



CANADIAN
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION

SOCIÉTÉ
CANADIENNE
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

June 13th, 2025 – St. John's, NL

The eighty-sixth Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association was held in St. John's, Newfoundland at the St John's Convention Centre, on Friday, June 13th, 2025, at 8:00 am. Dr. Anita Gupta, 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** (Dozois/Hutchings) that the Agenda be adopted.

3.0 Approval of Minutes

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Mikail/Ford) that the Minutes of the 85th Annual General Meeting held in Ottawa, Ontario on June 22nd, 2024, be adopted.

4.0 Report of the President

4.1 Overview of Activities 2024-2025

It has been a privilege to serve as the President of CPA for the 2024-2025 term. I am excited to be here at our annual convention after a full year capped off by a wonderful first day of our convention, and two days of thoughtful work with our dedicated Board of Directors and Partner Representatives at our June Board Meeting. Throughout this year and after a day filled with connecting with and learning with and from so many of you at this beautiful convention, it has only become more clear to me that Canadian Psychology is strong, rich, varied, and deep, and has great relevance to the needs of those in this country as well as the greater global community of which we are a part.

This year CPA was tasked with developing a new Strategic Plan to guide the activities of our association over the next 5 years. For the first time as part of the development of a Strategic Plan, we sought input from our greater CPA community. Our engaged community did not let us down. Input was thoughtful, important, and timely and the Strategic Plan and the work of the CPA in the coming years will be stronger because of it. We see evidence of engagement, with integrity, excellence, and generosity in so many ways within our greater CPA community.

If you've had the chance to read our Annual Report, you will appreciate how many initiatives and activities were undertaken over the course of the last year. It would be impossible in the time allotted to mention all of them. Please allow me to speak about a few today.

Fitting with a presidential focus this year on health equity and population health. I am grateful to our committed and thoughtful Board of Directors for approving the creation of, and to our Partner Members for generously taking part in discussions and consideration of two working groups that fit with this theme. First, a working group to develop a position paper on loneliness, social isolation and connection in Canada. And, second, a working group to develop a position paper and policy statement on the need for accessible, affordable, reliable and safe access to internet and appropriate digital health services. As a board, this year we engaged in thoughtful learning together in terms of health inequity and identified new training opportunities such as the Black Health Primer.

It was an honour to have Dr. Gord Flett accept the Board's invited to be our Honorary President this year. His impactful plenary talk yesterday was a powerful call to action. May we move ahead in striving to contribute to inclusive societies in which everyone matters, and everyone feels they matter.

As timing would have it, in the fall of 2024, fitting with the theme of health equity, The Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages invited me, as President of the CPA, to appear before them as part its study of minority-language health services, with a particular focus on the theme of telemedicine and new technologies. I accepted and attended along with the CPA's Dr. Stewart Madon. I was greatly moved by and appreciated the thoughtful questions and requests for actionable recommendations from the Senators in addressing the health system barriers and challenges faced by official minority language speaking individuals across this country. It was clear that the role of psychologists and the need for access to psychologists was valued. We were also able to show solidarity in the spirit of collaboration in this session with another CPA, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association in advocating for the diverse health needs of those living across this vast country who may face barriers to access and care.

I accepted an invitation as President of CPA to attend the 3rd International Summit on Psychology and Global Health: A Shared Vision for Global Psychology. It was wonderful to learn and contribute alongside 60 leaders and emerging leaders in psychology from over 30 countries on issues in which psychology plays a critical role in shaping sustainable, ethical, and inclusive solutions across diverse contexts. Together, we created the next road map for the Global Psychology Alliance's work which includes focus on mental health, climate change, technology, and marginalized and vulnerable communities. In my interaction with our global colleagues, appreciation for CPA's contributions and collaborations was clear.

This year was also the first year for regular meetings between the CEOs and Presidents of CPA, APA, and ASPPB, providing a forum for thoughtful and meaningful discussions at a North American leadership level.

