

# CPA'S HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE IN PSYCHOLOGY COMMITTEE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Dear Committee and Working Group Members,

We hope you are enjoying a restful summer and finding time to spend with friends and family. In this Summer Newsletter, we are highlighting information from the CPA's 2022 Annual Convention and important Human Rights concerns of which we need to take heed. This year's CPA convention was the first in-person convention in 2 years and was unique in several ways. First, its focus on human rights and social justice was unprecedented with significant efforts towards and programming related to equity, diversity, and inclusion as well as Truth and Reconciliation. Paradoxically, outside of the convention there were anti-LGBTQIA2S+ and anti-Vaxer protests going on outside the hotel. This paradox demonstrates how members of Canadian society are somehow emboldened to protest the rights of others. Soon thereafter, Roe versus Wade was overturned by the United States Supreme Court – with that ruling, the right to abortion is no longer protected by the US Constitution. Although, abortion is decriminalized in Canada, access to the range of medical options available for services (e.g., mifepristone & misoprostol, abortions, and end of life planning for babies with significant anomalies) as with all health services is not equitable. Individuals living in rural and remote areas need to travel for care, and the cost can be prohibitive for many. Negative health outcomes and inequities for individuals from systemically marginalized groups who are pregnant exists and needs to be addressed.

Across the country we are seeing the paradox that we saw at the convention and abortion has resurfaced as a contentious concern. Ironically, we see that efforts are being made to whittle away at hard earned rights for members of marginalized groups while others are working diligently to counter these efforts as well as address the many human rights offenses across Canada. Organizations such as EGALE, the recipient of this year's CPA Humanitarian Award is a case in point. As such, we implore you as members of the psychological community to remain assiduous in your commitment to human rights and continue to take on this work with compassion, courage, and hope for a better world.

We hope you have a wonderful rest of the summer. We look forward to seeing you sometime soon.

Warm regards,

Ada L. Sinacore, Ph.D. and Kerri Ritchie, Ph.D., C.Psych.

## REFLECTIONS FROM CALGARY 2022

After two full years away from an in-person convention, CPA2022 in Calgary, AB, was a memorable one. Reflecting on this past year, lots of exciting steps were made in the direction of Human Rights and Social Justice (HRSJ); simultaneously, we must recognize the certain steps backward and all the work there is still to be done.

### Lots to Celebrate!

#### **Beverly Keeshig-Soonias, Psychologist and Elder**

As we all gathered on the traditional and unsundered territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, Piikani), the Tsuut'ina, the Îyâxe Nakoda Nations, the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta, the CPA was grateful to have Dr. Beverly Keeshig-Soonias join us for both the Welcoming and Closing ceremonies.

As Kohkum Beverly led us through a traditional smudging, she shared powerful words about her lived experience as an Indigenous woman and member of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, a psychologist, a Mother and a Grandmother, and as a community Elder.

Thank you to Kohkum Beverly for privileging the 2022 CPA convention with your inspiring words and allowing us the opportunity to reflect on the principles of reconciliation, reciprocity, truth, and ownership.

*"The Indigenous population of Canada, and all of us, has had so much heartbreak. And there is more to come. Please don't forget us. Remember what we've asked. And join us in our space for healing."*

- Kokhum Beverly Keeshig-Soonias, Closing Ceremony, CPA 2022

#### **HRSJ-Focused Keynote Speakers**

This year, there was a plethora of powerful presentations in the HRSJ realm – among them were three keynote addresses that honed-in on the ways psychology plays a central role in promoting equity, human rights, and social justice:

#### ***Human Rights and Social Justice: Leading with Compassion and Courage***

Ada L. Sinacore, PhD, who from all known accounts is the First Queer President of CPA, delivered a powerful talk on Human Rights and effective leadership through interweaving scholarship, research and their personal experiences. To honor International Pride Month, they highlighted LGBTQIA2S+ rights violations in Canada, as well as anti-Semitism, and HRSJ more broadly – there wasn't a dry eye in the room. The Canadian Psychology community continues to recognize and appreciate Dr. Sinacore for her unrelenting HRSJ advocacy and activism over the last few decades.

