



CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 22nd, 2024 – Toronto, ON

The eighty-fifth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association was held in Ottawa, Ontario at The Westin Ottawa Hotel, on Saturday, June 22nd, 2024, at 1:00 pm. Dr. Eleanor Gittens, 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** (Sepehry/Chavoshi) that the Agenda be adopted.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Veitch/Sandford) that the Minutes of the 84th Annual General Meeting held in Toronto, Ontario on June 24th, 2023, be adopted.

4.0 Report of the President

4.1 Overview of Activities 2023-2024

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 guiding principle, 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.

Our annual membership and affiliate numbers once again exceed 7,000, and for this year's Annual Conference we have brought together more than 1,600 delegates! If you haven't already had a chance to review our 2023-2024 Annual Report, please take a moment to do so.

When I became president, I shared my belief that we must strive for inclusivity and equity in our education, science, and practice. I highlighted the importance of supporting initiatives that promote human rights and social justice in psychology especially as it relates to the issues of need, supply, and demand; training of and funding for our next generation of psychology graduates; and increased funding for and the use of psychological research in decision making.

With those goals in hand, there has been a concerted effort to make progress on achieving Goal 5 of the strategic plan which speaks to promoting and modelling equity, diversity and inclusion in all that we do. To this end, several Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives were undertaken including:

- convening one working group focused on developing a bursary program for equity-deserving students
- convening a second working group focused on developing an EDIB framework for the CPA.
- Issuing a Request For Proposals and initiating discussions about the development of an online course on the impacts of Anti-Black racism on the mental health of Black people in Canada
- At the Board level, the Board of Directors and Partner Representatives participated in several EDIB-focused training sessions. These looked at the history of racism in Canada, human rights violations, LGBTQS2+ in the workplace and considerations for leadership, and the psychology of extremism
- From a policy perspective, the Board passed a position statement on the 'Promotion of gender diversity and expression and prevention of gender-related hate and harm' and a policy statement on 'Gender Identity in Children and Youth'

In my capacity as President, I also had the opportunity to:

- guest co-edit an issue of Psynopsis on People, Culture, and Psychology;
- co-present before the Special Joint Committee on Medical Assistance in Dying and issued a report calling on the federal government to delay the implementation of the portion of the legislation for the application of MAiD where mental disorder is the sole underlying medical condition (MD-SUMC); and
- become involved in a research project led by the Canadian Institute for Public Safety Research and Treatment intended to better understand the CPA's and its members needs related to supporting and offering services for public safety personnel.

We also undertook significant governance work, which included but was not limited to the restructuring the CPA's Committees, updating the Committee Terms of Reference, and updating the CPA's Operating Regulations.

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. Lisa Votta-Bleeker's leadership as CEO. With close to one year under your belt, you really have hit the ground running. I also want to recognize each individual current staff member (in alphabetical order): Anthony Aubrey; Julie Auger; Cara Bernard; Kimberley Black; Phil Bolger; Eric Bollman; Zaineb Bouhlal; Glenn Brimacombe; Sherene Chen-See Pottruff; Bev Glube; Heba Khalil; Kathy Lachapelle-Petrin; Stewart Madon; Kathryn McLaren; Christine McPherson; David Mercer; Vijaya Ramesh; Lauren Thompson; Leanna Verrucci, and the various external consultants with which the CPA works

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** (Hagstrom/Hutchings) that the report of the President be received.

5.0 Reports of the Chief Executive Officer

5.1 Overview of Activities 2023-2024

As we reflect on another year of activity for the Canadian Psychological Association – the national association for the science, practice, and education of psychology – psychology’s importance and application continues to be critical. It is woven into the fabric of who we are as a people and a country, how we respond to issues impacting society, how we use psychological science to contribute to policy and evidence-based decision-making, and how we respond to those in need in the places where we live, learn, work, and play.

As your professional association, the CPA aims to empower and support the profession and discipline of psychology; the members and students who are our present and future practitioners, researchers, and/or educators; and our society which can benefit from our knowledge in multiple domains and subject matter areas.

We do this through some of the following activities: advocacy with government, decision-makers, and funders; accrediting the residency and doctoral programs that train future psychologists; promoting and upholding a code of ethical conduct for psychology; providing continuing education and professional development; organizing conventions and other events; creating opportunities for networking and knowledge sharing; publications and resources; public awareness; member engagement; research funding and promotion; liaising and maintaining relationships with external psychological organizations; upholding standards of professional practice; and addressing and promoting psychologists’ unique value and scope of practice, just to name a few...

The past year was a year of transition for the CPA. Under new Executive and Board leadership, 2023-2024 was marked by some of the following changes and initiatives: an operational review and staff restructuring within the CPA’s Head Office; a governance review that included updates to the CPA’s operating regulations and restructuring of the CPA’s committees; outreach to and liaisons with current and new external organizations; and ongoing activity in the service of our strategic plan. It was a year in which the CPA had to explore what it meant to be forward-thinking, agile, and equipped to turn periods of challenge into successes. Thanks to the leadership, passion, and dedication of our staff, board, committees, and working groups, we delivered on a very ambitious plan of activity for the association, all while meeting our financial benchmarks. An overview of this activity, summarized according to each of our six strategic goals, is presented in the Annual Report. Below we highlight some of our initiatives:

- Our annual membership and affiliate numbers once again exceeded 7,000.
- Released five new fact sheets, published five guest-edited issues of *Psynopsis*, and continued to publish high quality and impactful research in our three peer-reviewed journals.
- Continued to advocate for more funding for psychological and mental health research, while also continuing to promote the ways in which investing in psychological science benefits the people of Canada and contributes to evidence-based decision-making.
- Maintained a strong voice to the federal government in advocating for mental health parity with physical health.

