

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIAN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS

(CANPAD)

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PRESIDENT'S PEN # 1. **November 21, 2005**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Saskatoon, SK

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Remi Odulana-Ogundimu
FRCPC
Sudbury, ON
(Ontario)

Dear Colleagues,

I bring you and your families sincere greetings from members of CANPAD Executives whom you elected into office at the third Annual Meeting in Calgary Alberta, on July 30th, 2005.

We thank you for the opportunity to serve the Association for the next two years. We have been dialoguing about our Vision for the Association and I wish to share our ideas with you all. Your comments are always welcome and appreciated. We believe that collectively we can all move our Association to lofty heights. The participation of everyone in the organization will serve all of us well and facilitate the attainment of our goals and objectives.

Among our agenda are:

a)IMPROVED FAMILY INVOLVEMENT.

One of the main goals of the Association is to connect our families together and foster camaraderie. Canada is now home for all of us. We need to help our children appreciate their extended families in Canada, understand their roots and strike long lasting friendships. We need to help them be each others keeper where ever they meet. This is essential to make a head way in a new adopted country. Others are doing it and we should not be left out.

There had been remarks from our children and spouses that they will like to be more included in our activities at the annual meetings.

Your executive is suggesting that

- i)Spouses and grown up children attend the invited presentations at the Annual Meetings and that attention be paid to selecting topics that will interest everyone.
- ii)During the Association's Business meeting of members; spouses can provide activities like CAREER FAIRS to the children.
- iii)The annual meetings be planned to include days for Family events such as golf, soccer, chess and other indoor games, fashion parade, traditional dances, demonstration of Nigerian culture and language etc. The plan is to award Trophies.
- iv)If possible , Nigerian dishes can also be served at the Banquet.

b)IMPROVED COMMUNICATIONS

As the President, I plan to write a “PRESIDENT’S PEN” at least twice a year to update members. You are receiving the first for the year (August – July). In future we may develop a newsletter for the Association. We also plan to use the internet. Dr Onayemi will be improving our CHAT room opportunity on the internet.

c) MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.

Many of our colleagues in Canada are yet to be part of the Association. Many are even unaware of the existence of the Association. We are asking everyone to please spread the word and please bring colleagues to the next meeting in CALGARY. Also, with permission, please forward the email and/or addresses of any one that should be part of the Association so that our current list can be updated.

d)ANNUAL DUES

The treasurer will be contacting everyone early enough to ensure everyone has a chance to pay their dues before the Annual meeting. To facilitate payment we will be looking into electronic/ internet payments.

e)STRATEGIES TO ASSIST NEW NIGERIAN PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS IN CANADA.

Eventhough we do not encourage exodus of trained physicians/dentists from Nigeria, the reality is that some of our colleagues from home join us here. We are also fortunate that our children are graduating from Canadian Medical/Dental Schools. They all need mentoring as other immigrant groups do for their people.

f)PROMOTING THE HEALTH OF NIGERIANS AT HOME.

This was a part of our discussions at the last meeting in Calgary, and in deed had been part of our discussions at annual meetings. Perhaps we should start mapping out strategies to deliver on this. I am aware that some of us are currently active in doing this. Please share your experiences and expertise with the Association. Suggestions please !

g)THE ASSOCIATION’S CONSTITUTION

The Members present at the Calgary Meeting discussed and reviewed our current Constitution which was then unanimously approved . Thanks to Dr. Agboola and his executive who provided the necessary leadership. It was well recognized that the constitution is dynamic and will need ongoing amendments in keeping with our operations. We will be asking that you all review it and make suggestions to be incorporated.

For continuity from one executive to the other, it has been suggested that The Past President and/or Secretary remain on the executive. Also, we need to look at creating the position of a CME/CPD Director to cordinate the Annual Scientific sessions.

h) UPDATE ON THE NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE / MEETING.

As we all know, our meetings are usually held on the first long weekend in August

(CIVIC Holiday Weekend). Please reserve this weekend for CANPAD annually in your calendars.

Our next meeting is being planned for Thursday August 3rd to Monday August 7th, 2006 in Cagary Alberta. Dr Leke Oluwadairo is heading a local organizing committee in Calgary that is putting together what promises to be a memorable Conference. More details will be coming to you soon.

Please if you have any suggestions pass them on to any member of the executive.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your patience and I look forward to hearing from you. COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Sincerely,
L . Kola. Oyewumi,
CANPAD PRESIDENT.