

Crime Scene

Psychology Behind Bars and in Front of the Bench



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The views expressed within are those of the submission authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Section collectively.

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MANAGING EDITOR'S NOTE, Ainslie Heasman, Ph.D.

This issue and Editor's Note in *Crime Scene* will serve as my last. It was in 2010 that I took on the role of Managing Editor of *Crime Scene*, and the time has flown by! I want to thank Leah Todd, Review Editor, and Joanna Hessen-Kayfitz (and Leslie Helmus before her) who was the third set of eyes to ensure the issue was at its best before you all received it. Change is important I think - it allows new ideas and energy into the mix, and (admittedly) allows me more time to now focus on other areas of my professional and personal development! Thanks to the Executive of CJS and all of you who contributed over the years. Keep the submissions coming! This also means that the Managing Editor position on the Executive is open! More information about this position is found further on in the issue. Please be in touch if this sparks your interest!

REVIEW EDITOR'S NOTE, Leah Todd, B.A.

After much consideration, and five great years, I have decided to transition out of my role as Review Editor of *Crime Scene*. As a graduate student, this position was extremely valuable in terms of staying connected to the Forensic Psychology community, staying up to date with current research and topics of interest, and networking with those working in the field. I have very much enjoyed being part of the team!

With my departure comes an exciting new addition! Shelby Amos completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at Brock University in 2013 and is looking forward to continue graduate training in the area of Forensic Psychology. Her undergraduate thesis focused on psychopathy and deception detection in police interrogations. Her research interests include psychopathy, prevention and treatment programs for violent offenders, prediction of violent recidivism, deception detection, and mental health in correctional settings. Please join me in welcoming Shelby as the new Review Editor of *Crime Scene*!

VIEW FROM THE TOP: CHAIR'S COMMENTS, Howard Barbaree, Ph.D.

This issue of *Crime Scene* includes a number of diverse items. My column will provide a very brief commentary on each.

1. We are reprinting in *Crime Scene* two foundational documents for the CPA Section on Criminal Justice Psychology, namely: our newly drafted *By Laws*, and a document entitled *Guidelines for the Use of Section Funds*. These two documents have been recently drafted by your Section Executive (many thanks to Karl Hanson and Dorothy Cotton who did most of the work on these). Your Executive will be presenting these two documents to the membership at our annual meeting at the CPA convention in Vancouver on June 5th. A vote will be taken considering approval of these documents. Once approved by the membership, we will send the *By Laws* on to CPA for final approval. If you have any feedback of comments, please send them to me.

2. We are reprinting in *Crime Scene* a letter authored by Dr. Karen Cohen, CEO of CPA to Stephen Blaney, The Minister of Public Safety, and to Don Head, the Commissioner of the Correctional Services of Canada regarding the Ashley Smith Inquest Verdict and Recommendations. We also reprint an earlier letter from Dr. Cohen to Minister Blaney and his response. Dr. Cohen has asked the Criminal Justice Section if we would like to put together a document describing our position on the implementation of the Inquest Jury's recommendations. Your Section Executive is considering this request and we may be looking for volunteers to work on a task group to come up with a report. If anyone is interested, please let me know.

3. CPA's *Psynopsis* published a special issue on Criminal Justice and Mental Health in its Winter 2014 issue (Vol 36, No. 1). For those of you who have not seen the issue, I would suggest you take the time to have a look. It is well worth it. A number of Section members contributed to a very informative discussion of these important issues and developments. In response to the special issue, Senator James Cowan, Opposition Leader in the Senate, wrote an email to Dr. Cohen describing his Private Members Bill proposing the establishment of a Canadian Commission on Mental Health and Justice. We reprint Senator Cowan's email here for your information. Comments on this Private Members Bill would be appreciated.

For all feedback, comments, or suggestions relating to these three items, or for any other Section Business, please write to me at hbarbaree@waypointcentre.ca.

Howard Barbaree
Chair, Executive Committee
CPA Section on Criminal Justice Psychology

COLUMN: CANADIAN COMMITTEE OF POLICE PSYCHOLOGISTS (CCOPP) STORIES, By: Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D., Director-at-Large, Police Psychology

Like many clinical psychologists who have wandered into the area of police psychology, I have spent much of my career working with people who have disorders that no one wants, that are politically incorrect, that engender a great deal of stigma, and for which services are generally underfunded and relatively unavailable. I am talking of course about mental illnesses. However, mental illness seems to have become almost fashionable in the last couple of years. This is due in no small part to the work of the Mental Health Commission of Canada and the efforts of some high profile celebrity type people such as Clara Hughes who have been speaking out openly about mental illness. Is this a sign that things are changing? Particularly in the police world, is there any indication that opinions about mental illness are changing?

The short answer to this is of course that we don't know. Although it is conventional wisdom that police officers are much less likely to seek treatment for mental health issues than other members of the general public, I remain unconvinced that this is the truth. I do not doubt for a moment that police officers are very resistant in most cases to seeing a mental health practitioner. However, I think it is also the case that employees at the local supermarket are resistant to seeing mental health practitioners, as are physicians, factory workers, firefighters, accountants, teachers, construction workers, secretaries, and painters. In other words, most people associate mental illness with stigma and therefore most people prefer not to seek treatment for mental health problems. This part is fact; research data supports the fact that most people who require mental health treatment either do not seek it, delay seeking it for many years, or are unable to obtain it even if they do seek it out.

But meanwhile, back in the police world, there is some evidence that things may be changing. I recently attended a national conference hosted jointly by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police and the Mental Health Commission of Canada. While much of the focus of this conference was on police interactions with people with mental illnesses, there was also some discussion of mental illness and mental health problems in police personnel and how to improve organizational cultures to support mental health in police organizations. This of course involves the development of a psychologically healthy workplace, as well as the availability of mental health services when they are needed. Most importantly, however, it also speaks to the need for a stigma free organizational culture in which seeking out such assistance is not seen as a career limiting activity.

I do not have any clever answers to the subject of stigma—except to say that it would be great if someone developed an anti-stigma campaign specifically for police organizations—and then shared it with everyone else. Meanwhile, where else can you start with mental health in the workplace? Here are my top choices regarding “where to start.”

- Check out the Centre of Officer Safety and Wellness of the IACP. They have a bunch of resources. (<http://www.theiacp.org/CenterforOfficerSafetyandWellness>)
- Talk to someone in Psychological Services at the Calgary Police. They have a long track record in this area and are currently adapting some of the materials from the Canadian Armed Forces in regard to prevention and maintenance of mental health.
- Get up to speed on the CSA Standard for **Psychological health and safety in the workplace - Prevention, promotion, and guidance to staged implementation** (<http://shop.csa.ca/en/canada/occupational-health-and-safety-management/cancca-z1003-13bnq-9700-8032013/inv/z10032013>)
- ..and check out what the Mental Health Commission has to say about the standard, the business care for a psychologically healthy workplace... <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/node/5346>
- ..as well as what the MHCC has to say about stigma <http://www.mentalhealthcommission.ca/English/issues/stigma?routeToken=0e1a51e2535db4dd1bd732946fa402ed&termInitial=31>
- Great-West Life Centre for Mental Health in the Workplace has a whole bunch of online resources (<http://www.workplacestrategiesformentalhealth.com/index.asp>)

It's not an exhaustive list by any stretch—but there are places to start.

COLUMN: TRAINING IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY, by Michael Sheppard, Ph.D., C.Psych, Director-at-Large, Clinical and Training.

Like many students, my primary interest when I was applying to graduate schools was being accepted into a clinical program that had a forensic concentration. I was lucky enough to be admitted to the University of Saskatchewan (go Huskies), which had a vibrant lab with both clinical and applied social psychology graduate students studying forensic (i.e., correctional) psychology under Stephen Wormith, Steve Wong, and Cindy Presse. The program has grown since then, with the addition of Mark Olver to the faculty and the development of the interdisciplinary forensic program. Training at the U of S included access to the Regional Psychiatric Centre and Saskatoon Child and Youth Services for forensic practica and research, as well as taking part in a research culture focused on a wide variety of issues related to crime and criminal behaviour. It was pretty awesome, even if it was horribly cold for most of the year.

However, many students hoping to have careers as forensic psychologists aren't as lucky or, for other reasons, aren't able to attend programs with specific correctional foci. The take home message from this column is for those students: If your program doesn't offer specific correctional training, that's OK. Try to get the training during your practica and/or on your internship and try to do a dissertation on topic related to forensics anyhow. For the most part, coursework is not what develops clinical forensic skills such as recidivism risk assessment and correctional treatment. Likewise, coursework is, for the most part, not what develops research skills or skills in forensic program evaluation. Hands-on training from people who know the area develops these skills. This means it's vital to have good supervisors at the practica, which is unfortunately something you likely won't know until you're already in the practicum. Good practicum supervisors orient students to the ins and outs of working for correctional organizations. They develop students to work as a part of interdisciplinary teams. Good supervisors help break the concept that most criminal behaviour is the result of pathology and help students identify criminogenic factors. They orient students to the importance of evidence-based practice, whether as clinicians or researchers.

By the same token, you can do forensic research regardless of whether your lab has a forensic focus. Sub-clinical traits of personality disorders are present in undergraduate populations; this means personality disorders common among offenders can be studied in undergraduate populations. One doesn't have to have a forensic supervisor to study personality traits common in offenders. It's the same with other factors common among offenders, such as substance use and impulsivity.

