



Federation of  
Medical Regulatory  
Authorities of Canada

Fédération des  
ordres des médecins  
du Canada

# Snapshot 2020 – 2021 Year in Review

*The FMRAC Offices are located on the traditional unceded territory of the Algonquin Anishinabe People. / Les bureaux de la FOMC sont situés sur le territoire ancestral et non-cédé des peuples anishinabe de la nation algonquine.*

## MISSION

TO ADVANCE MEDICAL REGULATION ON BEHALF OF THE PUBLIC THROUGH COLLABORATION, COMMON STANDARDS AND BEST PRACTICES.



### Message from the President

It is with tremendous pleasure that I provide a few words to summarize FMRAC's past year. I think it goes without saying that, during this time, the world has become far different than previous years and that means medical regulators were dealing with many new and complex issues.

FMRAC's core strength comes from the working relationships that we develop among all the Canadian medical regulators, the broader medical community in Canada and the broader international regulatory environment. During such challenging times, it is more important than ever to build strong, supportive and productive relationships with our partners and find common solutions that meet the best interests of all Canadians. I think you will see in this update that FMRAC has remained fully engaged with our partners and continued to learn from everyone so we can best support our Members, the 13 provincial and territorial MRAs, do the best work possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Scott McLeod

### Watershed events in 2020 – 2021

1. **THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**
  - a. Adapting to working from home and holding virtual meetings (including complaints)
  - b. Registration and licensure requirements for the 2020 and 2021 graduating cohorts (undergraduate and postgraduate)
  - c. The rapid adoption of virtual care across Canada
  - d. Medical surge capacity and emergency licensure
  - e. Physicians making statements that went against the advice of Public Health Officers and the law
2. **ANTI-RACISM** – *the influence and impact of the following movements and events on how MRAs fulfill their mandate to protect the public*
  - a. The death of Mr. George Floyd and [Black Lives Matter](#)
  - b. The death of Mrs. Joyce Echaquan while in hospital and [Joyce's Principle](#)
  - c. The report from Ms. Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond entitled [In Plain Sight: Addressing Indigenous-specific Racism and Discrimination in B.C. Health Care](#)
  - d. The recent discoveries of unmarked graves at several residential schools
3. **THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA'S** recent decision to award the LMCC to candidates who have passed the MCC Qualifying Examination Part I
  - a. the MCC incorporated the preference stated by the FMRAC and its Members as to which cohorts would be eligible
  - b. the MCC cancelled its current MCC Qualifying Examination Part 2 and will revisit this assessment upon receiving the recommendations from its Assessment Innovation Task Force

## NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

2021-22



Dr. Nancy Whitmore, Registrar, CPSO, was elected to the position of President-elect of FMRAC. This is a one-year term followed by two years as President.

### Message from the Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer

It was a year for learning: how to adjust and rearrange one's abode to be able to be productive and efficient while working from home; virtual meeting etiquette as we adapted to the rapidly evolving technology that fortunately allowed us to engage with each other in a meaningful manner; to be patient as we realized again and again that the pandemic would be controlling so many aspects of our lives for much longer than originally expected; how to spot the signs that our colleagues may be flagging and in need of encouragement; the importance of taking time off work even with stay-at-home orders; and I could go on. It was also a time to realize just how much we appreciate being in each other's company, working and strategizing and socializing together in the same room.

Most importantly, the past year marks the beginning of a journey into my own understanding of the really difficult issues of implicit bias and privilege and injustice and colonialism. As I strive to listen and absorb information that will help me grow and fulfil my professional mandate, as I grasp the fact that I may yet not know how to listen fully, I am amazed at the honesty and openness of those who share their stories with us. I am grateful to them for putting so much effort and time into helping me.



Ms. Fleur-Ange Lefebvre

## PILLARS

THE SIX PILLARS THAT ENABLE FMRAC TO ACHIEVE ITS MISSION AS PROACTIVELY AND CREATIVELY AS POSSIBLE ARE:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>P1</b> establish mechanisms for the effective exchange of information, discussion and collaboration with its members and others, on issues that involve medical regulation</p> | <p><b>P4</b> be an effective voice to interact with and inform key stakeholders (including governments, the public and media) on medical regulatory matters of national or international importance</p> |
| <p><b>P2</b> develop policies, standards, statements and perspectives on aspects of medical regulation – either pan-Canadian or drafts that can be adapted by the members</p>        | <p><b>P5</b> develop and maintain programs, services and benefits for its members</p>   |
| <p><b>P3</b> actively participate in the design and coordination of pan-Canadian health system changes</p>   | <p><b>P6</b> identify and mitigate risk to medical regulation in a timely manner</p>  |



