

## **Election statement:**

### **Pharmacy is personal.**

It's the anxious parent at the counter at 8:55 p.m. It's the senior who doesn't have a family doctor — but knows your name. It's the pharmacist and the team behind the counter doing more for patients every single year, while the business holding it all together gets tighter and harder to sustain.

### **Why I'm running**

I'm putting my name forward for the OPA Board of Directors because I believe our profession deserves both — the ability to practice to our full potential and a model that keeps pharmacy care sustainable and accessible in every community across Ontario.

I've been a licensed pharmacist in Ontario for 22 years. I've worked across the pharmacy and healthcare landscape — from frontline community practice to leadership roles supporting independent and banner pharmacies. Today, I serve as Vice President, Retail Member Relations, and Professional Affairs at McKesson Canada, where I work alongside pharmacy owners, associations, regulators, payers, and governments to advance professional practice and advocate for the long-term viability of community pharmacy.

But titles aside — what drives me is simple. I care deeply about this profession, and I'm not willing to accept a future where pharmacists are asked to take on more clinical responsibility without the resources, respect, and funding to do it safely and well.

### **What I'll focus on**

OPA exists to advance the pharmacy profession through advocacy, innovation, and support services — and to champion professional excellence and fair compensation.

If elected, I'll bring a strong, practical focus to three priorities:

#### **1. Sustainability that protects patient access**

Sustainability isn't a side conversation about business — it's what makes patient care possible. We need to keep pushing for funding models that reflect the realities of pharmacy practice today.

## **2. A stronger voice where decisions are made**

I've spent my career translating what happens in policy rooms into what works at the pharmacy level — and making sure the frontline voice is heard clearly, consistently, and credibly.

## **3. A future-focused profession — supported, developed, and proud**

I'm committed to helping develop the next generation of pharmacy leaders through governance, education, and mentorship. I also bring governance experience through service on boards, committees, and focus groups.

### **My promise**

I will listen. I will lead with integrity. And I will advocate with urgency — so pharmacy in Ontario has a future that is clinically meaningful, economically sustainable, and worthy of the trust patients place in us every day.

Thank you for your support — and your vote.

**Smita Patil**