

Ontario Medical Students Association Day of Action Topic Selection Protocol

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1. Purpose

This protocol has been developed to ensure that OMSA's advocacy work, particularly the Day of Action, represents the views of Ontario medical students.

2. Scope

This protocol applies to the topic selection process for the Ontario Medical Students Association's Day of Action. Affected committees include OMSA Council and the Day of Action Team of the Ontario Political Advocacy Committee (OPAC).

3. Definitions

- a. Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA):** OMSA is the dedicated student voice for all Ontario medical students, representing more than 3500 students across 6 medical schools.
- b. Ontario Political Advocacy Committee (OPAC):** This committee is responsible for OMSA's advocacy work and is chaired by the VP of Advocacy, a member of OMSA Council.
- c. Day of Action:** Day of Action, held annually in the spring, is one of OMSA's flagship events. Approximately 60 Ontario medical student delegates meet with Members of Provincial Parliament of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to advocate on a specific topic. Students typically receive two days of advocacy and media training in the preceding weekend. Day of Action was previously referred to as Lobby Day.
- d. Day of Action Team:** This team is a subcommittee within OPAC and is directly responsible for the Day of Action logistics, the Day of Action topic selection, and the research behind the Day of Action topic.
- e. Day of Action Topic:** A specific health policy topic is selected for each Day of Action. Once a topic is selected, the Day of Action Team will develop thoroughly researched recommendation or recommendations related to the Day of Action Topic to be presented to policymakers and used for OPAC's follow-up advocacy work.

4. OMSA Advocacy Surveyor

An annual survey with two parts, described below, will be sent to all OMSA members to identify health policy priorities for Ontario medical students and guide the selection of a Day of Action Topic.

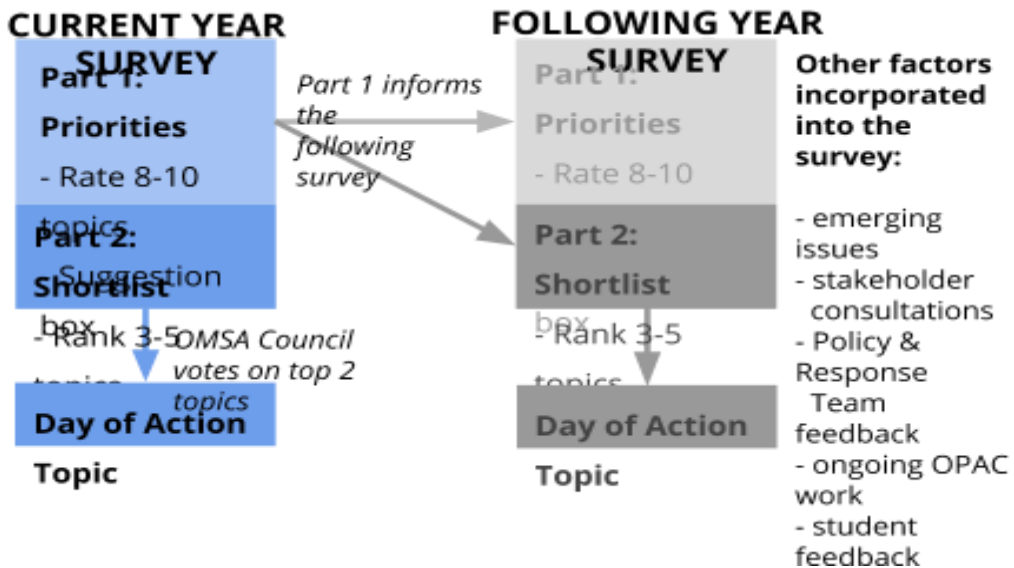
a. Part 1: Advocacy Priorities

This part of the survey includes various health policy issues (recommended 8-10 topics) that are selected based on: issues identified in the previous year’s survey and additional input from each school’s advocacy committees, medical societies, and direct student feedback. Part 1 will also include a paragraph “suggestion box” question that will provide an opportunity for students to provide feedback and suggest other health policy issues.

The purpose of Part 1 is to: identify health policy priorities among medical students; inform the following year’s Day of Action survey (Part 1 and Part 2); identify shifts in priorities among students year to year.

b. Part 2: Day of Action Topic Shortlist

This shortlist of 3 to 5 topics is primarily informed by Part 1 results from the previous year’s survey. The Day of Action team may also conduct other consultation surveys throughout the year to inform Part 2 and reach out to the Policy & Response team (another OPAC subcommittee), other committees or stakeholders for input to capture recent events and obtain additional informed perspectives. The results of Part 2 are the most significant contributor to the selection of the Day of Action topic.



5. OMSA Council Approval

The results of the Advocacy Survey will be presented to OMSA Council by the VP of Advocacy shortly after the survey closes. OMSA Council will be asked to select one of the two top topics in the Topic Shortlist. The top two topics will be the two from Part 2 of the Advocacy Survey that received the highest number of votes. In the event of a tie, all topics involved in the tie will be sent to OMSA Council. The Day of Action team may choose to recommend one of the topics (based on policy interests and on survey results), which will be conveyed to OMSA Council through the VP of Advocacy. The selected issue will be the Day of Action Topic for that council year.

- 6. Timelines:** The Day of Action Selection Protocol will follow this general timeline each year:
- a. August - early September:** Collect input from Ontario medical schools and the Policy & Response team for the Advocacy Survey
 - b. October, 1st week:** Administer survey for medical students
 - c. November, 1st week:** Survey closes
 - d. November, 2nd week:** Day of Action team compiles survey results and select topics
 - e. Late November:** At the following OMSA Council meeting, Council discusses and votes on Day of Action topic
 - f. December - April:** Day of Action team performs research and consultations to produce Day of Action documents and recommendations
 - g. April:** Day of Action is held at Queen's Park

7. Day of Action Topic Change Protocol

In the event of a major change to the political environment, the OMSA President, OMSA President-Elect, VP of Advocacy, and/or the Ontario Medical Association can propose an alternative topic. A written summary (including a description of the topic, recommendations, and rationale for a topic change) must be provided, along with a signed support from at least two-thirds of the Day of Action Team.

OMSA Council may adopt the new Day of Action Topic with a two-thirds majority vote. In the event that the proposed topic change is rejected, OMSA Council may also cancel the Day of Action by achieving a 2/3 majority. If neither option is accepted, the Day of Action Team will continue with the existing Day of Action Topic.