



WHAT ROLE DOES CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS OF BC PLAY IN RELATION TO THE DOCTORS OF BC?

Consultant Specialists of BC was founded in June of 1990 under the name Specialist Physicians and Surgeons (SSPS) as a political compromise. In November 1987, its predecessor, the First Association of Specialist Physicians (FASP) was created in response to growing concerns about how the then-BCMA was representing Specialists. It was made up of representatives from each of the recognized Specialty groups in BC, as is Consultant Specialists of BC today.

The SSPS was the alternative negotiated to prevent FASP from breaking away from the BCMA and forming an entirely separate group to represent Specialists. The SSPS changed its name to the Specialists of BC in 2015, and to Consultant Specialists of BC in 2021.

Consultant Specialists of BC is an independent society with rights enshrined in the Doctors of BC bylaws such as the right to appoint representatives to key committees.

CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS OF BC AND NEGOTIATIONS

One of Consultant Specialists of BC's roles is as a watchdog for representation. This role changes in response to the political environment of the day. The SSPS played a key role in the three-year process that finally led to agreements with government in January 2003 for physician remuneration. As far back as late 1999, SSPS negotiators and Executive were strategizing to achieve payment for call and a substantial raise, as well as lay the foundation for a separate subsidiary table for Specialists. The subsequent negotiations that resulted in an agreement for March 2006 were handled differently, but the SSPS was still front and centre reminding the Association of the needs of Specialists as it has been in the intervening negotiation cycles. The organization is responsible for disbursing a new fee fund of \$15 million as a result of the 2022 Master Agreement, and in spring 2023 is in separate talks with government about Specialist needs.

WHERE DOES CONSULTANT SPECIALISTS OF BC GET ITS FUNDING?

Annual dues to the Society pay for one staff salary, legal and actuarial fees, operational expenses including communications to the membership, and travel expenses and honoraria for Council representatives and Executive members to attend meetings. Consultant Specialists of BC is supported almost entirely by membership dues, receiving a modest operational stipend annually from the Doctors of BC. Specialists must choose to join and pay separate dues in order to become members but we represent all Specialists.