

Economics Committee Report for 2022 Annual General Meeting

Chair: Justin Bates

Members: Jaspreet Chager, Donnie Edwards, Sherif Guorgui, Sandra Hanna, Leanne MacFarlane, Jeff May, Dean Miller, Smita Patil, Deb Saltmarche

Staff Liaison: Justin Bates, Angeline Ng

Ex-officio: Tim Brady

The Economics Committee (EC) is a Board committee with the primary function of providing input and advice pertaining to pharmacy economic policy direction to the Board of Directors and Association staff. The EC supports government and private payor consultations and negotiations through helping with engagement and mitigating existing fragmentation and diversity of opinions to ensure a unified message being presented.

The key responsibilities of the EC are to:

- (1) Identify and make recommendations to the Board for action pertaining to the business and economics of pharmacy in Ontario in both the public and private payor sectors;
- (2) Identify and recommend new initiatives, proposals or services for pharmacy, and support advocacy efforts through the contribution of information, data and feedback where possible;
- (3) Participate in and liaise with elected government officials as an official member of the OPA Economics Committee, when possible and permitted, during formal Association advocacy initiatives (e.g. OPA's annual Queen's Park Day); and
- (4) Periodically review the mandate of the Committee and propose recommended changes to OPA's GNC for consideration.

Year in Review

In 2021-22 the EC was formally established as a board committee in recognition of the critical role the committee plays and to better support collaboration between various stakeholders and drive a unified voice for OPA to lead advocacy efforts relating to pharmacy economic policy in Ontario.

To support the advocacy efforts of the Association, the EC has provided valuable input and advice on the following key initiatives for 2021-22:

- Remuneration for the administration of publicly funded COVID-19 vaccines in community pharmacies
- Expansion of the publicly funded COVID-19 testing services in pharmacies and remuneration for both PCR and rapid antigen tests
- Recommendations for improving the Universal Influenza Immunization Program administered through pharmacies



- Expanding scope for pharmacy professionals to support the provinces vaccination strategy for all publicly funded vaccines
- Supporting pharmacy professionals in delivering on public health initiatives through an increased administration fee for influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations
- Expanding scope for pharmacists by enabling a publicly funded minor ailment pharmacy program
- Aligning ODB dispensing and compounding fees with increases to cost-of-living
- Enabling pharmacy to deliver greater value in long-term care

The committee also underscored the importance and need for a formal Pharmacy Table to be established with government to effectively advance scope and shape policy in the province and this will continue to be a long-term goal of the association.

The committee is satisfied with the progress of activities in the past year. As the Chair of the Committee, I would like to thank the members of the Economics Committee and staff support for their commitment and hard work towards ensuring that our association is able to effectively advocate for economic growth and sustainability within the pharmacy sector on behalf of the members and the profession we serve.

Respectfully submitted,

Justin Bates
Chair, Economics Committee