## SIX CORE ACTIVITIES

#	CORE ACTIVITY	PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENTS	Pillars
C1	<p>advocacy and common voice – where FMRAC stands publicly and speaks on behalf of the medical regulatory authorities of Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at the federal level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Canada</li> <li>Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada</li> <li>Employment and Social Development Canada</li> <li>Justice Canada</li> <li>Industry Canada</li> </ul> </li> <li>with the members, the public and the media – promote pan-Canadian standards, even if they are aspirational, especially when members can use them in discussion with their own governments</li> <li>with other national organizations – promote the notion of public interest regulation</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">FMRAC Statement on Physicians and Public Statements</a> (January 2021)</p> <p>Presentations at webinars put on by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FMRAC</li> <li>Coalition for Physician Enhancement</li> <li>International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities</li> </ul> <p>Federal Government</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Assistance in Dying</li> <li>Cannabis for recreational purposes – health products that do not require health care practitioner oversight</li> <li>Cannabis for medical purposes – physicians authorizing unusually high amounts for people who grow or have someone grow their product</li> <li>Safer supply of opioids for patients with substance use disorder</li> <li>“Agile regulations” consultations on advanced therapeutic products (ATPs) and medical devices that incorporate artificial intelligence</li> <li>Emergency licensure of physicians during the third wave of the pandemic</li> <li>Licensure of international medical graduates during the pandemic</li> <li>Virtual care (with the provincial and territorial governments)</li> </ul>	<p>P4, P6</p> <p>P4</p> <p>P3</p> <p>P3, P4,</p> <p>P6</p> <p>P4, P6</p> <p>P3, P6</p> <p>P4, P6</p> <p>P4, P6</p> <p>P3, P6</p>
C2	<p>surveillance of political developments and trends that may have an impact on the work of the Members in fulfilling their mandate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Assistance in Dying – continuing to seek assurance from the Federal Government that the language in the legislation will be clear and consistent</li> <li><b>THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b> asked for assistance in licensing physicians in an emergency, and FMRAC and its Members were happy to step up to the plate</li> <li>There were questions from and meetings with <b>THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT</b> on the advisability and feasibility of licensing international medical graduates to provide medical care during the pandemic</li> </ul>	<p>P1, P4</p> <p>P1, P4,</p> <p>P6</p> <p>P1, P4,</p> <p>P6</p>
C3	<p>FMRAC Integrated Risk Management System (FIRMS)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>NINE PROVINCIAL MRAS</b> are using FIRMS Standards 2.0</li> <li>11 modules of standards with high levels of compliance across all the MRAs</li> <li>The next phase will identify areas for improvement and possibly MRAs that require assistance</li> <li>Working with the Healthcare Insurance Reciprocal of Canada (HIROC), FMRAC will offer the FIRMS Standards 2.0 to regulators of other health care professions that are HIROC subscribers</li> </ul>	<p>P5, P6</p> <p>P1</p>
C4	<p>Model Standards for Medical Registration in Canada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FMRAC worked closely with its Members on several issues, in collaboration with other key stakeholders such as the <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (Royal College)</li> <li>College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)</li> <li>Medical Council of Canada (MCC)</li> <li>Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada</li> <li>Resident Doctors of Canada</li> <li>Canadian Federation of Medical Students</li> <li>Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS)</li> <li>Canadian Forces Health Services (CFHS)</li> <li>International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)</li> <li>Federation of State Medical Boards (FSMB; US)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><a href="#">extension of the “COVID-19” license to the 2021 cohort</a></li> <li>licensure for candidates who had previously failed the Royal College or CFPC exams</li> <li>postponements or cancellations of the 2021 exams, including the Royal College oral exam, the CFPC SOO (simulated office orals) and the MCC Qualifying Examination Part II</li> <li>academic certification</li> <li>recognition of certification in family medicine in other countries</li> <li>practice-eligibility routes to certification</li> <li>changes in the timing of the CaRMS Match due to the pandemic</li> <li><a href="#">FMRAC Statement on Military Physicians</a> (April 2021)</li> </ul> <p>In addition to IELTS-Academic, two other <b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY EXAMS</b> were added to the Model Standards for Medical Registration in Canada, pending approval by each MRA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occupational English Test (Medical) or OET-Medical</li> <li>Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program or CELPIP</li> </ul> <p><b>THE MEDICAL COUNCIL OF CANADA</b> – recent decision to award the LMCC based on the MCCQE Part I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the preferences of FMRAC and its Members on the cohorts who would be eligible were heard and incorporated into the MCC’s decisions</li> </ul>	<p>P4</p> <p>P4, P6</p> <p>P3, P6</p> <p>P4, P6</p> <p>P3, P4</p> <p>P3, P6</p> <p>P6</p> <p>P3, P4,</p> <p>P6</p> <p>P2, P3</p> <p>P3, P6</p>

