

# THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES MEDECINS D'URGENCE

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November 17, 1978.

Dear Colleague:

Re: CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF EMERGENCY PHYSICIANS

In Toronto, on September 12, 1978, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians was founded. The objectives of the Association are:

- 1) to study and recommend standards of Emergency Medical Care in Canada,
- 2) to foster research and education in the field of Emergency Medicine,
- 3) to promote co-ordination of community, provincial and national emergency care facilities and personnel,
- 4) to provide representation for Canadian physicians engaged in the practice of Emergency Medicine.

Membership is open to any physician who has significant interest and is active in the practice of Emergency Medicine in Canada. That practice may be full or part time.

The history of the development of Emergency Medicine is well known to many. As a specialty or area of special interest, its development in the United States has certainly predated us by some time. However, increasingly in the past ten years, Emergency Departments across Canada have become staffed by either full time Emergency Physicians or interested Family Physicians. Despite being, it has been said, one of the last frontiers of Medicine, very little is known about Emergency Department medical practice in Canada. In 1975, the Department of National Health and Welfare produced an extensive document "Emergency Services in Canada". This report concerns itself with the administrative and organizational aspects of emergency services more than with the actual role of the Emergency Physician, although there are some medical organizational recommendations included.

In the same year, the Ontario Ministry of Health produced "The Report of the Project Team on Emergency Services and Primary Care". Again this document addressed itself particularly to prehospital care, ambulance organization, categorization of Emergency Departments and organizations of emergency health systems. No recommendations regarding medical staffing or standards of emergency care were made.

The informal development of Emergency Medicine has not escaped the notice of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Both of these Colleges feel that any well-trained Family Physician can provide the immediate necessary care for all emergencies as well as most of the traditional specialties. However, it is also recognized that there are unique skills involved, which require more specific training than is usually found in the Colleges' programmes.

It is also recognized that there are no standards of training, of training programmes or of evaluation of physicians who do undergo a special training in Canada. There is certainly no standardized medical care in the Emergency Departments across Canada. Some Emergency Departments have a well established full time Emergency Room Physician Group. Some Emergency Departments are staffed by interested family physicians, on a rotational basis. Some major teaching hospitals still staff their Emergency Departments with junior housestaff alone, and some smaller centres have their Emergency Departments covered by available physicians on call.

The need became apparent, therefore, to both Colleges, to improve the quality of emergency care in Canada, and a Committee of members of both Colleges became a Conjoint Committee in 1975 to consider the need for physicians with special training in Emergency Medicine, and the necessity to offer this physician some type of certification. The Committee has acknowledged the present involvement of the Family Physician, the traditional specialists and increasingly, the properly trained Emergency Physician to provide care in Emergency Departments.

Therefore, during 1977, this Conjoint Committee of the two Colleges gave birth to a joint specialty committee, with terms of reference that recognized the need to train, evaluate and certify the individual who wishes to make Emergency Room Medicine his career.

It seems appropriate, therefore, at this stage in the development of Emergency Medicine, that those who work as Emergency Physicians across Canada have national representation, so that their opinions and concerns have the impact appropriate in the future. It is hoped that with full and representative membership, the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians can serve as a voice for Emergency Physicians in a large number of areas where such expertise is needed.

In the first year of operation, the goals of the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians are:

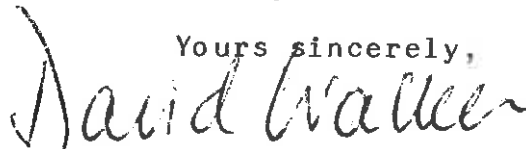
- 1) to compile an exhaustive list of all who practice Emergency Medicine in Canada
- 2) to encourage as extensive and nationally representative membership as possible,

- 3) to plan for a first annual meeting to be held in 1979, which would consist of both clinical programmes and a business meeting.
- 4) to prepare position papers on a number of topics, including reviews and opinions on training and certification, etc.,
- 5) to design and circulate regular newsletters to keep membership aware of all pertinent developments in the field of Emergency Medicine.

In order that Emergency Medicine achieve the recognition it deserves, I would urge all physicians active in Emergency Medicine to join the Association. It would be appreciated if all who receive this letter feel free to communicate their views to the Executive and to include the names and addresses of any colleagues who might be interested in becoming members.

The founding membership fee is \$50.00 payable to the "Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians".

Yours sincerely,



David M.C. Walker, M.D., F.R.C.P.(C)  
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P.S. If you have already joined, Welcome  
and please show this to any interested friends.