

Election Statement

Dear OPA District L members,

It is a great honour and privilege for me to submit my application as a candidate for the OPA Board of Directors District L election. I have decided to run for this position as a commitment to my unwavering passion and belief in the profession and its members. As a pharmacist that works in both the community and hospital, I constantly see the struggles that we are facing on an everyday basis. I strongly believe that representation must be given to those who work on the frontlines. We know what it is like to experience the daily pressures from multiple stakeholders in the system, and our voice must be heard.

I truly believe that this is an important turning point in the history of the profession that will lay the groundwork for what the future will look like. Though pharmacy has been at the forefront of patient facing care through the pandemic, pharmacists have not been given the merit that they deserve. Our pharmacy students were left to fight for themselves to be heard. This is not acceptable.

I believe that with great leadership, purpose, and passion, I will be able to make a difference for all my colleagues, pharmacists, and pharmacy students, across the province.

In line with the OPA Strategic Plan set out till the end of 2021, I will do the following:

1. Fostering Leadership Within Our Profession:

Our peers are being taken advantage of due to a lack of guidance and leadership for pharmacy students and new practitioners. In addition to the weekly “Fireside Chats” that I have started, I will continue to connect pharmacy students and new practitioners to experienced OPA members to help prevent burnout and frustrations in practice. We must establish a strong foundation in the future of the profession.

2. Building A Toolset for Advocacy:

Every pharmacist should have a strong, unified platform to launch advocacy projects from. This would include enabling public awareness campaigns and building media connections in every medium. My vision is that any pharmacist can confidently advocate for not only the profession but the value in care they provide to the public.

3. Build Membership Capacity & Strengthen Financial Resources and Engagement:

As one of the founders of the OPA UofT Student Chapter, we came together to create a student guide on advocacy in collaboration with OPA. Continuing to engage with our student bodies and our peers is crucial to improving membership capacity and strengthening our voice across the province. I challenge each member of the OPA to reach out to a colleague regarding their thoughts on an OPA membership.

Please feel free to reach out to me through any mode of communication, including my phone number (289-923-3994) and email (faizan.baig@mail.utoronto.ca). I thank you for the time you have taken to read my election statement and for your consideration in electing me as your District L representative.

Faithfully,

Faizan Baig, RPh