

Robyn Despins - Election Statement

I am honoured to be considered as a candidate for the board membership of the Ontario Pharmacists Association (OPA). With deep-rooted experience in pharmacy practice and a fervent dedication to advancing our profession, I am eager to offer my skills, insights, and unwavering commitment to the betterment of pharmacy practice in Ontario.

My journey in pharmacy began nearly a decade ago, after graduation from the University of Saskatchewan in 2015. I practiced for five years in Saskatchewan in various roles including community pharmacy and clinical outreach pharmacy across rural and First Nations communities in Saskatchewan. During these years, I gained experience in collaborative practice models with physicians, specialists and nurse practitioners, community pharmacy care and worked within my deep-rooted passion for patient-centered care. This passion, coupled with a desire to make a meaningful difference in people's lives, remains unwavering. I remain licensed in Saskatchewan, as well as Ontario.

I moved to Ontario in 2020, and am now the Executive Director of Oak Medical Arts. My experience in this role, coupled with owning and operating other businesses in Thunder Bay, has been instrumental in my growth as a leader. These roles have provided me with invaluable opportunities to refine my skills in leadership, strategy development, human resources management, marketing, operations and more. Through hands-on experience and continuous learning, I have honed my ability to navigate complex challenges and continue to strive for organizational success. Oak Medical Arts offers not only pharmacy but healthcare services in over ten areas of healthcare, and we employ various healthcare providers that I have had the opportunity to manage and collaborate with, including nurse practitioners, physicians, nurses, chiropractors, physiotherapists and more. These multifaceted responsibilities have equipped me with a holistic understanding of business operations and healthcare, enabling me to bring a comprehensive perspective to the table as a candidate for the Ontario Pharmacists Association board membership.

Above all, my candidacy is fueled by a deep-seated commitment to advocating for the profession of pharmacy and the sustainability of pharmacy businesses. Having served on the Pharmacy Association of Saskatchewan's board of directors since 2019, I bring a unique perspective garnered from other similar advocacy and board experiences. My advocacy efforts are driven by a desire to ensure that pharmacists have the resources, support, and regulatory environment necessary to deliver high-quality care and contribute positively to the healthcare system to support patients.

In conclusion, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to stand as a candidate for the OPA board membership. If elected, I pledge to serve with integrity, passion, and a relentless commitment to advancing the interests of pharmacists and the patients we serve. Together, let us embark on a journey of innovation, advocacy, and excellence in pharmacy practice.

Thank you for your consideration!