College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario  
80 College St. Toronto, ON M5G 2E2

Re: Draft Policy, “Professional Obligations and Human Rights”

Dear Members of the Consultations Committee,

PLEASE DEFEND THE CONSCIENCE RIGHTS OF YOUR PHYSICIANS. At the heart of this matter is the conflict between freedom to do good and licentiousness. For example, God gives us His commandment, “You shall not kill” to help us choose the good. The policy revision before us is about catering to licentiousness. It is about catering to those who wish to do whatever they want, whenever they choose, even if at the expense of others.

Is the College of Physicians and Surgeons really willing to punish those physicians who continue to hold fast to the truth of God’s commandments, those same truths that physicians have always upheld? The College must find a way of continuing to protect the conscience rights of its doctors while at the same time protecting them from the application of a flawed human rights code.

The key values of professionalism, as articulated in the cited draft document are ‘compassion, service, altruism and trustworthiness’. Altruism is the ‘belief that the collective good is the responsibility of the individual’. Many of us hold fast to the belief that murder, for example, is never for the collective good. Someone who is trustworthy is authentic, dependable, honest, honourable, principled, reliable, responsible, righteous, steadfast, truthful, and upright. If physicians must leave their conscience at the door, are they then trustworthy? And how good is their integrity if it’s subject to compromise?

Is the College of Physicians and Surgeons trustworthy and altruistic if they compel their physicians to perform actions or refer for same that are contrary to their beliefs and contrary to what these physicians know and believe to be for the common good?

Recall the principle behind addiction. The desire for the attraction is so strong that any good that stands in its way is deemed to be evil. The conscience rights of doctors are seen to be evil by those demanding their own ways.

When you try to meet what you think are the requirements of the Ontario Human Rights Code by denying doctors their right of freedom of conscience, you make yourselves and your own wills the criterion of good and evil. God gave us free will. Our laws are based on God’s Ten Commandments to help us choose the good. If you pursue the proposed path, you will betray people of all faiths who believe that certain actions are always morally wrong. God says, “I set before you life and death, blessings and curses.” (Deut. 30:19) What path will you take?

I urge you to find the way to support your physicians’ rights to follow their own moral and/or religious beliefs in their medical practice.