



ELECT DISTRICT L OCP COUNCIL



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**SIVAJANAN (SIVA)
SIVAPALAN**

**FOR DISTRICT L
OCP COUNCIL**

I believe that I have the necessary skills and experience needed for consideration as a Council member, and I kindly ask you to consider voting for me for District L, for the privilege of serving our profession.

Our profession is one of the most trusted in the country, and our focus on patient care in every aspect of our work is the main reasons behind this. It is crucial that we uphold the trust the public has shown in us by supporting pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in delivering the highest possible levels of patient care.

Council members at our College play a critical role in helping to shape our profession in a time of unprecedented change; change that will further develop and enhance the types of care we are able to provide for our patients.

I am currently a community pharmacist, and I also deliver diabetes education in collaboration with my local Family Health Team. In the 10 years I have been practicing in Canada, and the UK, I have also practiced in hospital pharmacy. I believe the diversity in my expertise would bring value to Council deliberations in helping make decisions that shape the future of our profession.

I serve our profession voluntarily as continuing education co-ordinator in District L. I have been in this role for the past 3 years, during which I have helped organise and facilitate more than 30 continuing education events for pharmacists and pharmacy technicians to help equip them with the knowledge that can help further enhance their skills in their professional practice. As pharmacists we often work independently without easy access to our peers. My role as education co-ordinator has allowed me to engage our profession locally and promote networking to build awareness of best-practices amongst our peers. I would look forward to bringing this experience to Council, as continuing education and helping to make network connections is key to ensuring we remain relevant and important members of the multi-disciplinary healthcare team, and advancing our role within it.

Through my role in the Hamilton & District Pharmacists Association I have participated at the municipal level on discussions on public health in Hamilton; these include mayoral round table discussions on the opioid crisis as well as feasibility consultations on safe injection sites in the region. I have liaised with the police force on exchanging perspectives on pharmacy robberies, and brainstorming ideas to improve safety in our practice environments. I have also been invited to, and participated in, round table discussions with my local MPP as they gather information that shapes provincial policy on healthcare. I believe that these experiences would allow me to bring valuable perspectives to the Council table.

Ensuring pharmacists have the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities at entry to practice is vital for our profession. I have served our profession for the last 5 years as a PEBC assessor for OSCEs, assessing potential pharmacists and pharmacy technicians in their journey towards entry to practice, and also serve as a PACE assessor helping assess pharmacist's entry to practice competency.

I am a grass-roots community pharmacist and associate-owner at Shoppers Drug Mart, Beamsville in Niagara. In this role I am committed to delivering the highest level of patient care by ensuring our team practices to our full scope of practice. Our team is also particularly committed to providing valuable co-operative experiences to our high school students, and to encouraging them to consider a career in pharmacy. My pharmacy has twice been awarded the Pathways to Opportunity award by the town of Lincoln and has helped students go on to pursue higher education in pharmacy. I also have board experience as a director at the Lincoln Chamber of Commerce, and I am head of the Human Resources Committee. Here, I liaise with town and other businesses to build awareness about pharmacy services and bring forth issues that affect local commerce and trade to foster economic development.

I believe that the governance experience I have sitting on 2 important boards puts me in a good position to be a strong, contributing, member of College Council.