

Originating Department: EXECUTIVE

Distribution:

Approved by:

Title: Board Of Directors

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### PURPOSE:

The purpose of this document is to describe the policies and procedures governing Doctors of BC elections.

Elections will be carried out in accordance with the Doctors of BC Bylaws, to view these Bylaws [click here](#). If any part of this document is in conflict with the Bylaws, the Bylaws shall prevail.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Election Materials** means biographical information and a statement prepared by the candidate for the Doctors of BC, focusing on their philosophy related to issues faced by the Doctors of BC, presented in a PDF attachment not exceeding two pages to a maximum of 500 KB, with no embedded links and no candidate endorsements.

### CONTESTED POSITIONS

An election will be held if there is more than one eligible nominee for any position. Some positions are elected by the membership at large (President-Elect, Representative Assembly District Delegate, Representative Assembly Rural Delegate or Representative Assembly First Nations Delegates) and others by the Representative Assembly (Board Directors at Large, Speaker/Deputy Speaker the RA and members at large on the Governance and Nominating Committees).

The CEO shall notify each candidate of a contested position within one week from the date specified for the return of completed nominating papers and in any case at least twenty-four hours prior to advising the general membership or the Representative Assembly of the contested positions and candidates.

### DOCTORS OF BC WEBSITE

Doctors of BC will include the number of nominations for each position on its website as the nominations are received.

Doctors of BC will include the Election Material submitted by candidates on its website provided that such material is compliant with this policy.

Doctors of BC will not link its website to a candidate's homepage and will specify that candidate homepages are their own creation and responsibility. Doctors of BC takes no responsibility for information posted on a Candidate's own websites.

No candidate endorsements or links to candidate endorsements are permitted on Doctors of BC's website.

## ELECTION GUIDELINES

All candidates and their supporters are expected to abide by the following election guidelines, which are intended to encourage a fair and open process while informing voters about a candidate's experiences and views. Candidates are to inform supporters of these guidelines when asking for or being offered support for their candidacy.

- candidates must state their own viewpoints on issues directly and positively without making personal attacks against their opponents or making remarks about the Doctors of BC that are inflammatory in nature in the sense that they are not reasonably based on fact nor constructively critical;
- although a potential candidate is not prevented from soliciting signatures for his or her nomination papers, all Doctors of BC members are to refrain from publicly endorsing candidates until after nominations are closed and all candidates are known;
- candidates may obtain endorsements from physicians or other parties for use on their own website or personally distributed election materials.
- Any endorsement of a candidate by a Doctors of BC Board member or Representative Assembly member will include the following statement:

*"Candidate endorsements made by any person associated with Doctors of BC are made in such person's personal capacity, and not in any official capacity in relation to or on behalf of Doctors of BC."*
- candidates may not organize campaign committees and candidates may not enter into agreement to campaign together (no slates or group platforms);
- candidates and their supporters must use their own resources for election activities and fundraising is not permitted;
- use of Doctors of BC resources for promoting their candidacy, including list servers and personnel, is prohibited unless specifically permitted in this policy;
- any e-mail correspondence used for election purposes by either a candidate or their supporters must comply with the intent of these guidelines regarding content and must include the words "Doctors of BC Election" in the subject line;
- Doctors of BC will not provide e-mail addresses or other personal information of members to candidates or their supporters;
- candidates or their supporters may distribute letters, postcards, and faxes asking for election support;
- candidates may make presentations to an audience that includes a significant number of physicians, including academic gatherings such as grand rounds, if and only if all opposing candidates are simultaneously invited to the same meeting. If all required candidates have been given equal opportunity to attend and one or more cannot attend, the other candidates may present. Presentations made via proxy statements or modes other than physical attendance are prohibited;
- Health Authority Newsletters may be used to print statements or other materials by or about a candidate only if they give equal opportunity to each opposing candidate for the same position.
- candidates for any position on the board of directors, including president-elect, will not make personal promises or commitments to members, including any statement that implies that they will cause a particular position to be taken by the Association, recognizing that the Doctors of BC is governed by a board that makes decisions as a collective. However, a candidate may express

their own views on issues of importance to the profession so that members may assess the candidate's views prior to voting.

- no candidate will participate in any event, whatever it may be called, which primarily seeks and which has as its purpose, through debate and argument, to contrast their views from the views of any other candidate.
- the Doctors of BC will host an online forum where candidates for president-elect will be interviewed to highlight why they have the skills, attributes and qualities aligned with the role of the president as described in the role description for that office.

## PRIVACY

Doctors of BC respects the privacy of individuals and is committed to protecting personal information of its members in accordance with Doctors of BC Privacy Policies and Procedures and the *BC Personal Information Protection Act*. No candidate will be provided with contact information for any member for the purpose of distribution of campaign or election materials. No candidate, who by their position on the Board or Representative Assembly may use their access to District email lists to campaign for their own or any other individual's election.

## COMPLIANCE

- Each candidate will receive a copy of this Elections Policy and will certify that he/she has read and agrees to abide by it.
- Concerns about deviation from these guidelines may be reported to the CEO.
- When a candidate or their supporter(s) is unclear about whether an intended campaign action is permitted, they should seek the prior opinion of the CEO.
- In all cases where the CEO is made aware of a candidate's failure to follow or abide by this Elections Policy, the CEO shall speak with the candidate directly in an attempt to ensure compliance. If the CEO so decides, the President, Past President and the CEO shall review and assess the violation and may make a consensus recommendation that the CEO deny the candidate further and/or continued access to Doctors of BC communication vehicles available to candidates.

## INQUIRIES:

If you have questions regarding this policy or elections in general, please contact the Chief Executive Officer at [ceo@doctorsofbc.ca](mailto:ceo@doctorsofbc.ca).