

January 28, 2017

MEMO

To: General Surgeons of Ontario
From: OAGS & OMA Section on General Surgery
Re: Position Statement on Special OMA Council Meeting Proposed Resolutions (Jan.29)

The executive of the **OMA Section on General Surgery** and **OAGS Board of Directors** are strongly opposed to the upstart groups (Coalition, COD, and the new coup attempting splinter group) that seek leadership change. They represent either high earning specialties opposed to modernization of the fee schedule or enrolled family doctors who don't like the idea of accountability. Their positions are not aligned with General Surgery.

We generally support the OMA executive but are also very frustrated with the glacial rate of progress on relativity, poor communication and poor public presence. However, we do not want the status quo either, and we expect the future OMA executive to make some hard decisions. There is general sentiment that OMA President Dr. Virginia Walley should have resigned much earlier, and a lot of the current strife could have been headed off.

Our **recent polling** of the Section on General Surgery and OAGS membership has identified that **income relativity** is a huge issue. We and many other surgical groups are frustrated by the complete failure to address this in 30 years. We completely reject the underlying principles of CANDI that all physician work has equal value. We seek a strong and urgent initiative to address relativity issues. **Binding arbitration** is also an important issue, but the Section executive feels that this is an enormous distraction to progression of other important issues. Binding arbitration is at least 5 years away (if we win in 2018, then the gov't will appeal to the supreme court), and neither we nor the government have any influence on the judicial time table. The common sense thing is to engage in negotiations now. The support for **job action** in our survey was slightly over 50%. This is far below the threshold where it would have any effect. Therefore, we do not support it. We feel that the **governance structure of OMA** does not represent specialists well and would seek a major governance review also.

Our Positions on the Proposed Resolutions for the Special OMA Council Meeting (Jan.29):

- **Confidence in the Executive:** We plan to vote in favour of it but only narrowly so.
- **Confidence in the OMA President:** If a vote is held to remove the president, we will support it. We think this does 2 things. Hopefully, it will placate the more moderate members of those opposed to the current OMA, and secondly, send a strong message to the OMA to get going on things. It has been 6 months since the tPSA, and nothing much substantive has happened.
- **Confidence in the Remaining OMA Executive Members:** We plan to support the other executive committee members and will vote against motions to remove them. We see no viable alternative and are strongly opposed to the groups that seek to replace them.

Sincerely,
Dr. Chris Vinden, Section Chair
OMA Section on General Surgery

Dr. Alice Wei, President
Ontario Association of General Surgeons

CV/AW/lq

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