

Report of the Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science

Strategic Plan Pillars:

- Empower medical laboratory professionals to succeed in a dynamic and challenging work environment
- Make CSMLS indispensable to our members at all stages of their careers
- Advocate for solutions within the health care system on behalf of the profession
- Be the acknowledged leader for certification in medical laboratory science across Canada

Key Industry Impacts:

- Insufficient domestic graduates to replace retirements
- Critical bottleneck – clinical placements
- Role of medical laboratory assistants (MLA) in changing labour market, lack of regulation for MLAs across Canada
- Regulation of MLTs in BC pending, possible MLT regulation in PEI

Key Tactics:

- Piloted Computer Based Testing vendor for Certification exams – successful, challenges meeting capacity for MLA and MLT exams for June
- Efforts with CSMLS Call To Action – encouraging education providers to bring more students in to the system (estimated shortfall annually – 400+ as the retirements begin). We can't bring in more students until we create more places for internship – use of simulation seen as capacity-builder. Sharing information globally, nationally and provincially. Programs/PACs can request a presentation by CSMLS ☺
- With University of Alberta: championing project for Choosing Wisely Canada to aggregate lab-related recommendations and assess the MLT role in suggestions for utilization
- Completing two grants for building a Practice Test (MLT) and creating Diversity products for rural and remote areas (\$550,000)
- Educator Committee formed to help with information continuity and relationships with educators and CSMLS
- Public relations and advocacy campaign for the profession, including National Med Lab Week
- National lobbying efforts (record media pick up – Global News, CTV, 640 News etc.), lobby efforts deployed in Ontario, planning for BC in fall

- Some educators seem nervous about implementation of simulation for student competency sign off – area of opportunity to clarify with Accreditation Canada and our educator community

Key Collaborations/Memberships

- Accreditation Canada
- Health Action Lobby (HEAL)
- Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR)
- Coalition for Public Health in the 21st Century (CCPH21)
- Canadian Standards Association: Medical Laboratory Quality Systems
- International Federation of Biomedical Laboratory Science
- Touchstone Institute: Communications Program Advisory
- Mohawk College: Bridging Program Advisory
- Research Canada
- CiCAN Industry Coalition
- Canadian Alliance of Health Programs (Deans of Health)
- Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI)
- Simulation Canada - formerly SIM-One
- Canadian Association of Prior Learning Assessment (CAPLA)
- Leaders Roundtable on Immigration: Conference Board of Canada
- Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT)
- Sonography Canada

Respectfully submitted by Christine Nielsen, CEO