Taylor
  - Monthly talks included one with former executive director of National Campus Life Network, Rebecca Richmond, who led discussion on history of abortion in Western world, followed by talk by former ambassador for the office of religious freedom, Father Deacon Andrew Bennett.
- London – Dr. Coelo
  - New OMA president and platform is pro-conscience rights. Encourage members to meet with MPPs, and to develop relationships with cabinet ministers for support.
  - Neil McCarthy, Communications Director for the Archdiocese of Toronto is available to mentor anyone interested in providing interviews to the media. Anyone interested should email Natasha [admin@canadiancatholicphysicians.ca](mailto:admin@canadiancatholicphysicians.ca)

#### **17. Other Business** (Expansion of MAiD/COVID)

- Federal government and Justice Minister Lametti has asked the court for an extension until December 2020 to review the ruling on removing restrictions on MAiD.
- CCCB has coordinated the writing of medical position papers to address concerns over expansion of MAiD. There will be a need for members willing to speak to the media, especially in Ottawa, where press release will take place.

#### **18. Closing Remarks** – Dr. Lau

- Motion to adjourn, moved by Hamilton, seconded by Montreal. Motion carried.

#### **19. Closing Prayer** – Bishop Bittman

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*Meeting adjourned at 16:32 EST*