



CANADIAN  
PSYCHOLOGICAL  
ASSOCIATION  
SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Toronto, ON

The eighty-fourth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association was held in Toronto, Ontario at the Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel, on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 8:00 am. Dr. Kerri Ritchie, President, acted as Chair of the meeting and Ms. Cara Bernard as Recording Secretary.

### 1.0 Land Acknowledgement

### 2.0 Adoption of the Agenda

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Cole/Ofosu) that the Agenda be adopted.

### 3.0 Approval of Minutes

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Bellows/Cole) that the Minutes of the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held virtually, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021, be adopted.

### 4.0 Report of the President

#### 4.1 Overview of Activities 2022-2023

To begin, I would like to say that it has been a privilege to serve as your President over the course of this past year and during these challenging times. I am delighted to be here with you in person, and it has been a pleasure to reconnect with those of you I know and to meet those of you I do not know over the course of the convention.

Over the course of this past year, and with our strategic plan as our touchstone, the CPA continues to bring its collective voice to bear on a broad range of social, health and economic issues that have a direct impact on our members and the people of Canada.

This is where the leadership, expertise and compassion of psychology can play an integral role in shaping the world around us and contributing to how we, individually and collectively, can lead meaningful and rewarding lives.

Whether it be as practitioners, educators and/or researchers, there are many ways in which psychology adds value to our lives and to the issues that are important to us and the people of Canada.

Knowing that COVID-19 has raised our collective consciousness about the foundational importance of our mental and behavioural health, the CPA has many paths to contribute to making Canada a more

inclusive and dynamic country.

At the same time, it has been an opportunity for the CPA Board of Directors to take a step back and review the way it governs itself, and as much as possible, identify where we can improve how the Board and organization does it business.

While you might have had an opportunity to review our 2022-2023 Annual Report, let me highlight some of our important successes:

- Our annual membership and affiliate numbers exceed 7,000, and for this year's Annual Conference and N5 Conference we have brought together more than 1,600 delegates!
- We supported students by awarding 26 research grants, and held our 3rd annual virtual career fair, and continue to publish high quality and impactful research in our three peer-reviewed journals.
- We released three new fact sheets and converted twelve fact sheets into videos.
- We continue to speak truth to power on a range of policy issues when it comes to representing the views of the CPA to the federal government. Whether it is about increased funding for psychological science, investments that improve access to mental health care, Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD), tax incentives for employers to provide better coverage for employees, and many others, the CPA speaks clearly to the federal government on an ongoing basis.
- To advance members' continuing professional development and lifelong learning we collaborated with the CPA Sections in delivering six webinars and grew our on-demand course catalogue to 34.
- We approved the 6th revision of the CPA Accreditation Standards for Doctoral and Residency Programs in Professional Psychology.
- The CPA released a policy statement on the Promotion of Gender Diversity and Expression and Prevention of Gender-Related Hate and Harm. We also have policy statements on Gender-Based Violence, Decriminalization and Telepsychology to be released in the near future.

All in all, I hope this illustrates, in part, the significant work that reinforces our mission, which is: "Advancing research, knowledge and the application of psychology in the service of society through advocacy, support and collaboration", and provides you with value for your membership dollar.

In closing, I want to recognize the enormous amount of work undertaken by CPA's staff on our behalf, which consistently punches above its weight and to which we are truly grateful. I would be remiss in not recognizing Dr. Karen Cohen's leadership as CEO and Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker's leadership in ensuring the overall success of the Annual Convention – and now taking the helm as our CEO. I also want to thank Glenn Brimacombe for serving as Interim CEO and recognize each individual staff member (in alphabetical order): Anthony Aubrey; Julie Auger; Cara Bernard; Tim Bleeker; Phil Bolger; Eric Bollman; Zaineb Bouhlal; Sherene Chen-See Pottruff; Janet Clarke; Bev Glube; Kathy Lachapelle-Petrin; Dr. Andrea Lee; Stewart Madon; Kathryn McLaren; Christine McPherson; David Mercer; Vijaya Ramesh; Leanna Verruci; and Erin Vine.