*"Pride is much more than a celebration- it has significant and lasting meaning. It is about historic discrimination, and about ongoing and systemic discrimination"*

- Dr. Ada L. Sinacore, CPA Presidential Address 2022

#### ***Human Rights and Psychology: What Does One Have To Do With the Other?***

Dr. Josephine Tan, the CPA's Honorary President, tapped into the multitude of ways psychological science and practice overlap with HRSJ – considering the intersectional nature of mental health disparities, and how this intertwines with ethically practicing psychology.

*"We need to work from a human rights informed framework: If you are an ethical psychologist, you have no choice"*

– Dr. Josephine Tan, CPA Honorary Presidential Address 2022

### **Cultural Betrayal: From Violent Silencing to Healing for Black Women & Girls**

Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez, Board Member and Chair of the Research Advisory Committee at the Center for Institutional Courage, is a 2021-22 Fellow at the Stanford University Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) and incoming Assistant Professor at Boston University.

Answered by an enthusiastic standing ovation, Dr. Gómez's talk highlighted some key ideas from her in-process first academic book, working title *Cultural Betrayal, Sexual Abuse, and Black Women & Girls: From Violent Silencing to Healing*, and her pursuit of research identifying avenues of hope and healing for individuals, families, communities, institutions, and society.

*"...the charge is given to White people to finally and humbly expect & demand more of themselves & each other."*

– Dr. Jennifer M. Gómez, CPA Keynote Address 2022

Recordings of some of these addresses, and more, are available on the CPA's Virtual Conference Platform to individuals who registered to attend the convention in person or virtually.

<https://eventmobi.com/cpa2022>

### **Congratulations to Dr. Karen Blair, John C. Service Member of the Year!**

Congratulations to Chair, Dr. Karen Blair, and to all the members of the CPA's Section for Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Issues (SOGII) who have contributed to the CPA's ability to advance 2SLGBTQIA+ rights and LGBTQ+ Psychology in Canada and beyond!

### **Congratulations to EGALE Canada, CPA Humanitarian Recipient!**

Egale is Canada's leading organization for 2SLGBTQI people and issues. Through research, education, awareness, and by advocating for human rights and equality in Canada and around the world, Egale's vision is a Canada, and ultimately a world, without homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and all other forms of oppression so that every person can achieve their full potential, free from hatred and bias. To learn more, visit: <https://egale.ca/about/>

### **However, there is work to be done.**

#### **The Overturning of Roe v. Wade**

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, the United States Supreme Court made a major step back in terms of reproductive health rights by overturning Roe v Wade, legislation that established the constitutional right to abortion. As

almost half the states are expected to completely prohibit or severely restrict abortions, this ruling knocks-back reproductive justice by 50-years, stripping Americans with the capacity for pregnancy of the fundamental control over their own bodies. This sets an unsettling precedent in terms of other legislation off the back of this decision – such as criminalizing those who assist others to get an abortion, restrictive contraception mandates, and oppressive policies on 2SLGBTQIA+ rights.

While abortion is legal Canada-wide, there are still critical gaps in access to safe abortion care, particularly in rural, remote, and Northern communities. We must stay informed and accountable for the advocacy for *accessible, trauma-informed* reproductive healthcare for all Canadians as our neighbours in the South fight for the right to basic bodily autonomy and reproductive healthcare.

You can find the American Psychological Association’s denouncement of this Supreme Court Decision here: <https://www.apa.org/news/press/releases/2022/06/scotus-abortion-decision>

*“A person’s ability to control when and if they have a child is frequently linked to their socioeconomic standing and earning power. Therefore, restricting access to safe, legal abortions is most likely to affect those living in poverty, people of color, and sexual and gender identity minorities, as well as those who live in rural or medically underserved areas.”*

*– Dr. Frank C. Worrell, APA President*

### **Disheartening Protests: Anti-LGBTQ2+ and Anti-Vax groups gather in Downtown Calgary**

While the CPA convention celebrated, presented-on, and advocated for gender equity and diversity in the halls of the Hyatt hotel, it is important to recognize that blocks away an anti-2SLGBTQIA+ protest was marching in downtown Calgary. In the same weekend, a group of Alberta residents rallied in protest of COVID-19 vaccine mandates – a scary reality as we are seeing rising case numbers across the country.

These types of gatherings are a solemn reminder of those unwilling to protect communities experiencing marginalization, and we must push forward with action-oriented HRSJ goals.

