

President's Message – Strengthening partnerships

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What an exciting past few months! In writing this President's Message, it was difficult to decide what to share, as SRPC members and staff have been busy with so many projects.

In April, we hosted the 30th Annual Rural and Remote Medicine Conference. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with rural colleagues, learn together, have fun and discuss important issues. The SRPC's National Advanced Skills and Training Programme was profiled, we hosted a collaborative meeting on Rural Surgery, Anaesthesia and Operative Delivery, and findings from the SRPC's Survey on National Licensure¹ were shared with attendees. In addition, a workshop was held at 'R&R' where findings of the SRPC's education reform survey were shared, and participant perspectives were collected.²

The College of Family Physicians of Canada's (CFPC) education reform plans have been of critical interest, as the potential implications on rural health care delivery are significant. As the CFPC explores changes to the family medicine curriculum, we are firmly committed to being engaged and present. Our goal is to ensure that any redesign that occurs allows for optimisation of rural training, including advanced skills, mentorship and transition to practice. We wish to mitigate the potential risk of over-burdening rural training sites, erosion of the quality of training or adverse impacts on the workforce. The SRPC is a participant in the CFPC's Education Reform Taskforce, and in June, we facilitated a 'world café' for teams from all the Canadian Family Medicine programmes, sharing SRPC survey results and discussing rural training. As much of the education design

work is occurring at a programme level, we encourage you to connect directly with your local university to ensure the rural voice is heard.

Beyond this, in May, the SRPC hosted a National Summit on Equitable Access to Patient Transport. This invitational meeting gathered key partners involved in patient transfer. Attendees included Indigenous organisations, rural patients with lived experience, transport providers, administrative and policy decision-makers, rural health care providers and other key stakeholders. Participants shared innovative practices from across Canada and discussed specific action items that will further inform the SRPC's work in developing a national patient transport action plan. Common themes emerging included the value of strategic partnerships and relationships to co-create solutions and the need to reduce or remove jurisdictional barriers.

As we pursue our work, we are aligning priorities with our updated strategic goals: membership growth and engagement, enhancing rural generalist education and supporting our communities. It is exciting to see what the SRPC has the potential to achieve, as we continue to build partnerships and share our expertise in rural health care.

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