Finally, the CPA at its core is a member-based, member-driven, and member-focused organization, and can only be effective with the engagement and support of members. Over the course of this year, the Board, Committees, Sections, partners, members and students have made enormous contributions to

the association, to psychology, and to society. For this, I thank all of you for making Canada a better place to live, work and play.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Norris/Alex) that the report of the President be received.

## 5.0 Reports of the Chief Executive Officer

### 5.1 Overview of Activities 2022-2023

If there is one constant in our lives today, it is change, and the rapidity of change. Globally, within continental North America, across Canada and within our local communities where we live, work and play, there are a growing number of connected societal issues that have an inseparable relationship with how we think, feel and behave. In many ways, the importance and application of psychology is interwoven into the fabric of who we are as a person and country, and how we respond to those in need.

This is where the leadership, expertise, and compassion of psychology can play an integral role in shaping the world around us and contributing to how we, individually and collectively, can lead meaningful and rewarding lives. Whether it be as practitioners, educators and/or researchers, there are many ways in which psychology adds value to our lives and to the issues that are important to us and the people of Canada.

With the CPA's strategic plan as our touchstone, the organization continues to focus on a range of important issues that are presented in this Annual Report. To assist the reader, our activities are summarized according to each strategic goal, of which there are six. Let us highlight some of our important successes:

- Our annual membership and affiliate numbers once again exceeded 7,000.
- In supporting the science that underpins psychology, the CPA released three new fact sheets, and converted 12 fact sheets into videos. We also published three guest edited issues of *Psynopsis* (Careers in Psychology, Societal Change, and Navigating the Insurance Landscape), continued to publish high quality and impactful research in our three peer-reviewed journals.
- Last year, for CPA2022, we brought together over 1,400 delegates, and for this year, we will be bringing together over 1,600 delegates for our annual national convention being held in conjunction with the 5<sup>th</sup> North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference.
- The CPA supported students by awarding 26 research grants and one leadership grant (one of which was co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science, and five of which were sponsored by BMS Canada), holding our third annual Virtual Career Fair, dispensing four psychology student focused conference support awards, and awarding two bursaries as part of the CPA's Indigenous Psychology Student Award program.
- The CPA, working closely with other national organizations, continues to bring the message to the federal government about the many ways in which investing in science benefits the people of Canada.

- When it comes to advocacy, the CPA continues to be a strong voice to the federal government in advocating for mental health parity with physical health and increasing investments in psychological science and mental health research.
- The CPA continues to engage the government on a range of national policy issues (e.g., Medical Assistance in Dying, Non-Insured Health Benefits, pan-Canadian licensure, education and training, disability eligibility). In support of these and other activities we have asked members to complete a public policy survey.
- To advance members' continuing professional development and lifelong learning we collaborated with CPA Sections in the delivery of six webinars, grew the total number of courses in the CPA's on-demand course catalogue to 34, and saw the American Psychological Association's (APA) online catalogue of professional development course offerings expand to 211.
- The CPA's Board of Directors approved the 6<sup>th</sup> Revision of the CPA Accreditation Standards for Doctoral and Residency Programs in Professional Psychology.
- The CPA released a policy statement on the Promotion of Gender Diversity and Expression and Prevention of Gender-Related Hate and Harm.
- Through its Very Involved Psychologist (VIP) and Very Involved Psychologist Researcher (VIPR) program, the CPA continued to provide members with a suite of tools to develop and/or build on their advocacy skill set.

While we continue to make progress in several areas, there are some important issues that require more dialogue, understanding and consensus-building. Some of those issues include:

***Diversity and Mentorship.*** The CPA has a long-held commitment to human rights, social justice and the dignity of persons. With our recently released policy statement, on the promotion of gender diversity and expression and prevention of gender-related hate and harm, the CPA continues to focus on the need for, and the importance of, elevating the voices that have been unheard. Developing intentional mentorship opportunities from an understanding of intersectionality and positionality is an area where more needs to be done to ensure that the many voices of psychology reflect the diverse population of Canada.

