



Dr. Michelle Workun-Hill, R2
Associate Member Nominee

Hi! My name is Michelle; I am a current second-year resident here in Nanaimo, and very excited to be running for a board position. I hail from Chelsea, QC, a small town north of Ottawa. I studied kinesiology in Montreal, briefly dabbled in law school and then quickly saw the light and travelled to Calgary for medical school. I have been living in Nanaimo for about a year and half with my partner Pat, and I don't think we knew how smitten we would become with the area. We recently bought a house here and are putting down roots, and are always looking for ways to get connected and stay connected to the community.

I have been delighted by the trail systems here in Nanaimo; I love trail running (albeit slowly) with my dog Ollie. I like a glass of red wine with good friends and spirited conversations with passionate people.

I have some experience with sitting on boards, committees and (student) governing bodies in the past, ranging from a position as the Athlete representative on the Ski de fond (nordiq skiing) Quebec Board of Directors, to President of the first year student body at McGill Law School, to sitting on the Resident Education committee in my role as current Chief Resident for the Nanaimo Family Medicine Residency Program.

1. What is your motivation for becoming a Board member?

I am seeking a position on the Board because I want to be a family doctor in this community, and would love to play even a small part in imagining and creating what that might look like. I believe that the best solution to local problems are locally-generated and implemented solutions. I have seen the tangible effect that the Division has had, and I am inspired and motivated by the people in this medical community who are seeking for things to be made better. I am excited to work with current board members to come up with creative solutions to the difficult issue of the many unattached patients in our community, as well as to support already established practices to help them maximize their efficiency and quality of patient care. I will advocate for a continued role for the full-scope family physician in our community, and for cooperation and coordination of our community and hospital-based patient care. I have interacted many of the board members over the course of my residency program, and I have been impressed with their vision of how to build a better system; it would be a privilege to spend time learning from them.

2. What will you bring to the Division Board and its membership should you be the successful candidate?

Should I be elected to the Division Board, I would try and bring the perspective of residents and early-career physicians to the table. Through my residency, I have worked at two clinics with very different patient populations, concerns and priorities (Lexitor, Sow's Ear). I hope that this experience, along with the diverse experiences we are provided in residency will allow me a beneficial perspective of the needs in different parts of the community. I hope to bring a balanced perspective of priorities, having a personal interest in a wide range of family medicine areas, including clinic work, maternity care, urgent care and emergency medicine.

I still have an enormous amount of faith and enthusiasm that problems are solvable, and that with advocacy and get-up-and-go, things can change for the better.

3. Why should membership vote for you?

Having grown up and been a patient in the medically under-resourced province of Quebec, and having done medical school in relatively resource-rich Alberta, I think I bring a unique perspective to the table in terms of how things are being accomplished elsewhere, in a range of contexts, and how we can best imagine and ideally integrate some of these things into our own community. I hope to stay in the community long-term and remain connected to the many facets of primary care, and promise to fill voids in my personal experience through attentive conversation with those who have lived experiences I do not. I hope to bring thoughts and ideas to life that will make primary-care medicine more efficient, better supported and more fulfilling for providers and their patients.