### **CPA & HRSJ IN ACTION**

#### **CPA accepted as a member of the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations!**

In June, the CPA was officially accepted to be a member of the Psychology Coalition at the United Nations! Alongside national and international representatives of psychology, this exciting new membership will place the CPA on the mainstage for the advocacy and application of psychological principles, science, and practice in the context of UN development goals.

#### **New gender equity statements approved by the CPA board**

At the June board meeting, there were two gender-related policies brought forward; the first is a statement on gender-based violence that was officially passed by the CPA board, and the second is a statement titled *Promotion of Gender Diversity and Expression and Prevention of Gender-Related*

*Hate and Harm.* Keep an eye on our social media and website for the public launch of these new and exciting new statements!

### **Mind Full, a CPA Podcast: Season 5 Launches with Four New HRSJ Episodes!**

#### **Season 5 Episode 1: [Art and Every Child Matters with Betty Albert](#)**

The fifth season of Mind Full kicked off with a discussion of Indigenous art and Every Child Matters with artist Betty Albert. Canadian Indigenous Artist Betty Albert designed a T-shirt that the CPA sold at the 83rd annual convention in Calgary. All proceeds went to an Indigenous charity working towards healing for Indigenous communities in Canada. We discuss art, residential schools, and the remarkable capabilities of Photoshop!

#### **Season 5 Episode 2: [Gender diversity, education, and criminal justice with Dr. Ada Sinacore and Dr. Keira Stockdale](#)**

Ada L. Sinacore, Ph.D., is an expert in human rights issues surrounding gender diversity. Dr. Keira Stockdale is an expert in the psychology of criminal justice. They are part of a group working to put out a statement on gender diversity amid an increase in violence and legislation targeted at the gender diverse community. discuss 2SLGBTQIA+ rights in relation to education, the criminal justice system, and the discipline of psychology itself.

#### **Season 5, Episode 3: [Gender diversity issues, terminology, and human rights with Dr. Jesse Bosse and Aida](#)**

Dr. Jesse Bosse is a gender-queer psychologist in Ottawa who works primarily with trans, non-binary, and gender-diverse people. Aida is a young trans person who is currently undergoing Hormone Replacement Therapy. We spoke to them both about the issues confronting gender diverse people, human rights issues, and the effects of the pandemic on this population.

#### **Season 5, Episode 4: [Truth, Reconciliation, Genocide And Psychology With Dr. Stryker Calvez And Dr. David Danto](#)**

Dr. Stryker Calvez and Dr. David Danto talk Truth, Reconciliation, and the role of Psychology from the perspective of an Indigenous psychologist and an ally. We discuss Indigenous ways of knowing and how they apply to psychology, as well as the genocide perpetrated by Canadians against our Indigenous people.

### **HAPPY SUMMER & SEE YOU IN THE FALL!**

After a busy few months, the HRSJ newsletter will be taking a summer vacation – and we encourage you all to do the same! From the whole team behind HRSJ, we wish you a happy, relaxing summer and will see you in the Fall for another round of updates!

### **And for some light summer learning...**

The CPA 2022 Convention Event Space is available for in-person and virtual pass delegates at <https://eventmobi.com/cpa2022> until the end of October 2022.

Pre-recorded presentations are available now for Posters, Snapshots, and Virtual 12-Minute Talks, while recordings of a select number of the presentations that were livestreamed ([https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Convention/2022/VIRTUAL%20PRESENTATIONS%20SCHEDULE\\_6June2022.pdf](https://cpa.ca/docs/File/Convention/2022/VIRTUAL%20PRESENTATIONS%20SCHEDULE_6June2022.pdf)) are being uploaded over the next few weeks as they are edited.

## DATES TO NOTE

<b>AUGUST 2022</b>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9 Intl' Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples	10	11	12 International Youth Day	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 World Humanitarian Day	20
21 Intl' Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Terrorism	22 Intl' Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Intl' Overdose Awareness Day			

## CONTACT US

**CPA Human Rights and Social Justice in Psychology Committee**

Dr. Ada Sinacore & Dr. Kerri Ritchie

Co-Chairs

Email: [governance@cpa.ca](mailto:governance@cpa.ca)

Website: <https://cpa.ca/aboutcpa/committees/humanrights/>