Even criminal behaviour, whether less extreme (e.g., minor fights, drinking and driving without causing an accident, the use of prostitutes not resulting in charges) or not (e.g., property crimes, violence, sexual assault) can be studied at "non-forensic" programs, as a variety of criminal behaviours present among undergraduates. It's just less common, so you'll need a bigger sample than if you went to a correctional centre. Looking at criminal behaviour from the experience of the victims is another way of studying crime without studying criminals. Basically, there are ways of doing forensic-related research without being in a forensic lab. Oh, and of course, going to forensic talks at conferences and reading forensic research is a must if you want to be current in your knowledge about forensic psychology.

The need for well-trained forensic psychologists is much greater than the number of universities offering forensic psychological training. If you apply and don't get in to a forensic program, you can still get forensic training by working in forensic contexts and studying forensic topics. Doing so takes a little more creativity and perseverance than when you have a lab and supervisor all talking about forensic topics, but it's doable.

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS AND THESES

Psychopathy: Exploring Canadian Mass Newspaper Representations Thereof and Violent Offender Talk Thereon

Matthew L. Brunett

University of Saskatchewan, Department of Psychology

This social constructionist program of inquiry begins to explore how psychopathy/the psychopath is constructed beyond the professional domain of forensic psychology. Indeed, while this highly important diagnostic construct is defined and operationalized very precisely by contemporary forensic psychologists, it is believed to be grossly and seriously *misunderstood* by others. Study 1 examines how Canadian mass newspaper (news) discourse represents psychopathy/the psychopath using ethnographic media analysis. This study rests on the central assumption that mass newspaper discourse provides a key window onto the public construction of reality. Study 2 examines how in-treatment, persistently violent male offenders (individuals with close 'proximity' to psychopathy) may conceptualize, experience, and approach (or not) the diagnostic construct, as gleaned through their conversational talk during small-size focus group interviews. The various ways in which these distinct (and contextually-bound) discourses align with and diverge from one another are identified. The various ways in which mass newspaper and offender focus group discourses align with and diverge from the contemporary forensic psychological construction of psychopathy/the psychopath are also discussed. Clinical, practical, and ethical implications of the research findings are also presented and discussed briefly.

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS AND THESES Con't

Toward a strength-based approach to risk assessments: An examination of the measurement and clinical use of information about youth strengths

Karina Royer Gagnier
York University

This dissertation consists of three studies concerning the measurement and clinical use of youth strengths in assessments of adolescents' risk to reoffend. The first chapter provides a review of the theoretical frameworks of offender rehabilitation, the strength-based approach, and findings emerging from research on youth strengths. Rationales for each study in this thesis, derived from this literature, are also offered. Chapter 2 encompasses two empirical studies in which the extent to which a risk assessment tool (YLS/CMI) and its revised version (YLS/CMI 2.0) capture youth strengths was evaluated. These tools are based on the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) model of offender rehabilitation. Standard practice in the clinical use of information about youth strengths was examined in these parallel studies. Power to predict recidivism was also assessed in the first study. Chapter 3 describes the validation of the Strengths Assessment Inventory-Youth Version (SAI-Y), a novel and more comprehensive strengths assessment tool than the actuarial measures used in Chapter 2. Finally, in Chapter 4, the results and significance of the three studies are discussed within a broader context and future directions for research are suggested. Three main conclusions can be gleaned from Chapters 2 and 3: 1) current tools derived from the RNR framework do not appear to be adequate measures of justice-involved youth's personal strengths; the SAI-Y is a more comprehensive tool; 2) the process of integrating strengths in risk assessments is not consistent; and 3) the role of strengths as responsibility considerations within the RNR model remains to be investigated. Together, these findings constitute a step toward the operationalization and clinical use of youth strengths in risk assessments. They also highlight that justice-involved youths' strengths can be measured accurately.

Examining the Relationship of Risk, Treatment Readiness, and Therapeutic Change to Recidivism in a Sample of Treated Sex Offenders

Justina N. Sowden
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The present study examined the interrelationship of risk for recidivism, treatment readiness and responsivity, treatment-related change, treatment attrition, and recidivism among sexual offenders. It provided a cross validation of selected risk assessment measures, including the Static-99R, STABLE 2007, and Violence Risk Scale – Sexual Offender version (VRS-SO), as well as a clinical rating scale, the Treatment Readiness, Responsivity, and Gain Scale: Short Version (TRRG:SV). The primary focus of the study was to evaluate the relationship between treatment-related change and recidivism. The study was archival and participants included 185 federally incarcerated adult male sex offenders who participated in the Clearwater Sex Offender Treatment Program at the Regional Psychiatric Centre (Saskatoon, SK) between 1997 and 2001 and were followed up for an average of 9.3 years (SD = 3.0) post-release. Twenty percent of the sample was convicted for a new sexual offense, 45% for any new violent (including sexual) conviction, and 61% for any new conviction. The Static-99R, STABLE 2007, and VRS-SO all predicted violent recidivism (AUC = .62 to .72), as did the TRRG:SV (AUC = .32 to .37). Moreover, the dynamic risk measures demonstrated significant incremental validity, controlling for the Static-99R, in the prediction of sexual and violent recidivism. Treated participants made significant pre- to post-treatment changes on the VRS-SO, STABLE 2007, and TRRG:SV. Changes on the VRS-SO were significantly associated with lower rates of violent recidivism, with and without controlling for pre-treatment risk. Changes on the TRRG:SV were significantly associated with lower rates of sexual and violent recidivism. Significant predictors of treatment attrition were identified in the domains of criminal history, pre-treatment risk, treatment readiness and responsivity issues, and institutional adjustment. Implications for offender assessment, management, and rehabilitation are discussed.

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS AND THESES Con't

Callous-Unemotional Traits in Clinically Referred At-Risk Youth and Related Topographies of Antisocial Behaviour

Tyler Thrasher
St. Lawrence College

The present study aimed to investigate callous-unemotional (CU) traits in a sample of clinically-referred at-risk youth in an outpatient setting. CU traits are associated with detrimental outcomes in youth, including an earlier onset of antisocial behaviour and more persistent patterns of offending (Frick, 2009). Recent revisions to the diagnosis of Conduct Disorder in the DSM-V have added a specifier designating youth who exhibit the affective features of psychopathy. This specifier includes four traits; callousness, lack of remorse and guilt, flat affect, and lack of concern about performance (American Psychiatric Association, 2013). Uncaring traits (i.e., a general lack of concern about performance in multiple domains) are correlated with the occurrence of criminal offending, whereas callous traits have been linked to violent offending (e.g., Kahn, Byrd, & Pardini, 2013). CU traits may be a combination of unique traits, each with different causes and related behavioural topographies (Kimonis et al., 2008). This study used semi-structured interviews and validated instruments to measure CU traits in a sample of $n=30$ youth with collateral informants. Correlations between specific CU traits and each topography were analyzed using a bivariate analysis. Two exploratory hierarchical multiple regression analyses were also used to determine any incremental predictive power of the lack of concern with performance specifier. Callous traits were positively correlated with aggressive behaviour. However, this relationship was not exclusive to only being correlated to violent acts as in previous research. Uncaring traits were significantly correlated with total occurrence of antisocial acts for self, but not parent-report forms. Adding the unconcerned with performance specifier significantly improved prediction of an empirically validated measure of risk ($p = .019$), and a validated measure of psychopathy ($p = .080$). While these exploratory analyses were conducted with a smaller sample than required for a robust assessment, they satisfied the remainder of assumptions for multiple regression analysis. Commonly used forensic risk assessments do not comprehensively assess lack of concern with performance, as described by the new callous-unemotional specifier in DSM-V. The findings of this study add support to a growing body of evidence for assessing lack of concern with performance in forensic risk assessments. Further research is needed on specific callous-unemotional traits and on the incremental predictive value of the unconcerned specifier with measures of risk in a larger sample of youth.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Babchishin, KM, Hanson, RK, & VanZuylen, H. (2014). Online child pornography offenders are different: A meta-analysis of the characteristics of online and offline sex offenders against children. Archives of Sexual Behavior. Advance online publication. doi:10.1007/s10508-014-0270-x

The current meta-analysis compared the characteristics of child pornography-only offenders, typical (offline) sex offenders against children, and offenders with both child pornography and hands-on sex offenses (mixed). Based on 30 unique samples (comparison n 's ranging from 98 to 2,702), the meta-analysis found key differences between groups. Offenders who commit contact sex offenses were more likely to have access to children than those with child pornography offenses. In contrast, offenders who use the internet to commit sexual offenses had greater access to the internet than contact sex offenders. Differences between the groups, however, were not limited to differential opportunities. Sex offenders against children and mixed offenders were found to score higher on indicators of antisociality than online child pornography offenders. Child pornography offenders were also more likely to have psychological barriers to sexual offending than sex offenders against children and mixed offenders (e.g., lower antisociality, greater victim empathy). Mixed offenders were found to be the most pedophilic, even more than child pornography offenders. The findings suggest that offenders who restrict their offending behavior to online child pornography offenses are different from mixed offenders and offline sex offenders against children, and that mixed offenders are a particularly high risk group.

