



# Motion to Support National Medical Licensure for all Canadian Doctors

Submitted to the General Assembly, March 19th, 2019.

**Whereas**, all 13 provinces and territories in Canada have separate medical licensing requirements and fees;

**Whereas**, separate medical licensing requirements and fees in each jurisdiction limit physicians from providing services in multiple jurisdictions without going through a separate licensure process for each province or territory;

**Whereas**, this also makes it difficult and onerous for physicians, particularly in underserved, rural and remote parts of the country, to find doctors to fill in for them temporarily (commonly known as locum work);

**Whereas**, the ability to access timely clinical coverage support for respite and assistance is crucial to the recruitment, retention, and well-being of physicians working in underserved, rural and remote regions;

**Whereas**, patients across all regions of Canada have a right to high-quality care;

**Whereas**, the separate medical licensing requirements act as a barrier to access for patients, disproportionately so for those in underserved, rural and remote areas;

**Whereas**, a single national licence would better ensure standardization, allow for greater physician mobility across the country, and improve response to patient-care needs in various geographical regions;

**Whereas**, other comparable countries, like Australia, have adopted a single national licence that permits greater physician mobility and improve accessibility for patients;

**Whereas**, the *Canadian Medical Association*, *Resident Doctors of Canada* and the *Canadian Federation of Medical Students* support some form of national licensure such as a portable locum licence<sup>1</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://residentdoctors.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Infosheet-Portablelocumlicensureinitiative-EN-R2.pdf>



**Be it resolved**, that the MSS support a national medical license for all Canadian doctors;

**Be it further resolved**, that the Government Affairs & Advocacy Committee of the MSS be mandated to advocate for this position at related provincial and national discussions.

**Moved** by Matin Kerachian (M1)

**Seconded** by Anson Lee (M1)



## Appendix I

A portable locum license would facilitate the ability to provide care for a specified, limited period of time and would be portable and applicable across provinces and territories. This may enhance flexibility in physicians' ability to practice between regions, thereby helping to deliver timely locum coverage in underserved regions. A portable license may involve a central repository to house physicians' documents and credentials, thereby reducing redundancies in the application process and helping various provincial / territorial medical regulatory authorities to identify professionalism concerns that may have occurred in another region. A portable locum license system in Canada would not be entirely unprecedented; Australia developed a system of fully portable national licensure from the previously independent state licensure processes. As a nation with similar disparities in access to care in rural compared to urban regions, it is encouraging to observe successful implementation of a national portable locum licensure.