

CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION



SOCIÉTÉ
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DE PSYCHOLOGIE

Professional Affairs Committee

February 2007

The committee has had one teleconference since the last board meeting. The members of the committee include Drs. Marcia Barnes, Esther Cole, Jennifer Frain, Olga Heath, Catherine Lee, Ian Nicholson (Chair) and Ms. Kelly Smith.

The focus of the meeting was on Psychology Month activities, membership of the committee, and the Psychology in schools survey.

A new series of articles has been started in Psynopsis on “the Business of Psychology”. These will be a series of articles profiling unique private practice psychology services in Canada. The first one was on Riverside Educational Services in London Ontario and that article appeared in the winter 2007 issue of Psynopsis. The next article will focus on the Changeways Clinic in Vancouver. The focus will not simply be on large groups of Psychologists working together but those services that have developed in unique and initiative ways so that we can educate Psychologists across the country about innovative models for Psychologists in private practice.

The survey of Psychology in school boards has wound down. A copy of a draft final report is attached. One of the less fortunate aspects of this was the poor response rate. Many times these appeared to end up in the hands of school board administrators rather than psychology staff (at times, for reasons noted in the materials). However, some very useful information is nonetheless available in the material that was uncovered.

A new survey on Psychology in federal and provincial correctional systems has recently been initiated and will continue over the next number of months.

I have spoken to Will Schweitzer from the publications office at APA about what is involved in their decision making process for the development of a new journal. He outlined the first few steps, which include the identification of key stakeholders, potential initial editorial board, draft editorial scope of journal, survey of members, and convention focus groups. The key questions would include, for example, what is the need to be met, what would be the format, and with what frequency would it publish. They offered to assist us in this type of need survey as they have experience in their internal research office to assist.

The Canadian Psychological Association has been an active participant as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in the PREVNet Project. PREVNet is a federal government Centre of Excellence headed by two Psychologists, Dr. Deborah Pepler and Dr. Wendy Craig. The Centre of Excellence focuses on promoting relationships and eliminating violence network. It brings together twenty-three researchers from seventeen Canadian universities (including our own Dr. Wendy Josephson) and thirty-four NGOs and other partners to promote safe and healthy relationships for Canadian children and youth. The goal of the network is to create social-cultural change in Canada by reducing the negative use of power and aggression in relationships. This goal will be achieved by providing NGOs and governments with the capacity to tailor and disseminate-based resources to build awareness, to change attitudes, assess bullying, implement evidence-based strategies, and to develop policies that promotes and supports these activities within every community in Canada.

CPA has since attended two of their working group meetings (education and training work group, social aggression working group). We will continue to support this initiative as much as possible in the upcoming months. We will be providing a workshop at their annual general meeting later this spring on the role of the

Canadian Psychological Association in supporting anti-bullying campaigns. As well, we have been circulating the PREVNet bullying information that was made available....

I attended the Counsel of Provincial Associations of Psychology winter meeting in January 2007. One of the main articles for discussion at the meeting was the proposed division of the organization into two entities: one for professional associations and the others for regulators. This will be discussed in greater detail at the board meeting.

I will be attending, just prior to the Health Canada 2007 Primary Health Care Transition Fund National Conference "The Primary Health Care Transition Fund: A Legacy for Change" in the few days prior to the board meeting. I will share information about this conference at the board meeting.

I will also be representing CPA at the 60th Anniversary Convention of the Ontario Psychological Association prior to the board meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Ian Nicholson, Chair