I very much enjoyed the opportunity to write a message from the President's Desk in each of the three issues of Psynopsis with topics being: Women in Leadership, Education and Training, and First Responders and Other Public Safety Personnel – Psychological Impacts of Service. Reading the articles from each of these thoughtful and insightful issues that were carefully guest edited made me further appreciate and feel excited about the tremendous work being done by those in psychology in Canada, and the relevance and impact of the field and discipline of psychology in general.

Of course, central to everything that the CPA does is the incredible staff. If you have read the CPA's Annual Report, then no doubt, you can appreciate how productive this team has been in so many ways on so many initiatives throughout the entire year. In terms of convention, in addition to all of the preparation that is done beforehand, after having the privilege of an insider's view on all the staff does

and is doing right now to ensure a smooth and enriching convention for all, I am in awe. I know our members would join me in extending our sincere gratitude to each and every one of our Head Office staff. Thank you to Dr. Votta-Bleeker for her leadership at the CPA and for her passion for psychology as a field and discipline.

As Dr. Votta-Bleeker and I communicated in our message in the Annual Report this year, thank you to everyone who is a part of our CPA community for your continued engagement, contributions and support. We do not take it for granted. We are stronger because of it and we will continue to serve, learn and adapt together. As you think about the CPA's activities during this last year and as we step into a new year together, with a phenomenal new President and a board that will be fortunate to have three newly elected directors from amongst a tremendous group of nominated individuals, we hope that each one of you appreciates that "you" are part of the greater "we" that makes everything the CPA does possible.

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

5.0 Reports of the Chief Executive Officer

5.1 Overview of Activities 2024-2025

Engaged – this is a word that stands out in our minds about our CPA community, particularly this year. The CPA, as a member-based organization, derives strength from engagement. Our community is made up of individuals from every stage of professional development, from students to those who have been part of the profession and discipline for many years. We have participation from across the many fields of psychology. There are so many ways in which individuals contribute such as serving on the Board, participating in sections, working on the Accreditation Panel, taking editorial positions, joining committees, or sitting on working groups. Everyone is giving of their time and expertise to bolster the CPA's endeavors amidst a host of professional, educational, family and other life responsibilities. And our community is not complete without our incredibly talented and dedicated head office staff who are central to everything the CPA does. We are stronger together.

We see evidence of engagement, with integrity, excellence, and generosity, in so many ways within our CPA community. Our Board, representing our membership, engages in considered, informed discussion and decision making with respect to the policies and direction of the Association. The contributions of our sections are inspiring, including workshops, webinars, and convention programming. When a call for articles for *Psynopsis* goes out, no matter the topic, we can always have confidence that we will receive many high-quality submissions. Our convention's scientific program is rich and varied and represents some of the best of psychology in Canada. Educators within the CPA's accredited programs adapt to meet new accreditation standards with integrity and creativity. When there is a need to populate a working group, to advocate directly to government or to speak to the public from a psychological perspective on important topics, we know that that we can always find those with expertise and generosity of spirit within our greater CPA community.

Given this level of engagement, it is no surprise that that when we sought feedback in the development of our newest strategic plan for 2025-2030, our CPA community stepped up. Feedback was thoughtful and important. Our next strategic plan, and the work of the CPA in the coming years, will be stronger because of it.

