

# **VOTE LLOYD OPPEL**

## **BCMA BOARD DELEGATE**



*Dear Colleagues,*

I am seeking your support in the BCMA vote for District Three Delegate.

### ***A strong Association***

The past gains made by the BCMA on your behalf have demonstrated how professional unity and a clear vision of how to build excellent health care can deliver results even in difficult times. Our recent membership poll reflects tremendous appreciation for the way the BCMA has delivered services and economic progress, while scoring high marks for communication with members and for transparency in its activities.

### ***Ongoing Challenges***

- **DOCTOR SHORTAGE** We continue to have a situation where many patients cannot find a family physician – a crisis especially acute in smaller communities.
- **HEALTH AUTHORITIES** We urgently need to enhance physician input into Health Authority policies and programs.
- **LISTENING TO MEMBERS** While member satisfaction is high (more than any other province) we need to be mindful that we face issues where we must enhance the ways we capture the voices of all our members, and particularly those of the Sections.
- **DOCTORS LEADING HEALTHCARE** I believe it is essential that the BCMA continue to make the public and the government aware of the tremendous value of both primary care and specialist physicians. From obstetrical services to preventive health care, government needs to direct new health funds to those with the most knowledge, the best ability to deliver care, and the willingness to take responsibility. We need to be sure that doctors lead the way to the future of medicine.
- **TRANSPARENCY** We need to continue to guard the Association from conflicts of interest and ensure that the rights and responsibilities of directors are clearly laid out for the protection and benefit of all involved.
- **FAIR TREATMENT FOR CLINICAL FACULTY** The value of clinicians as teachers is well understood by medical schools. We need to listen to our members whose generosity ensures the success of medical training programs. I continue to work towards a solution where the needs of future doctors can be realized in a context that does not impair the ability of our members to deliver patient care, nor devalue their contributions.

### ***Experience and Service***

The BCMA exists first and foremost to serve its members. It is my hope to continue to serve you well. My career as an emergency physician has allowed me a unique viewpoint where issues important to both GPs and specialists intersect. I believe this perspective is important in an arena where professional unity is one of the keys to successful negotiations. I have worked in the BCMA for over 10 years on a variety of committees - particularly on the Board and also on the Executive as Secretary-Treasurer. My experience here and at CMA has ranged from health promotion to health policy to health economics. It has been my pleasure to get to know, and to work with all of your respective board delegates to achieve our common goals.

Listening to the input of physicians and understanding the needs of our members is critical to our success. Together we can build on our strengths and lead the way forward.

**Dr. Lloyd Oppel**