



Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians

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CAEP Statement Regarding ICEM 2025 and Global Humanitarian Crises

During this year's International Conference on Emergency Medicine, two presentations on mass casualty response led to concerns and distress among conference attendees. We received important feedback regarding a track session on mass casualty response and a plenary session on modern warfare challenges in emergency medicine. Both sessions were included in the educational programming to allow sharing of scientific learning and diverse clinical experiences in an area of emergency medicine of increasing importance. However, both sessions generated strong reactions, as some attendees perceived that political agendas were present in the selection, design, or delivery of the sessions. CAEP does not support the promotion of political viewpoints in educational programming.

We recognize that our attendees bring diverse backgrounds and experiences to our gatherings, and we understand that content addressing mass casualty incidents and emergency preparedness can evoke powerful emotional responses—especially for those with personal connections to such events. We value the trust our members and the international emergency medicine community place in CAEP and take seriously our responsibility to maintain an environment conducive to meaningful professional learning for all participants. We are concerned about the inclusion of political commentary in what should have been a scientific and educational forum.

In October 2023, CAEP released a Statement of Solidarity with those affected by violence in the Middle East, recognizing the profound suffering experienced by communities impacted by the conflict. That statement reaffirmed our unequivocal stance against antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of hate and discrimination—principles that continue to guide our organization.

ICEM is intended to be a global platform for scientific exchange, learning, and collaboration in an inclusive, respectful, and neutral environment. While program oversight was conducted by the International Federation for Emergency Medicine (IFEM), rather than the CAEP Board, we acknowledge these concerns, take responsibility in our role as host society, and apologize to the conference participants and CAEP members who were impacted. We appreciate the efforts made by both IFEM's oversight committee and the local planning team to maintain professional standards, and we recognize the inherent complexities of navigating sensitive global issues in a



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live international conference environment. We share IFEM's commitment to strengthening future conference planning and delivery processes.

In light of the concerns raised, CAEP recognizes the importance of reviewing our own policies and procedures for the future. To this end, CAEP will review its conference development processes—from speaker selection to presentation review, to moderation standards—and consult with relevant organizations to ensure we are implementing best practices that support a safer and more inclusive environment at all CAEP activities. We will provide updates to our membership well in advance of CAEP 2026.

Emergency medicine is a field that brings together professionals dedicated to caring for people in their most vulnerable moments, regardless of who they are or where they come from. This shared commitment to healing and service transcends political boundaries and unites us in our professional mission. We remain committed to hosting educational activities that advance emergency medicine while honouring the dignity and perspectives of all participants. We will continue to learn from this experience and work to ensure that future CAEP events exemplify the inclusive, respectful, and professional standards our community deserves.

We thank all members and participants who shared their perspectives following ICEM 2025, and we look forward to continuing our work together to advance emergency medicine for the benefit of patients worldwide. In these challenging times, we call on all members to affirm our shared ethical principles: compassion, integrity, and respect—as well as our common humanity.

The CAEP Board of Directors