***Access to Mental Health and Substance Use Services.*** Whether it is the need for additional public funding and the integration of psychology into primary care, training more psychologists to meet the burgeoning demand for timely care, improved employer-based coverage for psychological care, and overdue investments that support science, discovery and knowledge creation, the CPA continues to speak truth to power in terms of the value psychology brings to the table and aligns with the public interest.

***Title.*** Until we can call people who have a doctorate in psychology a 'psychologist', the profession overall risks losing people to different areas and the public not understanding what psychologists can do.

***The Pandemic and Beyond.*** As we have seen, there are many dimensions of COVID-19 that are linked to our individual and collective mental health and well-being. Moving forward, it will be important for the CPA to continue contributing its knowledge and expertise to assist decision-makers in making good, and evidence-informed, policy choices. Pick any area – including but not limited to health care, schools,

homes, workplaces, communities – and psychology has a critical role to play

It is clear that the CPA plays an important role in bringing our collective voice to bear on a broad range of health, social and economic issues that have a direct impact on our members and the public. Knowing that COVID has raised our collective consciousness about the foundational importance of our mental health, the CPA has many paths to contribute to making Canada a more inclusive and dynamic country.

Finally, we should be reminded of the talented and dedicated CPA staff at Head Office that works on our behalf, consistently punches above its weight, and to which we are truly grateful. The CPA is not only our Head Office, but our members. And we would like to thank the members who volunteer and continue to contribute to the CPA through their involvement in committees, Sections, working groups, content development, convention, social media and the Board of Directors.

*\*Note: For full details on 2022-2023 activities, please see the 2022-2023 Annual Report.*

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Sepehry/Hogan) that the report of the Chief Executive Officer be received.

## 5.2 Finance

### 5.2.1 Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ending December 31, 2022

The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Bolger presented and received questions on the 2022 audited financial statements as examined by Welch LLP.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Goodwin/Veitch) that the 2022 Audited Financial Statements be received.

### 5.2.2 Appointment of Auditors

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Gupta/Hogan) that KPMG be appointed auditors of the Canadian Psychological Association for 2023.

## 6.0 Committee Reports

### 6.1 Governance

#### 6.1.1 Nominating Sub-Committee

The Past President presented a report as the Chair of the Nominating Sub-Committee and indicated that a call for nominations for the positions of Director Representing Science, Director Representing Practice, Director Representing Education and Director-At-Large was sent to the membership in late April. They noted that multiple nominations were received for the positions of Director Representing Practice and Member-At-large, and only one candidate for the positions of Director Representing Education and Director Representing Science.

Motion Acclaimed Board Seats:

WHEREAS the Corporation proceeded with a call for nominations in the spring of 2023 in accordance with section 5.06 of the By-laws;

AND WHEREAS the Corporation received only one nomination for the positions of Director Representing Education and Director Representing Science;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT

Meghan Norris be acclaimed as Director Representing Education and Adam Sandford as Director Representing Science.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Goodwin/Poulin) that:

Dr. Meghan Norris be acclaimed as Director Representing Education and Dr. Adam Sandford as Director Representing Science.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Hagstrom/Mikail) that the report from the Chair of the Nominating Sub-Committee be received.

6.1.2 Elections Sub-Committee

The vote closed on June 44<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am EST. Mr. Glenn Brimacombe, Interim CEO and Chair of the Elections Sub-Committee announced the 2023 Election results for positions of:

Director Representing Practice: Dr. Mitch Colp

Director-At-Large: Dr. Claire Sira

6.2 Membership

The President noted that the membership report is included in the 2022-2023 Annual Report available on the CPA website.

