



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE



KIRSTEN JOHNSON
MD CCFP(EM)

2022 President's Update

As I finish my second year as President of CAEP I believe that our organization has never been more relevant and important for the practice of Emergency Medicine (EM) in Canada. I think of CAEP as a collective of amazing, talented, and diverse individuals, each connected like pieces of a puzzle, ultimately advancing emergency medicine in Canada and abroad. Together, we lead emergency medicine in advocacy, policy, technology, communications, partnerships, research, knowledge translation, education, clinical care, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Our Board, sections, committees, and staff form a power-house collective that enables us to advocate, brainstorm, mentor, contribute, innovate, design, meet, network, and socialize with Emergency Medicine friends and colleagues all over the country and world.

I'm proud of CAEP's successes over the last year, particularly in providing more opportunities for meaningful engagement of our members, innovative new programs and partnerships, advocacy, and professional development. CAEP has become a strong voice for the consideration of social context in EM, including recognition of the unique considerations of EM in rural and remote settings. CAEP has put Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) principles into practice through training and education, policy and procedural support, and by engaging leadership in short and long-term EDI-centered strategic planning. CAEP's committees are more engaged and active than ever. This last year has seen the formalization of new committees and working groups including Digital EM, Antiracism and Anticolonialism, CFPC 3-year Program Working Group, National Licensing, International EM and Best Practices in ED Scheduling to name a few.

The changes around us— social, political, technological, scientific, economic—require that we navigate through new and increasingly complex landscapes, which profoundly impact where and how we work, our patients, and the medical profession at large. The last two years have seen the disproportionate impact on Emergency Departments across Canada, making it difficult—impossible, at times—to provide the essential services for which they were designed.



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COVID-19 further exposed and exacerbated our system's pre-existing lack of readiness and responsiveness, leaving many EDs on the verge of collapse and providers feeling overwhelmed and burnt out. In response, CAEP has commissioned EM:POWER, a new Task Force with an ambitious mission to create a systems approach to the future of Emergency Medicine in Canada.

In addition to a systems change approach that the EM:POWER Task Force will lead, CAEP has proposed four priority areas for focus in 2022:

- **Advocacy** – National licensing, the war in Ukraine, burnout, pharma care, critically ill patient transfers, opioid and substance use and broad uptake and use of POCUS
- **Increasing Membership** – assigning a new section chair, creation of a 1st five years into practice committee, a new social EM section and more support for rural and remote practitioners
- **Improving CPD** by evolving its business strategy and moving control to the Head Office
- **Organizational Change** – ongoing implementation of CAEP's EDI framework, the CFPC 3-year program working group and ongoing support for the EM:POWER Task Force

As I come to the end of my term as CAEP President I want to thank you for your continued participation and enthusiasm in our professional community. I'd like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to CAEP's Board of Directors who have really stepped up to the plate and contributed their time, energy and efforts to moving this organization forward during these last two, very demanding, pandemic years. I would like to thank CAEP's Executive Director, Lynn Garrow, for her strength and support and my kitchen cabinet for their guidance. Finally, I would like to thank the CAEP Head Office staff for their tireless work on behalf of our organization. CAEP continues to grow in exciting, inclusive, and innovative directions and I greatly appreciate the opportunity to be a part of it. Best wishes to President Elect Mike Howlett for an exciting year ahead!

Sincerely,
Kirsten Johnson MD CCFP(EM)
CAEP President 2020-2022