Brouillette-Alarie, S, Hanson, RK, Babchishin, K, & Benbouriche, M. (2014). De la prédiction à la compréhension: Recension des dimensions psychologiques de la Statique-99. Pratiques Psychologiques, 20(1), 1-19. doi:10.1016/j.prps.2013.12.001

Bien que grandement utilisés en Amérique du Nord, les outils actuariels d'évaluation du risque sont souvent critiqués pour leur incapacité à saisir la dynamique psychologique menant à la récidive criminelle. S'adressant à cette critique, le présent article propose un cadre conceptuel permettant d'associer les facteurs de risque des outils actuariels à des vulnérabilités psychologiques latentes trouvant écho dans le discours des intervenants. Afin d'illustrer ce propos, les dimensions psychologiques de la Statique-99, l'échelle actuarielle d'évaluation du risque pour auteurs d'agression sexuelle la plus utilisée mondialement, ont été identifiées à l'aide d'une recension des écrits. Deux principales dimensions ont été relevées : la délinquance sexuelle, indicatrice de déviance sexuelle et/ou de pré-occupations sexuelles et la délinquance générale, indicatrice de traits antisociaux/psychopathiques.

Although widely used in North America, actuarial risk assessment tools have been criticized for their inability to capture the causal dynamics leading to criminal recidivism. In this article, we present a conceptual framework for linking static, historical risk factors to the psychological vulnerabilities that are targeted in offender treatment. To illustrate this model, a literature review was conducted that identified the psychological dimensions that underlie the items of the Static-99, the most widely used actuarial scale for predicting sexual recidivism. Two key dimensions were identified: sexual criminality, indicative of sexual deviance and/or sexual preoccupation, and general criminality, indicative of antisocial traits and/or psychopathy.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS Con't

Gendreau, P, & Goggin, C. (2013). The Handbook of Forensic Psychology. Practicing psychology in correctional settings. In IB Weiner & RK Otto (Eds.) The handbook of forensic psychology (pp. 759-794). Wiley.

Goggin, C, & Best, L.. (2013). The use of scientific inscriptions in criminology and criminal justice journals. An analysis of publication trends between 1985 and 2009. Journal of Criminal Justice Education. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/10511253.2013.841971

The hierarchy of sciences distinguishes social sciences as “softer” than natural sciences as the latter place more emphasis on non-inferential strategies (i.e. scientific inscriptions). As a social science, criminology and criminal justice (CCJ) has struggled to integrate its analytical and experimental constituencies, hindering its research record. One solution is to embrace inscription techniques that “hard” sciences use to cumulate knowledge. The use of scientific inscriptions in 397 randomly selected articles published between 1985 and 2009 in 16 CCJ journals was compared with that of other scientific disciplines. Less than 10% of page space was devoted to data presentation (i.e. graphs plus tables) with no evidence of variation across the 25-year study period. Relative to other sciences, inscription usage in CCJ journals fell between psychology and sociology. Researchers are advised that the inclusion of inscriptions may aid in the transfer of experimental results to applied settings.

Hanson, RK. (2014). Treating sexual offenders: How did we get here and where are we headed? Journal of Sexual Aggression. 20 (1), 3-8. doi: 10.1080/13552600.2013.861524.

The field of sexual offender treatment has drawn inspiration from two major social movements: The women's movement, which defined sexual victimisation as a serious social problem, and correctional rehabilitation, which provided the vision and methods to reintegrate offenders as law-abiding citizens. In this retrospective, I argue that we should also be guided by a third social force: The movement for evidence-based practice. In order to realise the potential of evidence-based practice, we need to support more and better research on sexual offender treatment.

Hanson, RK, Harris, AJR, Helmus, L, & Thornton, D. (2014). High risk sex offenders may not be high risk forever. Journal of Interpersonal Violence. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0886260514526062

This study examined the extent to which sexual offenders present an enduring risk for sexual recidivism over a 20 year follow-up period. Using an aggregated sample of 7,740 sexual offenders from 21 samples, the yearly recidivism rates were calculated using survival analysis. Overall, the risk of sexual recidivism was highest during the first few years after release, and decreased substantially the longer individuals remained sex offence-free in the community. This pattern was particularly strong for the high risk sexual offenders (defined by Static-99R scores). Whereas the 5 year sexual recidivism rate for high risk sex offenders was 22% from the time of release, this rate decreased to 4.2% for the offenders in the same static risk category who remained offence-free in the community for 10 years. The recidivism rates of the low risk offenders were consistently low (1% to 5%) for all time periods. The results suggest that offence history is a valid, but time dependent, indicator of the propensity to sexually reoffend. Further research is needed to explain the substantial rate of desistance by high risk sexual offenders.

Helmus, L, Hanson, RK, Babchishin, KM, & Thornton, D. (2014). Sex offender risk assessment with the Risk Matrix 2000: Validation and guidelines for combining with the STABLE-2007. Journal of Sexual Aggression. Advance online publication. doi:10.1080/13552600.2013.870241

Comprehensive risk assessment can benefit from combining static and dynamic scales. The purpose of this study was to validate the Risk Matrix 2000, examine its incremental validity with the STABLE-2007, and develop structured rules for combining the two scales. In a routine sample of Canadian sex offenders ($n = 710$), the Risk Matrix 2000/Sex, /Violence, and /Combined scales significantly predicted the six recidivism outcomes: sexual, any sexual (including sexually motivated breaches), non-sexual violent, violent, any crime (excluding breaches), and any recidivism (including breaches). AUC values were moderate to large. The STABLE-2007 generally added incremental predictive validity to the Risk Matrix 2000. Structured rules and recidivism estimates are provided for combining the two scales. The current study illustrates that predictive accuracy can be improved by combining static and dynamic risk scales in a structured manner.

Lehmann, RJB, Goodwill, AM, Hanson, RK, & Dahle, K-P. (2014). Crime scene behaviors indicate risk relevant propensities of child molesters. Criminal Justice and Behavior. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0093854814521807

The current study used crime scene analysis (CSA) to identify the psychological characteristics of child molesters, and examined the contribution of these behavioral themes for sexual offender risk assessment. CSA was conducted on a sample of 424 cases of child sexual abuse in Berlin (Germany) using non-metric Multi-Dimensional Scaling. The analysis revealed the behavioral themes of fixation, regression (sexualization), criminality and (sexualized) aggression, consistent with previous theories and empirical research in child molestation. The construct validity of the four themes was demonstrated through correlational analyses with known sexual offending measures, ratings of offender motivation, and criminal histories. The themes of fixation and (sexualized) aggression were significant predictors of sexual recidivism and added incrementally to the Static-99 for the prediction of sexual recidivism. The results indicate that crime scene information can inform the assessment of child molesters' risk relevant propensities, and improve the prediction of sexual recidivism.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT on Dr. Anton Schweighofer, R. Psych.

Welcome to a regular feature in *Crime Scene* where we profile members of the Criminal Justice Section. Take a moment to get to know one of your colleagues in the field.

Tell us a little about yourself, your psychology career, and your current practice.

In answering this question the first thing that comes to mind is how quickly time has passed both in life generally and in my career. It seems just yesterday I was in graduate school at Simon Fraser University and wondering how life and my career would unfold. Luckily, my graduate school experience provided supportive mentors and models who started me on my path in forensic psychology. Like many, subsequent to graduate school, I accepted an offer of a stable job with the Correctional Service of Canada. In hindsight that was a good choice. The Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) provided wonderful opportunities for training and clinical experience and allowed me to develop my specific interest in the assessment and treatment of men who commit sexual offences. I moved from providing direct treatment and assessment services to a supervisory role for sex offender programming and ultimately acted as the Chief of Psychology in the Pacific Region. My time at CSC also allowed me to meet colleagues from around the country who have developed into good friends. Being able to telephone Andrew Harris, Yolanda Fernandez or Lawrence Ellerby to discuss a professional or personal issue and get feedback and support is a real gift. Indeed, these friendships are one of the best parts of having a career in forensic psychology.

While working for CSC I also maintained a small private practice that included general clinical psychotherapy and assessment and also forensic work. When I left CSC in 2009 the foundation that had been provided for me allowed me to develop a full time private practice. I currently provide psychotherapy for clients experiencing a range of general clinical issues, I fly to northern British Columbia regularly and provide group based treatment for men who have committed sexual offences (via the Forensic Services Commission of British Columbia), I am retained by lawyers to provide forensic assessments and also provide Dangerous Offender assessments as an amicus curiae. I also provide training on sex offender issues at the Justice Institute of British Columbia and provide Static-99R training in locations ranging from New Brunswick to Washington State. I keep hoping that I will get the call for Static99R training in Hawaii but no luck as yet! The range of things that I do helps to keep things interesting and challenges me to continue learning and developing both as a clinical psychologist and a forensic psychologist.

What are your clinical and research interests and what are you currently working on?

Research interests? I suspect I am like many who, subsequent to graduate school, focus their energies on clinical work. I am in such awe of those who are able to do both clinical work and research. Fortunately, I have had a small hand in some nascent research examining primary prevention of sexual offending and my friend and colleague Lyne Piche will be presenting a related poster at the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers conference this fall. Also, in conjunction with Barry Cooper and Hugues Herve, I recently co-authored a chapter on interviewing sex offenders that will be published in an edited volume by Barbara Schwartz. These limited efforts assuage some of the guilt I feel at my lack of research productivity.

