The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF) was established in 1993 and is the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology’s foundation. The CAG Board of Directors is the sole Member of the CDHF with voting rights at the Annual General Meeting. In 2007, with additional support from the CAG, Dr. R. Fedorak (President) and Dr. R. Hunt (Vice-President), recruited Ms. Catherine Mulvale as Executive Director and developed a Board comprised of passionate and motivated individuals, many of whom were CAG members, to propel the CDHF into a new era. The CDHF has made remarkable progress over the last few years. As only one example, fund raising has grown from less than $50,000 per year to over $2M annually. Subsequent CAG News pages will detail our Foundation’s achievements and future goals. CDHF has been formally approved by Industry Canada as meeting the requirements for continuance, retaining its charitable status in September 2014. With the recent growth and success of the CDHF, it was clear that an evaluation of the CDHF governance was required. After much consultation between the CDHF membership (i.e. the CAG Board of Directors) and the CDHF Board, the structure outlined in the figure below was adopted in the fall of 2014.

CDHF Governance

The Canadian Digestive Health Foundation (CDHF) is the Canadian Association for Gastroenterology’s (CAG) Foundation and the governance of the CDHF reflects the intimate and essential connection between the two, with aligned priorities and strategic plans. The CDHF Governing Board of Directors consists of the five CAG Board Members and five others drawn from the CDHF Advisory Board.

CDHF Objectives are:

a) To advance the science and knowledge of diseases of the digestive organs;

b) To assist research, training, prevention and treatment of the conditions impairing the normal function of the digestive organs, including their functions in nutrition;

c) To promote dissemination of knowledge of diseases of the digestive organs through the Canadian community; and

d) To assist in the development of new methods to ensure better quality of life for people afflicted with these disorders.

CDHF Governing Board:

- Governance
- Policy
- Legal
- Strategic Plan
- Development

CDHF Advisory Board:

- Operations
- Development
- Implementation

CDHF’s Board of Directors is the CDHF’s Sole Member

Strategic Planning
Programs
Research
Events
Marketing/Communications

The above cabinets drive the CDHF’s mandate to reduce suffering and improve quality of life for Canadians by supporting research and providing accessible, accurate and trusted information about digestive health and disease to the public and the professionals who care for them.

The CDHF is our foundation and we have much to be proud of. This is an incredibly exciting time. Although there are challenges, some common and some unique to each organization, there are also many beneficial opportunities. With the CAG leadership as a core component of the CDHF Board, the goals of the CAG and CDHF are aligned and the new governance structure ensures that CDHF activities are incorporated into the CAG strategic plan. We encourage our membership to enthusiastically support the CDHF.

Derek McKay, CAG President
Richard Fedorak, CDHF President

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