

EXECUTIVE REPORT

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Atlantic Regional Representative

September 2012 • AGM



I. DESCRIPTION OF POSITION:

The regional representatives serve three main functions. Primarily, they are charged with representing the region's member schools and bringing to the attention of the executive any issues arising at said schools. As Atlantic Regional Representative, it is my duty to act as the central point of contact between Dalhousie University, Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) and the CFMS executive. Secondly, regional representatives also lead projects of individual interest as well as take part in other projects headed by other members of the Executive.

Key projects this year: Mandatory Return of Service Issue at MUN, Student Project Funding, AGM Travel funding committee, Medical Students and Recruitment Position Paper, and Update to the Atlantic Regional Representative Handover Document.

II. ACTIVITIES

Meetings Attended:

Sept 23 – 25	CFMS Annual General Meeting	Calgary, AB
Oct 14 – 16	CFMS Fall Executive Meeting	Ottawa, ON
Nov 13	Executive Teleconference	T/C
Jan 16	Atlantic CFMS Teleconference	T/C
Jan 20 – 22	CFMS Winter Executive Meeting	Toronto, ON
Jan 24	Health Care Transformation Discussion (Dalhousie University)	V/C
Feb 4 – 6	Lobby Day	Ottawa, ON
March 26	Advocacy Training Event (Dalhousie University)	V/C
Apr 13 – 15	CFMS Spring General Meeting	Banff, AB
Aug 24 – 26	CFMS Summer Executive Meeting	Montreal, QC
Sept 15	Atlantic CFMS Teleconference	T/C
Sept 24	1 st Year intro Presentation (Dalhousie University)	V/C

Portfolio Updates

Project Areas:

1. Mandatory Return of Service Issue at MUN: This fall as part of their PEI Provincial Election Platform the current Government proposed a mandatory return of service (MROS) agreement may be imposed on all PEI residents who wish to enter medical school at MUN. This potential eventuality was brought to my attention as the

Atlantic Rep by the Medical Student Society at MUN following concern voiced by current students from PEI. Working in with the CFMS Executive a committee was established at MUN that included the MedSoc President, CFMS Sr. & Jr., Political Advocacy Rep and the MUN PEI Provincial Rep. In response to this concern this committee has released several press releases and letters in support of the CFMS position paper on Mandatory Return of Service. Several members of the committee, including myself, have done radio, television and print interviews.

The most important aspect of this issue has been dealing with misinformation and misunderstanding from both the provincial government and the public. This issue arose out of a need identified by the government to address physician recruitment shortage on PEI and while the CFMS agrees with the sentiment of the effort the proposed method has been the contentious issue.

With the media exposure this issue has generated and the contribution the CFMS and MedSoc at MUN have been able to provide, we have tried to encourage the Minister of Health on PEI to include medical students in the discussion. After experiencing difficulties with public perception, the committee feels our contention is beginning to gain support; however we are still far from through with this issue as the PEI government has of yet to decide on a plan moving forward to improve physician recruitment strategy.

2. Student Project Funding (overseen by Western Representative, Alyssa Cruz): Participated in the adjudication of Student Project Funding applications. This year we had 29 applications for \$10,000 in funding. This was a really rewarding project to participate in because it allowed me to get a good sense of the initiatives that are in planning or underway across the country.
3. Student Travel Funding Grants (overseen by Atlantic Representative, Phil Vourtzoumis): Participated in the adjudication of Student Travel Funding Project that received 26 applications from 8 different schools. 5 students, from 5 different schools, were awarded funding to the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Winnipeg, MB.
4. Medical Students and Recruitment Position Paper: Much of the CFMS advocacy activity over the last several years has surrounded representation in medicine and improving the access in rural Canada. As well, position papers have been developed on Distributed Medical Education (DME), Mandatory Return of Service (MROS) and Health Human Resources (HHR). This project will seek to assimilate the established positions of the CFMS but also survey the member school about issues arising across the country with respect to provincial recruitment strategies to get a sense of what works best for students and the provinces who try to retain and/or recruit them.

A resolution will be passed at the SGM to generate a committee to examine the issue across the country. The impetus for this initiative has come from the PEI MROS issue outlined previously. This would help the CFMS and its member school when faced with provincial efforts to address physician shortage that may adversely affect student opportunities.

Students will be recruited to resemble a representative committee of CFMS members by the end of Oct. 2012. Guidance will be given to the incoming Atlantic Regional Representative with respect to this initiative.

5. Update Atlantic Regional Representation Handover Document: In order to ensure that position turnover is smooth and effective I will continue to update the Handover Document.

III. FOLLOW-UP, VISION, GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS POSITION

During the remainder of my term I aim to complete the following:

1. Ensure transfer to new Atlantic Regional Representative with respect to PEI Return of Service and Medical Students and Recruitment Position Paper
2. Continue to examine Handover update

The flexibility that this position offers has been characterized by previous Atlantic Regional Representatives as a “double edged sword” where its defined responsibilities are limited in order to allow individuals to take on projects of interest. I think to help ensure the efficacy of this position it is important to create an institutional model that will both encourage individual projects as well as support other exec initiatives. To this end I think it would be sufficient for the executive to outline 4-5 different projects (eg. Student Project Funding, CFMS Travel Funding, Lobby Day Planning, etc) that are undertaken yearly by the CFMS and assigning them to a Region. This would not only help institutionalize important CFMS initiatives, but also help incoming Reps become comfortable in roles that can vary widely in efficacy from year to year.

IV. SUGGESTIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT

Within the current structure of the CFMS Executive it is essential that each Regional Representative be proactive in taking on projects of personal interest or supporting those of fellow members of the Executive. In the future I think the role of the Regional Representatives should be examined in order to more specifically define their responsibility while maintaining the freedom and flexibility these positions offer.

One regret I do have is that my project goals have been slow in coming to fruition. I think this is both a product of the unforeseen PEI MROS issue, but also the transition lag that a flexible position has. I hope with the further development of the Regional Rep Handover document this will not continue to be the case.