I noted my general clinical interests above but one issue that I did not mention that has been an interest of late is working with men (and one woman) who have pedophilic interest but who have never been involved with the criminal justice system and who have reportedly not committed a contact sexual offence. They have been referred by colleagues who know of my forensic background or they have managed to find me by word of mouth. Working with these individuals is a unique opportunity given that such folks do not typically, in my experience, reach out for treatment until after they have been convicted of a sexual offence. It has been uplifting to see the effort my clients put into ensuring they never offend. It has also served to reinforce the need to reach out to pedophilic individuals who have not offended but who are struggling with their orientation and the associated shame and questions about how they can establish a healthy and offence free life. This is one area where we, as psychologists, can do more.

What is the biggest challenge you've faced as a psychologist? How have you dealt with this?

The biggest challenge I have faced as a psychologist has been the ongoing effort required to maintain some semblance of a work-life balance. I think many of us could work around the clock if we wanted to. Particularly in private practice, it is easy to think "I have to say yes to this lawyer or maybe s/he won't call the next time an assessment is needed." Luckily, I can usually call upon my CBT skills and challenge such irrational thoughts. Of course, when I recently decided I would not accept any new assessments I almost immediately received a series of telephone calls asking if I was available. I figured it was the universe's way of challenging me. I have remained steadfast and have turned down all the requests but it is sometimes hard to practice the work-life balance that we encourage for our clients. The importance of self-care and finding time for family, the gym, friends and just having fun can't be overrated. When I stray from this awareness I remind myself of the discussions I have with my clients and also remember that there is more to life than being a psychologist.

SPECIAL FEATURE: TOWARD A COMMON LANGUAGE FOR RISK COMMUNICATION, R. Karl Hanson, Ph.D.

Risk assessment is essential to effective corrections and to the successful threat management activities of police. Correctional interventions are most effective when greater resources are directed towards higher risk cases (the Risk Principle within Andrews and Bonta's Risk/Need/Responsivity model of correctional rehabilitation). Similarly, limited police resources are best focused on the individuals who present the greatest threat to the community.

There have been considerable advances in offender risk assessment during the past 20 years. Research has identified the major risk factors for criminal recidivism and these have been combined into structured risk tools. Currently, there are a large number of different tools available that have at least moderate accuracy, and none has shown clear superiority over other, similar tools. Given that these risk tools are empirically-based, risk tools are routinely revised as new research findings become available. Consequently, there are a large number of different risk tools used by different jurisdictions, including different versions of the same family of risk tools.

The existence of a large number of similarly credible risk tools raises the problems of comparing the results across tools. Would an offender identified as high risk by the risk tool used by one jurisdiction also be considered high risk based on the measures and thresholds used by different jurisdictions? More fundamentally, what do we mean by "high" and "low" risk? Based on Zoe Hilton's and colleagues research (2008), we should not expect that the way we use these terms to be the same as the way that these terms are used by our colleagues, even those working in the office next door.

The solution to our risk assessment Tower of Babel requires consensus on the latent constructs assessed by the different measures, and a common language to describe the thresholds required for policy decisions. We already have implicit, intuitive definitions, as evidenced by our ability to make decisions within the numerous judicial and quasi-judicial processes based on offenders' risk. What would explicit, scientific definitions look like? Is a common language for risk even possible?

I think it is. First, one useful quirk of human psychology is that we are remarkably consistent when making intensity ratings of qualities (Kahneman, 2010). For example, it is relatively simple to create a reliable scale that measures the cost of restaurants in terms of the length of lines. This capacity has been used in a wide variety of human affairs to develop objective language. For example, the scales commonly used to rank tennis players (http://www.usta.com/Adult-Tennis/USTA-League/Information/About_NTRP/) or the difficulty of rock climbing routes (Yosemite Decimal System; <http://climber.org/data/decimal.html>) have immediate meaning to anyone trained in these disciplines. A tennis player at level 3.5 consistently loses to players ranked 4.0 or higher. Climbers who have mastered a 5.9 (Yosemite Decimal System) could do 5.8 pitches, but would not necessarily be able to complete a route rated 5.10. The few individuals who have ever topped out a 5.11 are considered gods within the climbing community. It is not that these systems are completely static, as difficulty ratings change as equipment and skills advances. They do, however, provide a clear, objective language to the community of practitioners. This is something that we, as forensic and correctional practitioners, have yet to achieve.

Developing non-arbitrary categories requires defining the construct being assessed by risk scales, and then identifying thresholds aligned with policy and practice decisions (Blanton & Jaccard, 2006). Consider, for example, the personality characteristic entitled "propensity for rule violation" described in Table 1. The use of this rating scale in the general population would result in a highly skewed distribution, with relatively few individuals in the high categories. It has 8 levels, which may be more than necessary in the context of personnel selection. I suspect, however, that those who have experience working with forensic and correctional populations will have little difficulty visualizing individuals that represent each level of the construct. Furthermore, it is easy to call to mind decisions within corrections that are based on a one point difference within this rating scale (e.g., "reckless outlaws" require higher security classifications than mere "offenders").

I am not presenting Table 1 as a finished product, even though I believe that something like this dimension exists, and is worthy of further study. Instead, what I am arguing is that we need to establish consensus at this level before we can hope to interpret the results of different risk assessment tools. Once we have the constructs defined, the next step is a new wave of studies linking scores on specific risk scales to positions on the latent constructs (think item response theory). Until such research is completed, risk communication will remain pre-scientific.

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SPECIAL FEATURE: TOWARD A COMMON LANGUAGE Con't

Table 1

	A universal rating scale for the propensity for rule violation
Level	Characteristics
0 Rigid conformist	Rigidly conforms to rules even when unnecessary and unhelpful to the greater good.
1 Generally Prosocial	Generally prosocial, although occasionally violates minor rules and costumes of daily living, such as jumping cues, leaving work early, or misrepresenting facts for personal benefit (e.g., excuses for minor transgression). May violate minor laws (e.g, speeding, parking), but this would not be typical, and they would quickly conform if confronted.
2 Minor Rule breaking	Frequently violates rules of daily living and minor laws, such as speeding, undeclared income, and parking regulations. May have affairs, use illicit drugs, or abuse workplace privileges (e.g., stealing supplies, private business on company time). Overt criminal activity is rare, and mostly limited to adolescence. Is concerned should the transgressions result in obvious harm to others.
3 Minor Criminality	Frequently involved in minor criminal offences, such as theft, fraud, drug dealing, threatening and common assault. Likely to have a criminal record as an adult, although may be able to avoid detection. Association with criminal peers is common. At this stage, rule violation may hinder, but does not prevent, involvement in productive work, meaningful love relationship, and community activities (e.g., coaching soccer).
4 Offender	Failure to conform to rules and regulations in a wide range of contexts. Frequently engages in diverse criminal activities. May be perceived as an outsider or criminal. Often feels "above the law". Rule violation significantly interferes with work, intimate relationships, or community activities. Marginal employment and unstable relationships are common. Likely to have more than one criminal conviction, and may invest resources to avoid detections (e.g., aliases, frequent moves, frequent lying).
5 Reckless Out-law	Failure to conform to rules and regulations even when there are significant personal costs involved. Relatively undeterred by official sanctions. Continues criminal behaviour while on conditional release and community supervision. Criminal versatility expected. Associated features include defiant resistance to authority, poor cognitive problem-solving, and impulsivity. Commonly associated with life-course persistent criminality, involving childhood behaviour problems and juvenile delinquency. Refrains from serious criminal involvement for periods of months. Likely meets minimum criteria for psychopathy.
6 Severe Anti-sociality	A career criminal, almost continuously involved in serious criminal behaviour. Likely to spend much of their adult life in prison, or on the lamb. Little or no meaningful employment or engagement in productive activities. Unlikely to have prosocial influences among friends or family. Much of spare time involved direct criminal activities or planning the next "job". Refrains from criminal involvement only in the face of obvious, direct, and severe sanctions.
7 Even Worse	Persistent, unrestrained rule breaking. Engages in crime and violence even in high security settings, and even when counter to their immediate self-interests. Most of the adult life spent in maximum security institutions; frequently in segregation.

RESEARCH BRIEF: ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS UNDERLYING CRIMINAL BEHAVIOURS: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE THERAPEUTIC RELATIONSHIP IN AN INMATE'S REHABILITATION PROCESS, By: Sophie Duranceau, BA (Hons.), University of Regina & Christina D'Ambrosio, BSc (Hons.), University of Regina

A large study of 23 000 inmates across 12 countries suggests the risk of having a psychiatric diagnosis is substantially higher in correctional settings than in the general population, and potentially higher than in psychiatric institutions (Fazel & Danesh, 2002). Approximately 42% of women and 65% of men in correctional settings meet criteria for a personality disorder, with antisocial personality disorder being the most common diagnosis (Fazel & Danesh, 2002). In forensic populations, however, all mental health disorders are highly prevalent and typically present with comorbidities; substance use, mood, schizophrenic/psychotic, anxiety, somatoform and adjustment disorders are all evident in forensic settings (Brink, Doherty & Boer, 2001). Furthermore, lifetime prevalence of anxiety and mood disorders are respectively two and three times higher in Canadian federal prison inmates than in the general population (Brink et al., 2001). It is therefore imperative that forensic institutions be aware of individuals with mental disorders and take appropriate action to address these concerns during incarceration.

