

# ADVOCACY UPDATE

As the national society representing anesthesia professionals in Canada, health human resource planning is of great interest and concern to our organization. As health systems continue to grapple with staff shortages and backlogs due to the pandemic, one of our priorities as an organization is to engage governments on this important issue.

This is a new priority for CAS. While we are proud leaders in the healthcare system, we have not done proactive government engagement at the Society level. In the coming months, we will be embarking on a senior-level meeting program with key officials in major Canadian provinces. During these meetings, we will be focusing on building the profile of CAS and our members, the important role we play in our healthcare system, and how we can provide valuable support and counsel to policymakers as they consider future policies that could impact our profession. As we move forward with these meetings, we will be engaging the leadership of individual provincial associations to supplement our efforts by joining these meetings.

The need for these engagements have become increasingly evident in recent months. Our British Columbia colleagues have been engaging and monitoring local developments that could see the introduction of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) within the province – something that we remain gravely concerned about. We are embarking on these activities in part to ensure that we are getting ahead of the issue within other Canadian jurisdictions, and working towards having a “seat at the table” with respect to future policy developments that could affect the domain of anesthesia.

We expect to begin holding these meetings beginning in the summer, and continuing the engagement process into the fall. We will continue to keep our membership apprised of any developments, and look forward to engaging with all of the local associations on this important work.

## Happy Birthday to SolvingPain!

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- Provide better pain management
- Improve patients' outcomes
- Reduce excessive & unnecessary opioid pills in the community



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