

CFPC welcomes its 2014-2015 President, Dr Garey Mazowita



After starting his career as a teacher, Dr Garey Mazowita completed his medical degree at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg in 1979 and a rotating internship with the university in 1980. In 1989, he received his Certification in Family Medicine from the CFPC and he became a Fellow of the College in 2000.

Dr Mazowita practised full-service family medicine in Winnipeg and later joined the University of Manitoba's Department of Family Medicine as a full-time residency preceptor. Early in his career he practised prison medicine, emergency medicine, and intensive care, and he provided care in remote northern communities. He remained active in obstetric, inpatient, and residential care.

Mental health and wellness have always been a large part of Dr Mazowita's practice, which led to his involvement with his community hospital's psychiatric ward and outpatient service. He has been affiliated with the Psychiatry Department at Winnipeg's Seven Oaks General Hospital and he served as a board member for the Canadian Mental Health Association's Winnipeg branch. He chaired the CFPC's Mental Health Program and co-chaired the Collaborative Working Group on Shared Mental Health Care in association with the Canadian Psychiatric Association.

Dr Mazowita was Medical Director of Community and Long Term Care for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and was instrumental in the evolution of the facility medical director role and medical quality of care there.

He relocated to Vancouver in 2003, where he became Chair of the Department of Family and Community Medicine at Providence Health Care. In 2010, Dr Mazowita won the prestigious Donald I. Rice Award for

outstanding leadership in the discipline of family medicine. Currently, he is Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia and he remains active in teaching, research, and clinical practice. He serves as the British Columbia Ministry of Health's physician representative on the General Practice Services Committee and the Shared Care Committee.

Dr Mazowita has been actively involved with the CFPC throughout his career. He became a board member for the Manitoba College of Family Physicians in 1996 and served as Chapter President in 1998. He enjoyed his involvement with the CFPC's Simulated Office Orals Committee, where he was able to apply his diverse medical experience to the Certification examination process. He became a member of the CFPC's National Executive Committee in 2012 as Honorary Secretary-Treasurer, and he became President-Elect in 2013.

Dr Mazowita looks forward to continuing his work with the board while serving as President. In this role, he plans to focus on enhancing member services, streamlining the CFPC governance, and continuing work on advancing family medicine in Canada.

"It's a privilege to work with dedicated professionals who are focused on improving the fabric of Canadian health care," explained Dr Mazowita. "Continuing to proactively work toward creating a responsive and sustainable health care system for Canadians focused on patients, while supporting front-line medical professionals is one of many challenges for [the] CFPC; it is also critical to the advancement of family medicine in Canada."

Dr Mazowita is married to Dr Jill Kernahan, a retired family physician and previous family medicine program director at both the University of Manitoba and the University of British Columbia. They have 4 children and 2 grandchildren. When he has the chance, Dr Mazowita enjoys gardening, hiking (when his knees allow), woodworking, and reading. He admits his piano skills are a little rusty and says he would like to brush up on them in his "spare time."

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