Appropriate action may require the provision of mental health treatment for mentally disordered offenders, which may decrease recidivism rates. One goal of incarceration is to rehabilitate individuals who engage in delinquent behaviors. When individuals react to situations, the consequential thoughts and feelings that arise guide subsequent behaviors. Working with inmates to uncover healthy alternatives to delinquent behaviors (e.g., aggression, drug use) is certainly beneficial to their rehabilitation. However, changing behaviors without exploring the thoughts and feelings underlying delinquent behaviors is similar to placing a band-aid over an open wound; the underlying infection is not treated. Uncovering an inmate's motives, including their emotions and thoughts, that led to an event where incarceration consequentially occurred can aid in comprehending why individuals commit criminal offenses. Given the high rates of mental disorders in prison populations, it is plausible this may hit upon cognitions and affective states seen within mental health settings. Receiving mental health services may be beneficial for offenders. By identifying such psychological matters behind criminal activity, treatment providers can then become in a better position to intervene with repetitive, criminogenic behaviours. Mental health treatment in correctional centres is therefore crucial if their service aims to reduce recidivism.

What should and can be done to address inmates' mental health concerns? It is suggested that mental health treatment for former inmates is slow and incompatible for the needs of this population (Lamb & Weinberger, 1998). Sometimes brief psychological therapy at an outpatient mental health facility is the primary mental health service offered to inmates prior to being released in the community. Accordingly, it would be helpful if psychological treatment began within correctional institutions. Ideally, every correctional setting should have multiple psychologists on staff providing long-term therapy to inmates with mental disorders for the entire duration of their incarceration. This is an unlikely goal, however; the financial and human resources required for such a mental health program challenge the feasibility of its implementation across Canada. Even a smaller goal, such as implementing standardized cognitive-behaviour therapy treatment protocols in prisons, may not be helpful due to the number of sessions required and an inmates' willingness to attend. A greater challenge is that typically information on a prisoner's mental health is limited (Fries et al., 2013), therefore making the identification of psychological concerns difficult. While most psychologists would agree prison settings are less than ideal for therapy, regardless of these conditions, engaging in therapy can still provide the opportunity to develop a therapeutic relationship that may decrease an offender's risk of re-offense.

Aside from receiving mental health services, the development of a healthy therapeutic relationship can be helpful in the rehabilitation of criminal offenders. Inmates' past and present can be marked by unstable relationships and a disrupted self-image. Living in a world where "kindness is mistaken for weakness"¹, some individuals may not have learned to express positive emotions towards others, or even themselves. Many inmates also present with a complex history of trauma and abuse (Goff, Rose, Rose, & Purves, 2007) that may have disrupted learning the meaning of human respect and dignity. Potentially uncertain of their worth, offenders may come to violate the rights of others in an attempt to assert their own rights. These beliefs can be reinforced by the judicial and incarceration process, which inherently restricts people's rights. The first step to rehabilitation may therefore require emphasis on the individual's dignity and a demonstration of respect for the inmate's experiences, feelings, and choices regardless of their nature, which can be offered in a therapeutic relationship.

Mental health concerns may not directly relate to criminal behaviors; however, the presence of mental disorders and associated symptomatology can be an indicator of maladaptive thoughts and feelings. Addressing these domains through the development of a positive therapeutic relationship may be an important step in the rehabilitation process of offenders as it can foster personal development; it demonstrates respect for an individual's life choices without encouraging delinquent behaviors. By respecting the inmate's personal decisions and working with the psychological underpinnings of a criminal offense, the therapist seeks to treat the infection rather than placing a band-aid over the wound. By acknowledging mental disorders in this manner in correctional facilities, it can help inmates learn to make adaptive decisions and simultaneously reduce recidivism.

¹ Client citation

RESEARCH BRIEF: ADDRESSING MENTAL HEALTH, Con't

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N3 IS CONNECTED: FOLLOW US ONLINE, By: Jim Cheston, Ph.D.

As the third North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Conference (NACCJPC3) in Ottawa quickly approaches – it is only a little over a year away - you can now begin to follow its development online. Our Webmaster, Dr. Joe Camilleri, has established a three-pronged approach on the internet for the NACCJPC with a website, as well as a Facebook and a Twitter presence. The respective links are:

Website: cpa.ca/naccjpc

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/205106602764/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/NACCJPC>

All are welcome to log in and follow along to this next outstanding conference in the theory, research and intervention practice of Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology.

And that's only the beginning of the good news on N3. The invited keynote speakers are being arranged for another extraordinary line-up of exceptional presentations reflecting some of the many fascinating areas of Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology. One of those keynote speakers will be Dr. Devon Polaschek from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. Dr. Polaschek has not yet stated the topic of her invited address, though the possibilities from this prolific and acknowledged research/practitioner are certainly intriguing. She is a recognized international expert in the theory, intervention and evaluation of serious violent and sexual offenders. She is also exploring cognitive experimental approaches to the assessment of offenders. On April 15, Dr. Polaschek presented a professorial lecture at the University of Victoria that addressed the realities and the misconceptions of psychopaths, based on her interest in the subject of criminal psychopathy and psychological treatment for more than 20 years, both as an academic and clinical psychologist. This combination of study and intervention has characterized her work with high risk offenders over the years. We do not yet know the topic on which Dr. Polaschek will speak at N3, but we can be sure that it will be a very interesting and compelling presentation. Regarding her view on having been invited to speak at NACCJPC3, she wrote that she is, "really looking forward to it: an honour for me, and at my favourite conference!" I am sure the honour will be reciprocated by those who will have the pleasure of hearing her address.

The time has come to **start making plans and arrangements to attend N3 in Ottawa from June 4 – 6, 2015**. This is a conference that anyone with an interest in psychology as it is applied to the many aspects of the criminal justice system will not want to miss. And this is all happening in the beautiful capital city of Ottawa in early summer: no better way to combine a fulfilling professional conference with an enjoyable vacation experience. See you in Ottawa in 2015!

STUDENTS' WATER COOLER: STAYING UP TO DATE WITH RESEARCH FINDINGS, By: Fiona Dyshniku, M.A.

Keeping up with the volume and frequency of scholarly articles can be a daunting and time-consuming task. In fact, with digital media at our fingertips, it is easier than ever to become overwhelmed by the sheer amount of information available. Moreover, as a student, you may be familiar with the paradox of spending hours pouring over papers, and yet, feeling like you are still not caught up with the latest in the field. At a fundamental level, all these concerns raise the question of just how much time you should allocate to staying up to date on the literature. Balancing such a professional expectation with all the other research and/or clinical commitments of your training program depends on a constant negotiation between that which is ideal and the reality of time constraints. Now more than ever, it is important to search for efficient ways in which you can ensure that you are caught up on the latest developments in your field while still meeting your program and general life requirements. Below, I have compiled (in no particular order) a set of ideas that I have found especially useful in helping me navigate the ever-evolving world of scholarly research.

1. Power Browse

Some students are under the mistaken assumption that scholarly articles are to be consumed as a whole. This, of course, could not be further from the truth. For the purposes of keeping up to date, you are encouraged to scan or skim for snippets of information that may be more relevant or informative to you. As a general guideline, you may choose to read the abstract, briefly look over the methods, and then dedicate some time to the discussion and limitations. Reading the introduction of a good article can facilitate the process of structuring your own paper(s), but since this can be quite time-consuming, choose judiciously which introductions you peruse.

2. Electronic Alerts

One of the more efficient ways to keep up to speed with the latest research is to set up electronic alerts. In addition to Google Scholar, this option is also available through the databases that you are already familiar with. For example, if you are using a database like PsycINFO, you can opt to save the search strategy (e.g., keyword combination) that optimally captures your area of interest. The database will then re-run the search on a regular basis in order to find newly added content. It will send you an email alert when new articles match your search criteria. In addition to PsycINFO, two other well-known websites that allow you to create personalized alerts are Elsevier ScienceDirect (<http://www.sciencedirect.com/>) and JournalTocs (<http://www.journaltocs.ac.uk/>).

3. Human "Filters"

I have found that several prominent researchers/clinicians in forensic/correctional psychology have their own Twitter accounts, where they often post links to the latest journal articles that fall within their area of study. This is a great way to use their years of expertise to handpick the most relevant and reliable content for you. Of course, you can get notifications on your phone whenever the researchers you follow post something on their Twitter accounts.

4. ResearchGate

If you have not already done so, set aside some time to identify leading researchers in your field of study. Afterwards, you may find it beneficial to join ResearchGate (<http://www.researchgate.net/>), a free social network uniquely dedicated to science and research. Through ResearchGate, you can elect to follow researchers and scientists whose work is relevant to your area of interest. Conveniently, the network will email you every time said researchers upload a scholarly article on ResearchGate or make some other form of contribution to the network (e.g., posts, questions, etc.).

5. Other Sources of Information

We are in the midst of a digital revolution where sources of information other than scholarly articles may be especially pertinent. Several reputable and informative blogs come to mind, like the one hosted by the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers (<http://sajrt.blogspot.ca/>). Also, if you have not yet heard people rave about TED talks (<http://www.ted.com/>), let me be the first to do so. They are gripping! The talks come in the form of brief videos (20 minutes or less) in which prominent scientists discuss an idea central to their work. The talks can also be downloaded and stored on your iPod/iPhone so you can listen to them on the go. As of April 2014, TED lists around 73 "Psychology" videos, with a few of those talks having some relevance for forensic/correctional psychology. One thing to consider is that, although readings in forensic psychology are inherently crucial to your development, you will also need to gain some breadth. Progress and new ideas in the field come in many forms, one of which is the synergistic synthesis of two or more areas of study. Such synthesis cannot be accomplished without conducting some readings or listening to some TED talks outside your immediate area of study.

