The Section of Family Physicians With Special Interests* or Focused Practices** (SIFP)

- *Family Physicians with special interests are those family doctors with traditional comprehensive continuing care family practices who act as the personal physicians for their patients and whose practices include one or more areas of special interest as integrated parts of the broad scope of services they provide.

- **Family physicians with focused practices are those family doctors with a commitment to one or more specific clinical areas as major part time or full time components of their practices.

The Board of Directors of The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) approved the development of the SIFP, with the goal and understanding that the CFPC shall:

1. remain committed to comprehensive continuing care, the Four Principles of Family Medicine, and the vision that every person in Canada should have his/her own personal family physician.

2. always consider the needs and perspectives of family physicians who offer a broad scope of services as part of comprehensive continuing care practices.

3. ensure that comprehensive continuing care remains central to: (i) the definition of the discipline of family medicine and (ii) the delivery of family practice services provided by family physicians with different practice profiles working together to meet the needs of their patients.

4. create a “home” within our College offering support for the training, lifelong learning, and professional needs of both family physicians who provide personal, comprehensive, continuing care to their patients and family physicians who focus their practices on specific medical services.

5. promote and advocate for system supports, including sufficient remuneration, to support family practices in which every patient has (i) a personal family physician offering a breadth of services, and (ii) preferred access to family physicians with special interests or focused practices. The latter should be integrated functionally into the practices of the personal broad based family physicians to ensure the timely delivery of comprehensive continuous family practice services for all patients.
6. support family physicians interested in developing enhanced skills and knowledge in different clinical areas throughout their careers, recognizing the contribution this can make to both the availability of needed medical services for patients and communities and the professional/career satisfaction for these physicians.

In order to achieve the above, the CFPC will establish a number of Board approved Programs within the SIFP, each representing a specific clinical area and each with its own Program Committee.

The mandates of each Program Committee will include any or all of the following areas:

(i) communications and networking among members with the same areas of special interest or focused practice;
(ii) development of CFPC policies and/or positions related to patient care and the practice needs/environment of family physicians with the relevant special interests or focused practice;
(iii) advocacy on behalf of the members involved in the relevant area of special interest or focused practices;
(iv) recommending and planning accredited CME/CPD programs related to the given area of special interest or focused practice;
(v) serving as a resource for the Section of Teachers regarding core 2 year family medicine residency curriculum content, and optimal alignment with future practice needs and realities;

and, in some areas where eligibility criteria have been met

(vi) applying for consideration to develop enhanced skills residency training programs and recognition for those who have demonstrated their added competencies in special interest areas.