- Sustained engagement with the government on a range of national policy issues (e.g., research funding, Medical Assistance in Dying, federally funded health programs, pan-Canadian licensure, recruitment and retention of psychologists in the public sector). In support of these and other activities we invited members to provide their input to 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 224.
- United more than 1,900 delegates at the CPA's 2023 Annual National Convention which was held in conjunction with the 5th North American Correctional and Criminal Justice Psychology Conference (N5).
- In support of students, we:
 - awarded 25 research grants (one of which was co-sponsored by the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science – CSBBCS, and three by BMS Canada with the Canadian Professional Associations of Psychology – CPAP),
 - awarded two leadership grants (sponsored by BMS Canada with CPAP),
 - held our fourth annual Virtual Career Fair (with the CSBBCS), and
 - dispensed four psychology student-focused conference support awards.
- Progressed on several Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging initiatives including convening one working group focussed on developing a bursary program for equity-deserving students and another focussed on developing an EDI framework for the CPA.
- Continued the awarding of bursaries as part of the CPA's Indigenous Psychology Student Award program.

In all our activity, serving our membership is our priority and we continued to explore and find ways to promote, support, and offer value to our members, affiliates, and associates. We thank the over 7,000 individuals who choose to join the CPA on an annual basis. We are committed to fostering an association that inspires collaboration, empowers individuals, is a leader for change, and cultivates inclusion in the most comprehensive way possible. As you read through the annual report, we hope you will continue to recognize the value of your membership in the CPA and that it will inspire you to become more involved with the association – whether by running for the board, joining a committee or working group, or becoming involved in one or more of our Sections.

**Note: For full details on 2023-2024 activities, please see the 2023-2024 CPA Annual Report.*

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Parker/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, 2023

The Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Bolger presented and received questions on the 2023 audited financial statements as examined by KPMG.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Poulin/Byers) that the 2023 Audited Financial Statements be received.

5.2.2 Appointment of Auditors

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Poulin/Beetham) that KPMG be appointed auditors of the Canadian Psychological Association for 2024.

6.0 Governance

6.1 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 two Directors-at-Large was sent to the membership in late April. They noted that multiple nominations were received for the positions and an election was held.

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

6.2 Elections

The vote closed on June 22nd at 1:00 pm EST. Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker CEO and Chair of the Elections Sub-Committee announced the 2024 Election results for positions of:

2 Director-at-Large: Dr. Stephen Smith & Dr. Kimberly Watson

6.3 Recognition of deceased members since June 2023

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

Dr. Endle Tulving – Honorary Life Fellow
Dr. Kenneth Breitman – Retired Member
Dr. Dr. Ralph Serin - CPA Member
Ms. Alison Lee - CPA Member
Mr. Susan Johnson Douglas - CPA Member

7.0 Volunteer Recognition

7.1 Sections

The President thanked the 2023-2024 Section Chairs. A full list of the Section Chairs and the Section annual highlights can be found in the CPA Annual Report available online.

6.4 Journals

The President thanked the current editors:
Canadian Psychology: Dr. Don Saklofske
Canadian Journal of Behavioural Science: Dr. Annie Roy-Charland

7.3 Committees & Working Groups

The President informed members that a summary of committee work can be found in the 2023-2024 Annual Report and thanked the Chairs of the Committees and Working Groups for 2023-2024:

Board Committees:

Finance, Administration & Audit: Dr. Eleanor Gittens

Governance: Dr. Eleanor Gittens

- Nominations Sub Committee: Dr. Kerri Ritchie
- Elections Sub-Committee Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker

Fellows and Awards: Dr. Colin MacLeod

Ethics: Dr. Janel Gauthier

Accreditation Panel: Dr. Douglas Cane

Past-Presidents: Dr. Kerri Ritchie

Management Committees:

Scientific Affairs: Dr. Adam Sandford

Professional Affairs: Dr. Mitch Colp

Education and Training: Dr. Meghan Norris

International Relations: Dr. Jennifer Veitch

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

Council of Sections: Dr. Amir Sepehry

Membership: Ms. Leanna Verrucci

Convention: Ms. Julie Auger

Working Groups:

Equity-Deserving Bursary for Students: Dr. Edna Aryee (co-Chair) & Dr. James MacDougall (co-Chair)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Framework for the CPA: Dr. Myesha Syeda (co-Chair) & Dr. Trevor Holt (co-Chair)

Evidence-Based Practice of Psychology Treatments: Dr. Houyan Luo (co-Chair) & Dr. Amir Sepehry (co-Chair)

7.4 Board of Directors & Partner Representatives

The President took a minute to acknowledge the Board of Directors and Partner Representatives for 2023-2024.

Board of Directors:

President: Dr. Eleanor Gittens

President-Elect: Dr. Anita Gupta

Past-President: Dr. Kerri Ritchie

Honorary-President: The Honourable Jean Augustine

Director Representing Practice: Dr. Mitch Colp
Science Director: Dr. Adam Sandford
Education Director: Dr. Meghan Norris
Director-at-Large: Dr. Anita Gupta
Director-at-Large: Dr. Janine Hubbard
Director-at-Large: Dr. Claire Sira
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

7.4.1 Recognition of Years of Service to the CPA Board

The President presented certificates to outgoing members:

- Dr. Kerri Ritchie, Board of Directors 2020–2024 and President 2023-2024
- Dr. Janine Hubbard, Board of Directors 2021-2024
- Dr. Myra Fernandes, Partner Representative - CSBBCS 2022-2023

8.0 Annual Meetings

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

- June 2025 in St John's, Newfoundland

9.0 Adjournment

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

Dr. Gupta expressed appreciation to Dr. Eleanor for their work during their term as President of CPA.

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

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Hubbard/Sepehry) that the 2024 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association be adjourned.