6.2.1 Recognition of deceased members since June 2022

The President called for a moment of silence in recognition of those members who had passed away in the last year:

Ms. Dorothy Plummer - CPA Honorary Life Member

Dr. Augustus Jeffers Toby - CPA Member

Dr. Charles Russell Evans - CPA Member

Ms. Wanda Mertes - CPA Member

Mr. Ian Gonzales - CPA Student Affiliate

6.3 Other Committees

The President informed members that a summary of committee work can be found in the 2022-2023 Annual Report. They then took a minute to acknowledge the Board of

Directors and Partner representatives.

Board of Directors:

President: Dr. Kerri Ritchie  
President-Elect: Dr. Eleanor Gittens  
Past-President: Dr. Ada Sinacore  
Honorary-President: Dr. James MacDougall  
Practice Director: Dr. Shelley Goodwin  
Science Director: Dr. Nicolas Roulin  
Education Director: Dr. Eleanor Gittens  
Director-at-Large: Dr. Elizabeth Church  
Director-at-Large: Dr. Anita Gupta  
Director-at-Large: Dr. Janine Hubbard  
Student Section Representative: Ms. Alejandra Botia  
Chair of Council of Sections: Dr. Amir Sepehry

Partner Organizations:

Representative from the Canadian Council of Departments of Psychology (CCDP):  
Dr. Sandra Byers  
Representative from the Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs (CCPPP):  
Dr. Sara Hagstrom  
Representative from Council of Professional Associations of Psychologists (CPAP):  
Dr. Jo Ann Unger  
Representative from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS): Dr. Myra Fernandes

The President then thanked the Chairs of the Committees and Task Forces for 2022-2023:

Board Committees:

Governance: Dr. Kerri Ritchie  
Administration, Finance & Audit: Dr. Kerri Ritchie  
Fellows and Awards: Dr. Ada Sinacore  
Education and Training: Dr. Kerri Ritchie  
Scientific Affairs: Dr. Nicolas Roulin  
Professional Affairs: Dr. Shelley Goodwin  
International Relations: Dr. Jennifer Vietch  
Past-Presidents: Dr. Ada Sinacore  
Council of Sections: Dr. Amir Sepehry  
Human Rights and Social Justice in Psychology: Dr. Kerri Ritchie & Dr. Ada Sinacore  
Knowledge Sharing Group/Standing Committee on Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples: Dr. Allison Reeves  
Ethics: Dr. Janel Gauthier  
Accreditation Panel: Dr. Douglas Cane

Management Committees:

Convention: Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker  
Membership: Ms. Leanna Verrucci

Working Groups:

Telepsychology: Dr. Elizabeth Church & Dr. Laurie Ford

Decriminalization: Dr. Andrew Kim

6.4 Journals

The President thanked the current editors:

*Canadian Psychology*: Dr. Don Saklofske

*Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science*: Dr. Annie Roy-Charland

*Canadian Journal of Experimental Psychology*: Dr. Debra Titone

6.5 Sections

The President thanked the 2022-2023 Section Chairs. A full list of the Section Chairs and the Section annual highlights can be found in the CPA Annual Report available online.

**7.0 Annual Meetings**

The President reported that the next Annual General Meetings will be held:

- June 2024 in Ottawa, ON

**8.0 Other Business**

8.1 Certificates of Appreciation

The President presented certificates to outgoing members:

- Dr. Ada Sinacore, Board of Directors 2020– 2023 and President 2021-2022
- Ms Alejandra Botia, Board of Directors 2020-2023
- Dr. Elizabeth Church, Board of Directors 2020-2023
- Dr. Shelley Goodwin, Board of Directors 2020-2023
- Dr. Nicolas Roulin, Board of Directors 2022-2023

The outgoing CPA President, Dr. Kerri Ritchie, introduced the incoming President and passed the gavel onto the new President, Dr. Eleanor Gittens

Dr. Gittens expressed appreciation to Dr. Ritchie for their work during their term as President of CPA.

Dr. Gittens said a few words and then requested a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**9.0 Adjournment**

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Hogan/Sandford) that the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association be adjourned.