February 19th 2015

College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario
80 College Street
Toronto, Ontario
M5G 2E2

Dear Members of the Consultations Committee:

Subject: Draft Policy “Professional Obligations and Human Rights”.

I am writing to you with grave concern regarding the content of your proposed draft policy with particular reference to Sections 8, 10 and 11.

In effect the policy on the one hand purportedly gives the right to act according to one’s conscience but on the other hand takes it away by compelling the person to be an active participant in the same act which was contrary to the person’s conscience to begin with.

We are all living in a pluralistic society where multiple worldviews and values are going collide and is inevitable. Granted it is going to be messy at time, but the answer lies in tolerance, understanding and respect for one another.

Compelling a person to act contrary to his/her conscience essentially impinges on his/her dignity and integrity.

I believe there is a middle ground that can be found without compromising neither the patient’s need nor the physician’s conscience if the esteemed and learned members of CPSO put their minds together. I have to believe that CPSO has the best interest of both the physicians and the patients at heart.

Right to freedom of conscience is paramount; once we lose this we are no longer who we are!

I respectfully urge CPSO to revise the draft policy as it stands.