6. Free Apps

Free software products like Evernote (<http://www.evernote.com/>) are uniquely positioned to facilitate not only your reading, but also note-taking and structuring of ideas. Should you decide to give Evernote a try, you will notice that it allows you to not only create notes but also save and organize scholarly articles or blogs that you come across online. Another added benefit to using Evernote is that the computer software syncs with your Evernote phone app, so you can keep track of an idea or a highly recommended article wherever you are, without resorting to scribbling on pieces of paper, napkins, or your arms. Finally, with Evernote, you have the option of snapping photos and/or recording voice memos of something you want to remember. You may be surprised by how much you can get out of an app like Evernote when you attend a conference!

The above ideas may not all work for you; you may find that one thing suits your learning style and your work-life balance better than another. Whatever the case, I encourage you to make some time and strategize about how you stay up to date with research findings in your field. It will be worth it in the long run.

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Correctional Services Canada's Clinical Psychology Internship receives CPA accreditation

Dorothy Cotton, Ph.D.

Correctional Services Canada (CSC) is the largest single employer of psychologists in Canada, and thus has a vested interest in the education and training of clinical psychologists. As Olver¹ and colleagues have noted, there are a variety of challenges that have faced CSC over recent years in terms of training, recruitment and retention of psychologists—and also as noted in that paper, the availability of appropriate internship opportunities plays an important role in the education and training of potential psychology staff.

One exciting development in this area has been the recent CPA accreditation of a clinical psychology internship in the Ontario Region of CSC. With two positions based in men's institutions in the Kingston area, and an additional position based at Grand Valley Institution for Women in Kitchener, clinical psychology students now have the option of completing a CPA accredited clinical internship within a correctional setting. It is well known the offenders have a higher incidence of mental health problems than the general population, and thus these settings provide for a wide variety of clinical experiences.

There are a number of unique aspects of the CSC internship (in addition to the fact that it is an internship within a correctional system—and the first accredited internship within the federal government). While the internship is accredited as a clinical internship, the program also provides the opportunity for interns to become competent in correctional/forensic psychology. Interns participate in a full range of clinical assessment, diagnostic and treatment activities—but also are exposed to risk assessments, group interventions, and treatment of criminogenic needs. Each intern typically has the opportunity to work at three sites including all levels of security as well as community placements. There are bridging opportunities that may lead to permanent jobs within CSC.

Students (and others) who would like to know more about the CSC internship should contact the internship co-ordinator, Dr. Dorothy Cotton, at Dorothy.Cotton@csc-scc.gc.ca

¹ Olver, ME., Preston, DL., Camilleri, JA., Helmus, L, & Starzomski, A. A survey of clinical psychology training in Canadian federal corrections: Implications for psychologist recruitment and retention. *Canadian Psychology/Psychologie canadienne*, 52 (4), 310-320. doi: 10.1037/a0024586

ACADEMIC BLOG

Nextgenforensic: New forum for new and emerging ideas in sexual aggression research and practice

Nextgenforensic is an academic community blog devoted to providing diverse content germane to the prevention of sexual aggression. The intent of the blog is to provide openly accessible content including research translations, theoretical developments, methodological notes, and news stories in an effort to bring the brightest ideas and latest developments in the field to a forum that is accessible to all and that all can engage in. The blog aims to provide the latest research and theoretical developments to a wider audience through unrestricted access to content and also aims to provide a forum for serious scholarly discussion of emerging theoretical, conceptual, and methodological ideas. In this way, **nextgenforensic** represents a new avenue for promoting research and theory development in the field of sexual aggression research, treatment, and prevention.

To foster a spirit of community contribution, the **nextgenforensic** blog is open to submissions from anyone that wishes to use the forum to present new research findings, unfolding research programmes, or new ideas that deal with clinical, assessment, theoretical, conceptual, or methodological issues in the field of sexual aggression research, treatment, and prevention. We believe that by providing a public forum, we can encourage researchers and practitioners to publicize their work and discuss the latest developments and pressing issues in the prevention of sexual aggression. By bringing these conversations into an openly accessible forum, we hope to engage a wide audience in discussing the latest developments and pressing issues in preventing sexual aggression; an audience that may not necessarily have access to this information in a more formal way.

Ian V. McPhail, Ian A. Elliott, Kelly M. Babchishin, Caoilte Ó Ciardha, and Ross Bartels
 Editorial Team
Nextgenforensic

Visit us at <http://nextgenforensic.wordpress.com/>

SECTION BUSINESS

The Canadian Psychological Association
 Section on Criminal Justice Psychology
 Guidelines for the Use of Section Funds
 Date: November 13, 2013

This guideline provides a framework to govern the use of Section funds.

1. Disbursements of funds are made by the Secretary-Treasurer, or in his/her absence or incapacitation, by the Chair of the Executive.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer disburses funds to cover normal and reasonable expenditures of the Section at his/her own discretion to a limit of \$1,000. Larger sums would be disbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer after approval of the Executive.
3. Expenditures by the Section Executive are to be made solely for the advancement of purpose of the section as described in Section II of the Section's bylaws. Spending decisions will strive to effectively promote the mandate of the section within the constraints of available funds and opportunities. The following are examples of routine expenditures of the section. These are examples only, and may be revised by the Executive as they see fit depending on priorities, opportunities and the funds available:
 - a. Reimbursement of expenses (to a maximum of \$2000) for travel to and accommodation at the CPA Annual Convention to the recipient of the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award.
 - b. Reimbursement of expenses for travel and accommodation at the CPA Annual Convention to the recipient of the Significant Contribution Award.
 - c. Cash prizes awarded to the student winner of the Best Poster Award at the Annual CPA Convention.
 - d. Expenses relating to an Annual Section Reception (room rental, catering, non-alcoholic beverages) held at the Annual CPA Convention.
4. Regular biennial disbursements include:
 - a. Cash contribution in support of thematically related conferences and training opportunities.
5. Ad hoc disbursements made at the discretion of the Executive include:
 - a. Cash awards to Student Researchers for Excellence in Research
 - b. Expenditures in support of Student Educational Experiences
 - i. Placements, internships,

All disbursements will require written documentation (ideally receipts) which will be provided to Secretary-Treasurer or the Chairperson (the two officers with signing authority). This documentation will be kept for auditing purposes with the Secretary-Treasurer for 2 years.

EXECUTIVE POSITION AVAILABLE

Do you want to get involved in the Executive of the CJS? We have one position available, allowing you the opportunity to liaise with multiple members of the CJS, as well as the Executive. The Managing Editor position for *Crime Scene* is soon to be vacant.

As the Managing Editor, you will be responsible for creating each issue of *Crime Scene*, from solicitation of submissions to design of the final copy. This position allows you to connect with CJS members from across Canada to engage them in submitting to the official newsletter of the Section.

The Managing Editor is a full member of the Executive of CJS, which allows you to engage with leaders in the field throughout the year in conference calls, emails, and meetings at the annual CPA convention.

If you are interested in talking more the position, please email:

Ainslie Heasman, Managing Editor - Ainslie.Heasman@camh.ca

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Canadian Psychological Association 75th Annual Convention
June 5-7, 2014 Vancouver, British Columbia

15th Biennial Symposium on Violence and Aggression
June 15-17, 2014 Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

XIV Annual Meeting of the International Association of Forensic Mental Health Services
June 19-22, 2014 Toronto, Ontario

European Association of Psychology and Law Conference
June 24-26, 2014 Saint Petersburg, Russia

Canadian Youth Justice Conference
June 25-26, 2014 Toronto, Ontario

International Congress of Applied Psychology (Psychology and Law Stream available)
July 8-13, 2014 Paris, France

British Society of Criminology Conference
July 10-12 Liverpool, United Kingdom

American Psychological Association Annual Convention
August 7-10, 2014 Washington, D.C.

Crimes Against Children Conference
August 11-14, 2014 Dallas, Texas

13th Meeting of the International Association for the Treatment of Sexual Offenders
September 3-6, 2014 Porto, Portugal

33rd Annual Research and Treatment Conference, Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers
October 29-November 1, 2014 San Diego, California

CANADIAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Section on Criminal Justice Psychology

By-Laws

Mandatory By Reason of

- I. NAME
 - 1. The organization shall be called the Section on Criminal Justice Psychology, hereinafter referred to as the "Section".
- II. PURPOSE
 - 1. Sections are the primary agents through which the particular and special needs of members of the Canadian Psychological Association (hereinafter referred to as "CPA") are met and interests are served. The purpose of this Section is to promote the development of Criminal Justice Psychology as a special interest area in psychology. This special interest area includes research and professional practice on criminal behaviour, delinquency policing, corrections, forensic mental health, and the application of psychology to criminal and civil law.
 - 2. In pursuance of this purpose, the Section is expected to:
 - a) provide information to members about current activities, events, research and practice developments in the area;
 - b) organize sessions at the annual CPA Convention that are of interest to members;
 - c) represent the interests of the Section within CPA through initiating such activities as position papers, policy statements, and special meetings; and make representations, on behalf of its members to external organizations or agencies with the approval of the CPA Board of Directors.

