

Medical and academic dermatology must be promoted. The Association must do more to diversify the causes it undertakes. It must put the specialty in the spotlight and acquire the public's, and by extension, the government's respect. In Quebec, we will soon see non-physicians making diagnoses and managing and prescribing drugs. The Quebec government, with the accessibility crisis it had been planning for over 15 years, believes it will counteract the scarcity of medical resources by ensuring that its position is only the result of physicians' social disinvestment. The prerogatives of quality will not take precedence in this type of action. We must prepare ourselves for the stripping of our specialty by professionals who do not have the training required to treat diseases, specifically those involving dermatological conditions. What can happen in Quebec will also happen in the rest of Canada.

We must educate the Canadian public about the competencies of dermatologists and emphasize good diagnostics, safe, correct treatment and follow-up quality. Dermatologists must also demonstrate their interest towards their specialty and continue serving the Canadian people, especially those with difficult conditions. While continuing to provide information on preventive measures, without sidelining photo-aging, dermatologists must take a stand and make their voices heard; otherwise the Canadian people will suffer.