

Election statement:

For nearly two decades, I have dedicated my career to advancing pharmacy practice in Ontario: from behind the counter of community pharmacy, to the classrooms at the University of Waterloo School of Pharmacy and University of Toronto Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, to the regulatory tables where the profession's future is shaped. I am running for the OPA Board because the next three years will decide whether Ontario pharmacy fully realizes its potential as a pillar of primary care, or settles for incremental change at a moment that demands transformation.

As a member of the Ontario College of Pharmacists' Minor Ailments Advisory Group, I coauthored the regulations that took effect January 1, 2023, granting prescriptive authority to all 18,000+ Ontario pharmacists. Watching those regulations translate into over two million patient consultations has shown me what is possible when advocacy, education, and implementation move in concert. I have also seen where the system falls short: pharmacists without the tools or time to practice to full scope, rural and underserved communities that need more, and business models that have not kept pace with expanded scope.

That gap is precisely why I co-founded MAPflow, now Canada's leading pharmacy clinical decision-support platform, used by roughly 40% of Ontario pharmacies and over 2,200 locations nationally. Running a thriving health-technology company alongside my academic and community practice roles gives me a working, data-informed view of what our members are doing, what is slowing them down, and what they need to thrive.

Education has been central to my career. Over nearly 20 years, I have educated 3,300+ pharmacy students and trained 2,500+ practitioners. I have served as Faculty Advisor to the Waterloo OPA Student Chapter since 2019, seeing first-hand how students engage with OPA, what draws them in, and what causes them to drift away. Attracting and retaining students and new practitioners as active OPA members is a priority I will champion at the Board table.

What I would bring to the Board: four integrated vantage points that pharmacy governance typically separates (policy architect, educator, practicing community pharmacist and independent pharmacy co-owner, and health-technology CEO); governance discipline earned through service on the AFPC Board of Directors (2020-2025), where I contributed to strategic planning, fiduciary oversight, and national policy development representing all 11 Canadian pharmacy schools; and a 14-year history as an OPA member and advocate.

My priorities: sustain and extend the gains of the expanded-scope era, including getting us to autonomous open prescribing authority, not just for minor ailments but for chronic disease management; prepare the profession for AI and digital transformation; close access gaps for rural and underserved Ontarians; and invest in the next generation and in women's leadership across every practice setting.

If elected, I will serve with strategic focus, fiduciary discipline, and an unwavering commitment to member value. Ontario pharmacy is at a turning point. I want to help OPA meet it with clarity, courage, and deep respect for the members we serve. I would be honoured to earn your vote.

Nardine Nakhla