By-Law VII

By-Law VII.1

By-Law VII.8

3. The Section may also engage in the following activities:
- Recognize excellence and reward individuals who have made exceptional contributions to this section's areas of interest, by bestowing a number of awards to section members annually. The list may include:
 - The Don Andrews Career Contribution Award.
 - The Significant Contribution Award
 - Support conference and training opportunities of interest to members that are independent of the CPA Annual convention.
 - Support effective methods for the professional development of members, such as peer review of research and practice, facilitating research collaborations, and creating opportunities for social networking.
 - Host a specialized criminal justice conference in conjunction with the annual CPA convention.
 - Prepare draft policy or white papers for CPA on matters pertaining to the application of psychology to crime, criminal justice, the courts, and policing.
 - Offer advice and consultation to CPA on matters pertaining to the application of psychology to crime, criminal justice, the courts, and policing

By-Law VII.9

4. The Section shall have access to the Board of Directors for consideration of issues of concern to the Section involving matters relevant to the relationship of the Section to the Association as a whole or component parts thereof, or concerning agencies or activities external to the Association. These may in turn be referred to the Board

for consideration and action.

III. FORMATION

- By-Law VII.1 1. The Section is an agent of the CPA and operates in accord with By-Law VII of the Association.
- By-Law VII.2 2. Approval to establish the Section within the Association is granted by the CPA Board of Directors in accord with CPA By-Law VII.2.
- By-Law VII.3 3. The Section may be dissolved by the CPA Board of Directors in accord with By-Law VII.3.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

- By-Law VII.2 1. Membership in the Section is open to all Members and Student Affiliates, International and Special Affiliates of CPA.

2. Criteria for Associate Membership:
 Associate membership in the Section is open to those who do not meet the eligibility requirements to become 'Member' of CPA but nevertheless declare an intention to pursue the stated purposed of the Section.

Applications for Associate membership shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee of the Section and a recommendation made to the general membership of the Section.

- 3. Only those members of the Section who are members of CPA may exercise full voting rights, and may nominate, vote and hold office in CPA and/or the Section. One vote is accorded to each member for any given decision. Only Members and Student Affiliates of CPA are eligible to make posts to any electronic mailing list affiliated with, or operated by CPA. This includes any Section electronic mailing lists run under the auspices of CPA or its website.

Associate members of a Section cannot vote, nominate, or hold office in either CPA or the Section. Associate members may enjoy other privileges of Section membership. Only Members of CPA enjoy benefits of membership in CPA.

4. Any member of CPA shall be admitted to full membership in the Section upon application to CPA or to the Section and upon stated commitment to the purposes of the Section and upon payment of the annual dues.
- By-Law VII.5 5. The Section shall establish annual dues. Membership fees adequate to carry out the purposes of the Section shall be established by a majority vote of members present and voting at the Annual General Meeting. Differential dues may be set for Full members, Student members, and Associate members.
6. Any member may resign from membership in the Section by giving written notice to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Section. Membership dues are not refundable following resignation.
- By-Law III.2 7. Any member of CPA whose fees are six months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned from CPA and therefore is no longer eligible to be a member of the Section. Members whose Section membership fees are six months in arrears shall be deemed to have resigned from the Section, and are therefore not permitted to vote, to make nominations, or to hold office in the Section.
- By-Law XI. 8. Any member suspended from the CPA under its By-Law XI shall be deemed to be suspended from the Section.

9. Members whose conduct is considered by the Executive Committee of the Section to be contrary to the stated purposes of the Section shall be asked by the Executive Committee to explain or justify their actions. If the members are unwilling or unable to do so, they shall be asked by the Executive Committee to resign from the Section. If they do not resign, the Executive Committee shall give notice of motion, to be considered at the next general meeting, requesting their expulsion from the Section. A copy of this motion shall be communicated to the member concerned in time for that person to make a written response. If a response is made, it shall be circulated with the notice of motion. The members concerned shall be given an opportunity to explain their positions at the meeting at which the motion requesting their expulsion is considered. Approval of such a motion shall require a two-thirds majority of votes cast.

V. OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be at least five elected officers: the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, the Past-Chairperson, the Secretary-Treasurer, and the Student Representative. Each is a Member or Student Member of CPA throughout their terms of office. The term for each elected office is one year ending at the close of the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Student Representative must be a student member at the time of election. If the student graduates while in office, the student may remain in office until the next Annual General Meeting.
3. The Executive Committee may contain up to 6 additional Directors-at-Large (DAL) who will promote specific activities or interests of the section. Examples could include DAL with responsibilities for the newsletter, conference, training, and special interest groups (e.g., police psychology, psychology and the courts). The DAL can be elected by the membership at the Annual General Meeting or appointed by the other members of the Executive.
4. The Directors-at-Large and the five elected officers comprise the Executive Committee of the Section. The Executive Committee will

have between 5 and 11 members, with each member having equal voting rights for decisions within its authority.

5. The management of the Section shall be the responsibility of the Executive Committee.
 6. Nominations for vacant positions on the executive may be made up to the time of the annual election, either by e-mail to the current or past Chairperson or designated Chief Returning Officer, or in person at the annual Section Business Meeting, as determined by the Section.
 7. Voting for these positions may also take place prior to the Section Business Meeting by mail, e-mail, or secure Web-form ballot. If electronic voting is used, the election shall be ratified by the members present and voting at the Section Business Meeting. Should the Section wish, the actual voting for electoral officers can be done at the Section Business Meeting.
3. The Chairperson shall:
- a) Provide the overall supervision and administration of the affairs of the Section and ensure that all policies and actions approved by the general membership or by the Executive Committee are properly implemented.
 - b) Preside at general meetings of the Section and chair meetings of the Executive Committee.
 - c) Represent the Section on the CPA Committee on Sections, to the CPA Board of Directors, and to external bodies. (CPA By-Law VII.7 states: The Section shall elect or appoint a representative to sit on the Committee on Sections of the Association and shall regulate through the Section By-Law the method of appointment or election and the terms of office.)
 - d) Provide an annual report to the members and to the CPA.

By-Law VII.7

4. The Vice-Chairperson shall:
 - a) Fulfill the duties of the Chairperson when that person is temporarily absent or otherwise unable to perform the duties of the office.
 - b) Perform duties assigned by the Chairperson or requested by the Executive Committee or the general membership.
 - c) When the Chairperson finishes his term or resigns, the Vice-Chairperson will automatically be nominated for election to the position of Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson can decline this nomination by appeal to Executive Committee.
5. The Chairperson-Elect is available to carry out duties assigned by the Chairperson or requested by the Executive Committee or the general membership.
6. The Secretary-Treasurer shall:
 - a) Issue notices and agenda, and prepare, maintain, and distribute the minutes of general meetings and of the Executive Committee.
 - b) Work with the CPA Head Office to maintain an up-to-date list of members, including a record of the dues paid by members in order to establish those in good standing.

By-Law VII.5

Policy

Membership dues shall be collected by the CPA Head Office at the time of the annual membership subscription to the Association. The CPA Head Office disburses the dues collected to the Section along with a roster of the names and addresses of Section members. A fee for processing Section

dues and memberships is set by the CPA Board of Directors in consultation with the Committee on Sections and with sufficient notice given to allow for the Section to plan a budget.

- By-Law VII.6
- c) Be responsible for the care and custody of the funds and other assets of the Section and for making payments for all approved expenses.
 - d) Maintains books of the accounts which shall be made available for inspection by members at any reasonable time on request.
 - e) Annually, at least four weeks before the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Secretary of the Section shall submit an Annual Report, which includes a financial statement to the Board of Directors of the Association. The financial statement shall include a budget for the ensuing year which shall be subject to approval by the Board of Directors.
 - f) Carry out other duties as may be assigned by the Chairperson.
7. The signing officers of the Section shall be the Chairperson and the Secretary-Treasurer.
8. Officers shall remain in office until their successors are elected or appointed, unless they resign, or are removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the body that elected or appointed them. Proper notice must be given of a motion to remove a person from office and the individual concerned shall be given an opportunity to speak before such a motion is put to a vote.
9. Vacancies that occur on the Executive Committee shall be filled by appointment by the Executive Committee. A vacancy in the office of Past-Chairperson shall normally be filled by the next immediate Past-Chairperson.

VI. GENERAL MEETING

1. The general membership shall retain all powers of the Section except the management duties delegated in Section By-Law V to the Executive Committee of the Section.

a) Communication among Section members may take place at any time of the year by e-mail or mail, and may include motions raised by the Section Executive for Section members to consider and vote upon within a given stated timeframe. If necessary, an email motion may be tabled until the next Annual General Meeting. Motions approved by e-mail or mail vote will be ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the Section and subsequently forwarded to the Board for final approval.

2. An Annual General Meeting shall be held at the time and in the location of the annual convention of the CPA.

3. The Executive Committee of the Section may call a special general meeting by giving at least 30 days notice of the time and place of the meeting and of the specific agenda items to be considered.

4. A quorum for the transaction of business at all general meetings shall be nine full members or student members.

Policy

5. The meetings of the general membership shall be conducted in accordance with the latest edition of *Procedure for Meetings and Organizations*, by M.K. Kerr and H.W. King, Carswell Legal Publications, Toronto.

