



2026 Chair's Report

Board of Directors:

- Wendy Gerhart, Chair
- John Adams, Vice-Chair
- Laurie Proulx, Treasurer
- Sarah Rogers, Secretary

Highlights presented by Wendy Gerhart, Chair, at the Best Medicines Coalition Annual General Meeting, September 24, 2026.

Introduction

Guided by its mission statement, the Best Medicines Coalition (BMC) is a strong representative for patient voices. Focused on member-issue education, consensus-based policy development, and advocacy, we strive to ensure that patient-driven policies are heard by decision-makers and those who inform and influence policy and issue development.

Mission: The BMC seeks timely access to a comprehensive range of medically necessary, safe, and effective drugs and related treatments, informed by patient-driven evidence and values, and delivered equitably and affordably to all patients in Canada.

Serving this mission, the BMC pursues the following standing goals:

- Effective models for meaningful, proactive, and impactful patient engagement in health and pharmaceutical policy development, recommendations and decision making, where patients and patient organizations are recognized as legitimate and integral contributors and patient-informed evidence is valued and incorporated.
- Drug programs deliver higher standards of equitable and consistent access to a comprehensive range of safe, effective, and affordable medicines for all patients in a timely manner.

- Streamlined, transparent and accountable health policy and regulatory frameworks uphold patient-driven principles, invest in both incremental and breakthrough advancements, provide improved pathways to timely access to all medically necessary medications, protect patient safety and ensure ongoing secure drug supply.

Structure and Governance: Membership

The BMC is comprised of 33 patient organization members. As outlined in the [Membership Criteria and Code of Professional Conduct](#), BMC members are active, established organizations that exist as recognized entities, demonstrated by appropriate governance and credentials such as charitable or not-for-profit registration status, or Terms of Reference, or other formalized documentation. They must also be actively involved in work related to that of the BMC. In addition, all member organizations review and express agreement with the [Code of Conduct Regarding Funding](#), which offers guidance on funding arrangements to ensure activities serve the organization's mission and goals and are not influenced by commercial interests.

Structure and Governance: Leadership and Support

The BMC is a registered not-for-profit corporation operating under the direction of an elected Board of Directors. At the last Annual General Meeting on September 29, 2025, John Adams, Wendy Gerhart, Sarah Rogers, and Kim Steele were re-appointed, and Laurie Proulx was officially elected as a Director.

Following the planned leadership transition, Kim Steele assumed the role of Chair and John Adams stepped into the role of Vice-Chair. Continuing in their officer roles, Wendy Gerhart stayed on as Treasurer and Sarah Rogers as Secretary.

In summer 2026, due to personal circumstances, Kim Steele decided to step down from the Board. As a result, Wendy Gerhart was appointed Chair and Laurie Proulx took over as Treasurer.

In January 2026, Paulette Eddy resigned from her role as Executive Director. The Board took a pause and did their due diligence to find a replacement. As of this summer, Brittany Barnes Dean joined the BMC as Executive Director. Jay Strauss continues to provide communication and coordination services. Due to health issues, our bookkeeper Ron Kenney took a leave in September 2025, and Preston Gerhart stepped in to maintain

accounting services. All are retained on a consulting basis. In addition, the BMC receives assistance from other external consultants as needed for policy, issues, government relations, as well as additional products and services.

Structure and Governance: Financial Oversight and Funding

As Kreston GTA was unavailable, the external public accountancy firm Caroline & Aschaber LLP prepared the annual Review Engagement Report and Financial Statements for the 2025–2026 fiscal year (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026), following a review of BMC financial processes and statements. Presented at this AGM, the report concludes that the statements accurately reflect BMC's financial position; financial risks are not significant, and BMC demonstrates financial practices in accordance with recognized non-profit standards.

The BMC receives funding from pharmaceutical industry sources in accordance with the Code of Conduct Regarding Funding. In the fiscal year ending March 31, 2026, funding support was received from sponsoring partners including AbbVie, Amgen Canada, Innovative Medicines Canada, Janssen, Novartis Canada, Novo Nordisk and Pfizer.

Coalition Activities and Priority Issues: 2025/2026

- BMC maintained its BMC Roundup email with updates about the organization and other information of relevance.
- Meetings took place with key decision makers, and Kim Steele appeared at the Standing Committee on Health to discuss Canada's pharmaceutical sovereignty.
- BMC members' information sessions were created to better share knowledge.
- Responded to numerous consultation opportunities, including:
 - Input to CDA-AMC on Essentials Medicines List (July 2025)
 - Input to CDA-AMC on a National Bulk Purchasing Strategy (August 2025)
 - Input into Health Canada's Consultation on Draft Guidance Document on Decentralized Clinical Trials (February 21, 2026)
 - Input to the Pre-Budget Consultation (August 2025)
 - Input into Health Canada's Consultation on Draft Guidance Document on Decentralized Clinical Trials (February 21, 2026)
 - Input Regarding Canada Gazette, Part I, Volume 159, Number 51: Order Providing for Reliance on Decisions of, or Documents Produced by, Foreign Regulatory Authorities in Respect of Certain Drugs (March 14, 2026)

The Path Forward

BMC and its members will continue to work together to ensure that patients in Canada have timely and equitable access to the medicines they need, and that patient organizations have a strong, direct and meaningful voice in health policy development and decision-making.

As we look ahead, we recognize that achieving this will require more than continuing to do what we have always done. BMC needs to evolve how we work, strengthen how we govern, and build the capacity and partnerships needed to increase our collective impact.

The Board is committed to strengthening BMC's governance, expanding and diversifying the Board's expertise, growing our membership, and building a more sustainable and diversified funding model. We also see an opportunity to enhance collaboration across our members and ensure that BMC remains responsive to the changing healthcare and policy environment.

We are holding a strategic planning session in October 2026 that will be an important opportunity to step back, challenge ourselves to think differently, and determine what BMC needs to look like over the next several years. We will consider not only what we want to achieve, but how we need to change the way we work to achieve it.

There is considerable opportunity ahead. With strong governance, broader expertise, greater collaboration and a willingness to evolve, we are confident that BMC can build on its foundation, deepen its impact, and strengthen the collective voice of patients and patient organizations across Canada.

Wendy Gerhart
Chair, Board of Directors
Best Medicines Coalition