

CPA Education and Training Committee wants to hear from students: Help us to hear you!

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I have had the recent pleasure of serving as the Student Representative on the CPA Education and Training Committee.

My impetus for volunteering for this position stemmed from a belief that students should be supported, and indeed challenged, to take active roles in developing education and training policy within CPA. My committee colleagues clearly hold similar beliefs in that they have demonstrated great sensitivity to students' perspectives.

Under the leadership of our most recent Chair, Dr. Elizabeth Church, the issues considered before this committee have been as broad and complex as CPA's education and training mandate itself. Recent efforts have included revision of CPA's procedures for approval of continuing education credits for Canadian psychologists and advocacy regarding the critical importance of formal mentorship processes, like the CPA Academic Mentoring Program, to current graduate students and new professionals.

Most recently, committee energies have also focused on a series of thought-provoking issues which have particular relevance to current students and developing professionals, including the need for more "family friendly" graduate programs and work environments and examination of the complex factors that may impact on completion difficulties in Canadian graduate programs. Finally, the committee has also

been examining how interdisciplinary and interprofessional practice and research are being addressed in graduate programs and internship settings across Canada. The aims of this last project are to identify current practices and to develop some suggestions for training in this area.

The Education and Training Committee wishes to hear from students about the educational and training issues they would like to see addressed. So, how can you get involved in shaping the future of CPA education and training policy? Our committee will be hosting a Conversation Session, "What Do Students Want?", at the upcoming CPA Annual Meeting in Ottawa. We hope to have a frank discussion with students about the issues that are paramount to them. We are also extending a special invitation to professionals recently graduated from Canadian Psychology Programs as they may have particular insight on education and training issues developed during their transitions into professional roles. For students unable to make the convention, I am open to email contact from other students on any education and training issues at jgoodwin@cogsdale.com.

Hope to see you at the Education and Training Committee Conversation Session: "What Do Students Want?" at the CPA convention, June 7, 11:00-11:55 am, Ontario Theatre, Westin Hotel.