VII. COMMITTEES

1. The Executive Committee may appoint standing or other committees as it deems desirable to facilitate the achievement of the purposes of the Section. (Standing committees that Sections may wish to establish include Convention Programme Committee, Newsletter Committee, Public Information Committee, Scientific Affairs Committee, Professional

Affairs Committee.)

2. Terms of reference of standing committees shall be prepared by the Executive Committee of the Section and put before the membership for approval at a general meeting. **Ad hoc** committees may be established by approval of a motion at a general meeting or at a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Section.

VIII AMENDMENTS

By-Law VII.4

1. These By-Laws may be amended by approval of a motion by a two-thirds majority of votes cast at the Annual General Meeting of the Section, provided that at least thirty days notice is given for such a motion, and that the amendments receive subsequent approval by the Board of CPA.

DRAFT

The Canadian Psychology Association
Section on Criminal Justice Psychology
Guidelines for the Use of Section Funds

Date: November 13, 2013

This guideline provides a framework to govern the use of Section funds.

1. Disbursements of funds are made by the Secretary-Treasurer, or in his/her absence or incapacitation, by the Chair of the Executive.
2. The Secretary-Treasurer disburses funds to cover normal and reasonable expenditures of the Section at his/her own discretion to a limit of \$1,000. Larger sums would be disbursed by the Secretary-Treasurer after approval of the Executive.
3. Expenditures by the Section Executive are to be made solely for the advancement of purpose of the section as described in Section II of the Section's bylaws. Spending decisions will strive to effectively promote the mandate of the section within the constraints of available funds and opportunities. The following are examples of routine expenditures of the section. These are examples only, and may be revised by the Executive as they see fit depending on priorities, opportunities and the funds available:
 - a. Reimbursement of expenses (to a maximum of \$2000) for travel to and accommodation at the CPA Annual Convention to the recipient of the Don Andrews Career Contribution Award.
 - b. Reimbursement of expenses for travel and accommodation at the CPA Annual Convention to the recipient of the Significant Contribution Award.
 - c. Cash prizes awarded to the student winner of the Best Poster Award at the Annual CPA Convention.
 - d. Expenses relating to an Annual Section Reception (room rental, catering, non-alcoholic beverages) held at the Annual CPA Convention.
4. Regular biennial disbursements include:
 - a. Cash contribution in support of thematically related conferences and training opportunities.
5. Ad hoc disbursements made at the discretion of the Executive include:
 - a. Cash awards to Student Researchers for Excellence in Research
 - b. Expenditures in support of Student Educational Experiences
 - i. Placements, internships,

All disbursements will require written documentation (ideally receipts) which will be provided to Secretary-Treasurer or the Chairperson (the two officers with signing authority). . This documentation will be kept for auditing purposes with the Secretary-Treasurer for 2 years.



10 February, 2014

Mr. Don Head
Commissioner, Correctional Service of Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1A 0P9

The Honourable Steven Blaney
Minister of Public Safety
269 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa ON K1A 0P8

Dear Mr. Head and Minister Blaney:

Re: Ashley Smith - Jury Verdict and Recommendations

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) joined so many of Canada's stakeholder groups and citizens in their concern about the death of Ashley Smith. We share in the hope that lessons learned from her death will inform and enhance the way in which the correctional system responds to the mental health needs of their inmates in the future.

The CPA is the national professional association of the country's researchers and practitioners in psychology. Many among our membership work in the area of criminal justice both as researchers and health service providers. Psychological assessments and interventions are core to the assessment and treatment of mental and behavioural health issues within Canada's correctional systems. Programs developed, run and evaluated by psychologists not only redress health and well-being at the individual level, they significantly reduce recidivism. As you likely know, Correctional Services Canada (CSC) is the largest employer of psychologists in the country. We share this information with you to underscore that Canada's psychologists understand very well the issues, needs and gaps within the country's correctional systems.

CPA read with interest the December 2013 recommendations of the Chief Coroner of Ontario following the inquest into Ms. Smith's death while in custody. We are writing to urge Correctional Service Canada to carefully consider and act on those important recommendations. Early and accurate diagnosis of mental illness and the delivery of needed and evidence-based services and treatments in correctional populations are of the utmost importance. Any correctional population will have mental health needs to which health care providers should respond within that setting. Effective intervention for mental health issues within a correctional facility requires the appointment of appropriately trained personnel, consultation and collaboration among health and correctional personnel, as well as policies and procedures that support both correctional and health mandates. The inquest's recommendations include many aimed at policy and procedure for responding to mental health incidents and to the conditions of custody for those with mental health problems. We urge CSC to consider these carefully and act on their counsel.

The interface of mental health and criminal justice is an extremely important one to CSC, the Ministry of Public Safety and, indeed to the well-being of Canadians. Many among the report's recommendations speak to the role, collaboration, and leadership of CSC psychologists. The CPA has considerable resource and expertise in the area of criminal justice among its membership. We would like to work with you in addressing and implementing the report's recommendations. Please call upon us as you chart next steps.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K.R. Cohen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

K.R. Cohen Ph.D., C. Psych.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association

Minister of Public Safety



Ministre de la Sécurité publique

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

MAR 04 2014

Dr. Karen Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association
Suite 702
141 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5J3

Dear Dr. Cohen: / Dear CEO Cohen,

Thank you for your correspondence dated October 11, 2013, regarding the treatment of offenders who suffer from mental illness.

Let me assure you that mental health care services are regarded as an important aspect at all levels of the criminal justice system. I acknowledge your endeavors and I do appreciate the work that you have undertaken to improve the services provided for the health and well-being of Canadians.

Mental health services in Canada fall under provincial jurisdiction. However, the federal government recognizes the prevalence of addictions and mental illness amongst federal offenders. The impact of both are significant factors in offending and rehabilitation.

In 2008, recognizing that more work needed to be done, the Correctional Service of Canada (CSC) began working with its provincial and territorial colleagues in corrections to develop the *Mental Health Strategy for Corrections in Canada*. The 2011 Strategy was developed in consultation with the Mental Health Commission of Canada and was based upon the experience, knowledge and advice of staff, stakeholders and offenders across the country, including your organization. The Strategy aims to improve individual health outcomes along the continuum of care in the correctional system and to ultimately contribute to safe communities.

CSC's Mental Health Strategy is supported by various management practices, such as training and professional development, research and performance measurement, and tools to support front-line staff. For additional information, you may wish to view CSC's Mental Health Strategy -- *Towards a Continuum of Care* on CSC's website at: <http://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/002/006/002006-2000-eng.shtml>.

Canada

More recently, the amendments to the *Corrections and Conditional Release Act* specifically require that correctional policies, programs and practices be responsive to the special needs of persons requiring mental health care. Improving the capacity to address the mental health needs of offenders is a corporate priority for CSC. Since taking office, our Government has bolstered resources and programs to support these programs. CSC's annual expenditures on mental health have significantly increased over the years, from \$51M in 2005-2006 to \$90M in 2011-2012. We have also made a number of investments and system-wide improvements. These new investments have enabled CSC to:

- introduce comprehensive mental health screening at all 16 intake sites, including all five women's institutions;
- strengthen mental health delivery in mainstream institutions, including women's institutions, through the creation of new mental health positions;
- implement clinical mental health discharge planning to offenders with significant mental health disorders as they transition from institutions to the community;
- enhance community mental health services and support services available to offenders with mental health disorders in the community. These services are often provided in partnership with community partners and professionals; and,
- provide mental health awareness training to staff and community partners working with offenders with mental health disorders.

Our Government is exploring new treatment approaches as we seek to find additional solutions to address the needs of special need offenders. CSC is exploring partnerships that will ensure necessary care is provided for those with acute mental illness in other facilities without requiring long-term commitment or new construction of correctional facilities.

⇒ I sincerely appreciate your offer to serve as a national point of contact for stakeholder consultations in respect of psychologists working in criminal justice and forensic settings.

Thank you for taking the time to write.



Steven Blaney, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness

Regards!



October 11, 2013

The Honourable Steven Blaney
Minister of Public Safety and
Emergency Preparedness
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Minister Blaney:

On behalf of the Canadian Psychological Association, please accept our sincere congratulations on being appointed Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness. The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice and education of psychology in Canada. With almost 7,000 members and affiliates, CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology.

CPA would be very glad to work with this government as you move forward on important initiatives to tackle the current mental health issues in prisons. Over the past few years we have become concerned that inadequate access to mental health treatment and interventions persists in most penitentiaries. As you know, the Correctional Investigator has identified significant gaps in Correctional Service Canada's (CSC) mental health framework and has recommended a series of measures to close those gaps.

There are significant issues of resource and capacity when it comes to mental health needs among inmates. Front-line security staff needs support and training to respond safely and therapeutically, particularly to self-injury. Finally, there are mental health interventions that are proven effective within criminal justice settings. These interventions address mental health and disorders, reduce symptoms and reduce reoffending. These need to be supported by the recruitment and retention of appropriately trained mental health professional staff.

In addition to speaking with you with a national voice, CPA can also help facilitate any stakeholder engagement that you would like to undertake with individual psychologists who work in a variety of criminal justice and forensic settings. These include corrections, law enforcement, the courts, hospitals, community mental health, and academic settings.

We wish you all the best in your new and exciting role and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Cohen Ph.D., C. Psych.
Chief Executive Officer
Canadian Psychological Association