C5	anti-racism in medical practice and medical regulation FMRAC identified the need to focus first on Indigenous-specific racism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Working Group on Anti-racism is chaired by Dr. Lana Potts, an Indigenous physician working in Calgary and Siksika, AB</li> <li>• Three documents are in the draft stage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ FMRAC Statement on Anti-racism</li> <li>○ FMRAC Statement on Anti-Indigenous Racism in Medical Care</li> <li>○ FMRAC Framework on Wise Practices in Medical Regulation – Towards an equitable and meaningful experience for Indigenous people</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	P1,
C6	FMRAC Annual Meeting and Conference – ongoing planning process	The 2021 conference on <b>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND VIRTUAL CARE: MEDICAL REGULATION FOR HIGH QUALITY CARE</b> was held virtually over five days, featuring a two-hour webinar each day with 100 to 125 attendees 14-16 June – Artificial Intelligence 21-22 June – Virtual Care	P1, P4, P2

## SURVEYS OF MEMBERS (on behalf of FMRAC, its members or other stakeholders) (P5, P1, P6)

- Honoraria for preparation time (August 2020)
- Candidate requirements for licensing the 2020 graduating cohort (October 2020)
- Requirement for physicians to have an email address (November 2020)
- Cultural safety – mandatory courses for physicians (December 2020)
- Governance composition (February 2021)
- Vaccination roll-out (February 2021; for the Public Health Agency of Canada)
- Virtual care (October 2020, December 2020, -January 2021)
- Medical registration – guiding principles and sample revised standards (February 2021)
- Family medicine as a specialty (March 2021)
- Endoscopic procedures (March 2021)
- Declaring criminal offenses on a certificate of professional conduct (March 2021)
- Physician Competency – Phase I (March 2021)
- Pre-screening requirements for international medical graduates (April 2021)
- Physician health (April 2021)
- CaRMS – receiving first iteration results (May 2021; for AFMC)
- Physicians with licenses in multiple jurisdictions (June 2021)

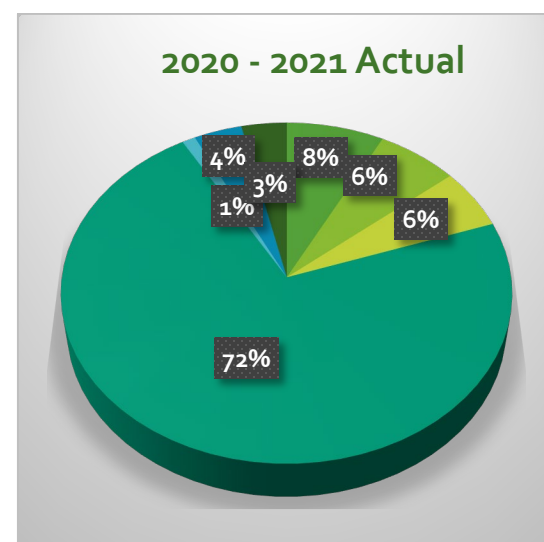
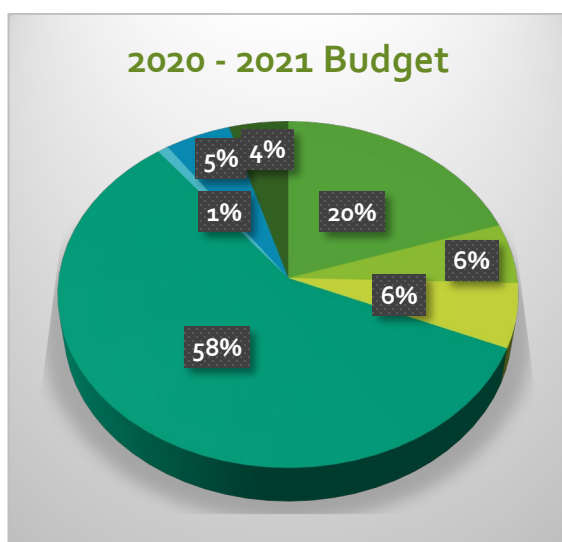
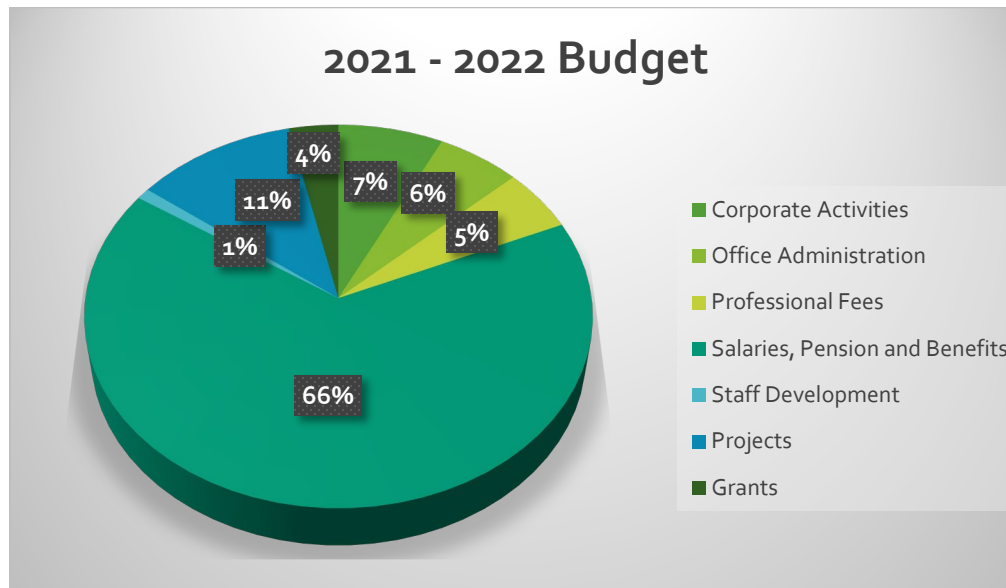
## EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES AND REPRESENTATION

