

Dear Colleagues,

My name is Trina Larsen Soles and I am running for Honorary Secretary-Treasurer of the BCMA. I actually never intended to be a medical politician, but became involved when the problems in our medical system had an increasing effect on my ability to do my job. It started with the rural doctors' job action in 1998 and the fight for on-call payments and the other rural incentives. From there I went on to work with the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada at a provincial and then national level as President from 2004-2006, and became increasingly involved with the BCMA.

I feel strongly that the challenges facing our profession cannot be fixed in isolation. We need a healthy medical system for the entire province in order for all of us to provide good care for the citizens in all our communities. Our specialist colleagues struggle with lack of infrastructure to allow them to provide the best care. Our urban GP colleagues struggle with changing societal demographics and demands of chronic disease management. In rural BC lack of physician resources remains a major challenge. We all struggle with access issues. Our health system is complex and interdependent. We have made some progress in addressing these issues over the last 15 years but there is significant work remaining.

There are huge challenges facing us in the coming years. Professional unity is absolutely essential. We must work to address the issues which divide us. We need to deal with access and infrastructure problems, particularly within our Health Authorities. We must establish the value of both generalist and specialist care while addressing the needs of all the sections. There are increasing demands for our skills as teachers which need to be recognized. The needs of rural communities still must be addressed. Innovation must be encouraged to meet the challenges ahead.

We need strong physician leadership to accomplish these goals. The BCMA has dedicated staff and a real commitment to the physicians and patients of BC. I have the skills and experience to be an effective member of the BCMA Executive. Through my work nationally with the SRPC and CMA, and at BCMA as Chair of the Council on Health Economics and Policy, member of the Negotiations Forum, and the past 4 years on the Board of Directors I have learned to identify the problems we face and work towards effective solutions. I have demonstrated my abilities to advocate for positive change, build consensus and communicate effectively. I ask your support for my election as Honorary Secretary Treasurer and promise that I will serve you well.

Trina Larsen Soles