

The CFPC welcomes its new President

The word *family* in family medicine is a top priority for Dr Cathy MacLean, who became President of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) on October 31, 2009, at the Family Medicine Forum in Calgary, Alta. Since completing her residency at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS, in 1987, Cathy has carved a unique career in family medicine while maintaining strong family ties in her personal life. Her insights and experiences provide great potential to her Presidency for the 2009 to 2010 term.



A native of Moncton, NB, Cathy started out as a family doctor in her hometown. She began her career in her own practice at the Moncton Medical Clinic. Cathy personally oversaw all the details in her new office, from planning the design and layout to creating the medical record system and hiring staff. It was a great success. During her 5 years at that location, she established wonderful relationships with her patients and colleagues, many of whom she stays in touch with.

In 1992 Cathy was invited to apply for a faculty position at the University of Western Ontario in London and soon learned the joys of teaching. While she was there she began working on her Master's of Clinical Science. In her first year, Cathy participated in Dr Wayne Weston's outstanding course called Teaching and Learning, which further inspired her academic career in family medicine. She was also thrilled to spend time with Dr Ian McWhinney, for whom she has great admiration, and considered this a great honour given his status in family medicine in Canada.

After serving as the Undergraduate Director in the Faculty of Medicine at Western and completing her master's degree, Cathy returned to Dalhousie in 1997 and assumed the same role as Director of Undergraduate Family Medicine.

Dr MacLean is familiar with the College: She has been actively involved with the CFPC's Patient Education Committee and Section of Teachers. She was President of the Nova Scotia College of Family Physicians from 2000 to 2002 and joined the CFPC's National Executive in 2005. She has been honoured with several awards for her work in graduate studies, research, and women's health.

Her continuing love of learning led Cathy to complete a Master's of Business Administration at St Mary's University in Halifax in 2005. This has been a tremendous asset in achieving the next steps of her career. In 2007 Cathy and her husband, Bryan, left Halifax for a new home in Calgary, where Cathy accepted a position

as Head of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Calgary.

After 2 and a half years, Cathy is thoroughly enjoying her Calgary experiences while maintaining her passion for patient care and teaching. She considers maternity care to be one of the most rewarding aspects of her career.

The year ahead

So how do you juggle family life and being a family doctor, department head, faculty member, and President of the CFPC? Cathy admits

that it took some planning to ensure that her commitment to the CFPC in the year ahead is 100%. She is very grateful to the tremendous staff at the University of Calgary's Department of Family Medicine, whose support will allow Cathy to spend time focusing on the College and its members. On the home front, Cathy's husband continues to support her work and travel schedule, helping her juggle her priorities while finding time for a quick lunch together. She's grateful for modern technology, which allows her to stay up to date while keeping in touch with her colleagues and family.

Looking ahead, Cathy is excited about her term as the CFPC President. "I hope to be an effective advocate for College members," she says. "Whatever is required to support family doctors will be my priority. I also hope to bring energy and enthusiasm about family medicine in Canada as well as to promote family medicine to medical students."

What else is in store for Cathy in future years? In addition to her clinical and academic roles, she hopes to do more research and writing about patient education. Her passion for family medicine inspires her to keep working with medical students and residents, encouraging them in their primary care endeavours. Cathy and her husband also have an interest in pursuing opportunities to provide better health care to underserved areas of Canada in the future.

When Cathy isn't working, she enjoys the outdoors, walking her dog, Cleo, traveling, and spending time with her family. She and Bryan have 2 children: Their son, Ross, 27, is completing a sports and leisure degree from Finland and working as a hockey scout. Their daughter, Ryan, 24, is completing an English literature degree at Dalhousie University and hopes to pursue a degree in community planning next year.

The CFPC welcomes Cathy to her new position as President. Her dedication, high energy, and optimistic attitude will have a positive effect throughout her term.

Cet article se trouve aussi en français à la page 1158.