### FMRAC IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED ON SEVERAL COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES, BOARDS OF DIRECTORS AND WORKING GROUPS OF STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS

- Royal College
  - Corporate Accreditation Committee (Dr. Derek Puddester [CPSBC] and Ms. Fleur-Ange Lefebvre)
  - Residency Accreditation Committee (Ms. Lefebvre)
  - Professional Learning and Development Committee (Ms. Lefebvre)
  - Credentials Committee (Ms. Lefebvre)
- CFPC
  - Accreditation Committee (Ms. Louise Auger)
  - MainPro+ Standards Working Group (Ms. Lefebvre)
  - National Committee on Continuing Professional Development (Dr. Anna Ziomek [CPSM])
- Canadian Resident Match Service (Ms. Lefebvre – Board member)
- Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (Dr. Jeremy Beach [CPSA])
- Committee on Accreditation of Continuing Medical Education (Ms. Lefebvre)
- Canadian Patient Safety Institute consultations and annual general meeting (Ms. Lefebvre)
- Canadian Medical Association
  - Committee on Ethics (Dr. Ziomek)
  - National Health Summit (Dr. Scott McLeod and Ms. Lefebvre)
- Canadian Medical Protective Association Annual General Meeting (Ms. Lefebvre)
- Canadian Medical Forum (Dr. McLeod and Ms. Lefebvre)
- MINC#NIMC (Mr. Douglas Anderson [CPSO; President], Dr Yves Robert (until his retirement), Dr. Michael Caffaro and Ms. Lefebvre)
- International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA)
  - Chair-elect (Dr. Heidi Oetter [CPSBC])
  - Regulatory Best Practice Working Group (Ms. Lefebvre)
  - Physician Information Exchange Working Group (Dr. Oetter, Chair)
- CFPC – Royal College – CMA Virtual Care Task Force (Dr. Oetter and Ms. Lefebvre)

## 2021 – 2022 BUDGET

- The only revenue is from membership dues and investment income, as there was no registration fee for the virtual Annual Conference.
- The followed costs were not incurred in fiscal year 2020 – 2021 or the first half of fiscal year 2021 – 2022: in-person meetings of the Board, committee and working group; President’s activities including travel; and staff travel.
- The resulting increased percentage for salaries does not reflect an increase in actual value.



## MEMBERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### MEDICAL REGULATORY AUTHORITY

[College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario](#)  
[Collège des médecins du Québec](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of New Brunswick](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Prince Edward Island](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia](#)  
[College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland & Labrador](#)  
[Yukon Medical Council](#)  
[Northwest Territories](#)  
[Nunavut](#)  
[Canadian Forces Health Services](#)

### REGISTRAR / FMRAC DIRECTOR

Dr. Heidi Oetter (FMRAC Executive Committee)  
 Dr. Scott McLeod (FMRAC President)  
 Dr. Karen Shaw  
 Dr. Anna Ziomek  
 Dr. Nancy Whitmore (FMRAC President-elect)  
 D<sup>re</sup> Isabelle Tardif  
 Dr. Ed Schollenberg  
 Dr. George Carruthers  
 Dr. Douglas A. (Gus) Grant  
 Dr. Linda Inkpen  
 Ms. Stephanie Connolly  
 Ms. Samantha VanGenne  
 Ms. Barbara Harvey  
 MGen Marc Bilodeau (Observer)

## OFFICE CLOSURE

FMRAC OFFICES CLOSED FROM 13 MARCH 2020 AND REMAIN CLOSED TO THE PRESENT DAY, WITH ALL STAFF WORKING FULL-TIME FROM HOME.

We wish to close by thanking and commending the members of the FMRAC staff for their due diligence and dedication, and for maintaining a calm, even keel throughout the pandemic.

*Scott and Fleur-Ange*