Follow my lead; lead me to follow

Music has always inspired me. It's a universal language that can move emotions, memories, thoughts, and ideas. One of my favorite folk bands, The Tequila Mockingbird Orchestra, has a song called "Canoe Song," in which the chorus is "Follow my lead, lead me to follow." In practical terms, it refers to canoeing, where you need to follow the person sitting in front of you and lead the person sitting behind you. A common purpose and synchronization are needed to make the canoe travel in one direction. The same is true of leadership. You need others to follow your lead, just as you concurrently follow theirs.

November is when the general membership votes for our next president-elect and our physicians at the Representative Assembly. I urge you to vote, to raise your voice and help shape the future. This is your opportunity to ensure the people you want representing you in leadership roles at Doctors of BC are the ones who are chosen to lead. These are the individuals who will keep your voice front and centre as we navigate and help build the future of BC's health care system. We need those who can lead

To all who are currently in leadership roles, I thank you.

with humility and, simultaneously, those who follow and listen with intention.

I attended a leadership course where the question "What does a leader look like?" was answered from the vantage point of third graders. In their minds, a leader was their teacher, and they described the three most important characteristics: big ears to hear all that goes on in class and determine who needs guidance and who is doing well, long arms to give hugs to one or more people when they are struggling, and high heels to be seen at the front of the class. I would suggest these qualities apply to medical leaders as well. Use your big ears and your heart to listen with intention. Use your long arms to extend compassion to your patients and your colleagues. And ensure you are visible so that others can see where to follow and ultimately where to lead.

To all who are currently in leadership roles, I thank you. I have no doubt you embody many of these qualities already. I value that you are taking time to have others follow your lead, while at the same time being led to follow by those you serve. I look forward to continuing to work together to move our province and Doctors of BC along this ever-improving journey, just as if we were all paddling together in a canoe. ∎

—**Joshua Greggain, MD**
Doctors of BC President

LETTERS

travel several days in advance. Patients must find private transport. If they have no vehicle, they must rely on their social circle or hitchhike (remember, Northwest BC is the location of the Highway of Tears). This is unacceptable. I am surprised these obstacles were not discussed in this article.

Let us start with the focus of the article. Let us fight for travel justice for rural Canadians, for health care, and for all other needs. Amazon, eBay, and Purolator can bring us any number of items daily. They should provide similar transport services to our rural citizens. Greyhound did this. It needs to be replaced.

—**B.E. Driedger, MD, FRCSC**
Cranbrook

Correction: "Justice, rights, and unnecessary suffering"

While proofreading the article "Justice, rights, and unnecessary suffering" by Dr Jan Hajek in the October 2023 issue of the *BCMJ*, we made two edits that undermined a point Dr Hajek was trying to make. The original sentence, with edits marked, is: "We shudder to think of the philosopher René Descartes theorizing that animals are just like machines, calmly nailing a dog's feet to a board and dissecting them it alive while they it only appeared to be in pain."

Not changing an author's meaning is editors' "first, do no harm," so we sincerely apologize to Dr Hajek for this error; in attempting to clarify what is the object of the action, we reversed Dr Hajek's very intentional word choice (that is, using "they" instead of "it"). The online version of the article, as well as the accompanying PDF, has been restored to the original wording.