2009 POSITION STATEMENT – Dr WILLIAM TUCKER

In August 2007, I was privileged to become the President of the CMPA, a position that I continue to occupy and enjoy very much. My fellow CMPA Councilors have elected me to continue as President until the CMPA's Annual General Meeting in August 2010, in keeping with recent practice for CMPA Presidents to serve for three years. However, fulfilling this mandate depends on my re-election to Council this year by the member physicians of Ontario. I am seeking your support in that regard.

There are many challenges facing the CMPA and its members in Ontario at the present time, and I look forward to working hard to address these emerging issues.
Human Rights complaints are potentially more serious for Ontario physicians in view of recent legislative changes, and CMPA is seeking ways to assist its Ontario members in the face of these developments.
The process for billing audits has been re-designed in Ontario following Justice Peter Cory's inquiry into the previous MRC procedures. When the new process gets underway, CMPA will pay careful attention to ensure that due process is respected.
The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario is collecting more information about physicians as they apply to renew their licenses each year. The CMPA has expressed concerns about the use of some of this information, which includes legal settlements and personal physician health issues. While CMPA has obtained reassurances from the CPSO, the potential exists that some of this information could be used unfairly, to the detriment of Ontario physicians. Hospitals too are asking for more information at the time of privileges application and renewal, and there are concerns about the appropriateness of this in some cases. CMPA is engaged in assisting physicians with these issues.

As a practicing neurosurgeon with over thirty-two years of experience in many administrative and clinical roles in a large academic health science centre, I believe I can continue to make an important contribution as a CMPA Councilor. At present there are no other neurosurgeons or neurologists on Council, or employed in CMPA management. Practicing in a high risk specialty, I have had need of the CMPA's help from time to time (fortunately, always with a positive outcome), and have a first hand understanding of the unpleasant and stressful nature of the difficulties associated with modern medical practice.

This is my fifteenth year on CMPA Council, and I have enjoyed a broad experience on numerous committees. As President, I now participate as a regular or ex officio member of all committees. I would be delighted to continue to serve on the CMPA Council, and I earnestly request your support. Thank you.

Bill Tucker
President