We are proud to present the CPA's 2024-2025 Annual Report. This gives us a chance to reflect on the many successes of the past year as Canada's largest national association for psychology. We have organized the report by highlighting the following areas as guided by our strategic plan:

- Support, promotion, and advocacy for psychological science
- Advocacy for access, resources, and funding for psychological services
- Support for growth and enhancing the impact of the discipline and profession
- Education, training, and career development needs of students, educators, scientists and/or practitioners
- Promotion and modelling of equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility
- Accountability to Indigenous People through the recommendations of the CPA's response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada's report

It also includes:

- An overview of the many coalitions, collaboratives, alliances, and external groups with which we are involved
- Key highlights of the 2024 audit report
- This year's remarkable award winners
- An overview of activity undertaken by our sections
- A listing of our numerous committees and working groups

With reference to our current strategic plan (2020-2025), our vision has been a society where the understanding of diverse human needs, behaviours, and aspirations drives legislation, policies, and programs for individuals, organizations, and communities. Our mission has been to advance research, knowledge, and the application of psychology in the service of society through advocacy, support, and collaboration. Over the last year, psychological science, education, and practice has faced many challenges – many ongoing, and some emerging.

In the face of those challenges, the CPA has served, responded, and advocated, and we will continue to do so. One could argue that the importance of science, and psychological science in particular, has never been more important than in recent times. The value of science itself is often questioned, misinformation can be valued over facts and data, and wide-reaching decisions can be made that ignore evidence-based knowledge. The needs of Canadians and the global community are vast. These necessities include mental health, safety, dignity, respect, and inclusive communities in which everyone matters and the social determinants of health are recognized. Access to psychological care, and support of psychological research and education, must also be areas of constant focus. Guided by our Code of Ethics and the principles of evidence-based decision-making, the discipline and profession of psychology has a critical role to play in addressing these needs. Psychology knows a thing or two about collaboration, information-gathering, and speaking truth even when (especially when) it may be difficult.

The CPA's next strategic plan will envision a society that values and applies psychological science for the benefit of persons, communities, organizations, and peoples. It will serve the public and its membership by advancing psychological science, practice, and education through research, advocacy, and collaboration. It will be a voice, supporter, advocate, and promoter of psychology as a profession and discipline in which all are welcomed, included, and represented, and that continues to be accountable to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

As we work to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow, giving a voice to psychology and its role in a prosperous and healthy Canada, representing and meeting the needs of our membership remains central to all our activities. We thank the more than 7,000 individuals who choose to join the CPA on an annual basis. As you read through the Annual Report, we hope you will continue to recognize the value of your membership in the CPA.

As always, over this past year, the CPA's staff showed commitment, dedication and, as we hope is abundantly evident in our Annual Report, great productivity. The staff came together to move the CPA's corporate head office to a smaller location that is more cost-effective in a hybrid work environment. They worked closely with Board Directors on committees either as co-chairs or as staff support, engaged the membership, promoted members' work, highlighted the value of psychology through public discourse, and strived to provide high-value products and services. Through their work, the CPA was very active in advocating for and representing the views of psychology across a wide range of issues. Please join us in thanking the talented CPA head office staff for all their work on your behalf this year.

Thank you to everyone who is a part of our CPA community for your continued support and engagement. We do not take it for granted. We are stronger because of it and we will continue to learn, adapt, and improve together. As you read through our Annual Report, we hope that each one of you appreciates that "you" are part of the greater "we" that has made all this possible.

**Note: For full details on 2024-2025 activities, please see the 2024-2025 CPA Annual Report.*

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Piotrowski/Sawyer) 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, 2024

The Director of Finance, Ms. Nancy Allen presented and received questions on the 2024 audited financial statements as examined by KPMG.

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Ofosu/Hogan) that the 2024 Audited Financial Statements be received.

5.2.2 Appointment of Auditors

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Baillie/Goodwin) that KPMG be appointed auditors of the Canadian Psychological Association for 2025.

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 Director Representing Practice and 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** (Sawyer/Hutchings) that the report from the Chair of the Nominating Sub-Committee be received.

6.2 Elections

The vote closed on June 14th at 8:00 am NDT. Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker CEO and Chair of the Elections Sub-Committee announced the 2025 Election results for positions of:

Director Representing Practice: Dr. Janine Hubbard
2 Directors-at-Large: Dr. Saeid Chavoshi & Dr. Mélaïne Joanisse

6.3 Recognition of deceased members since June 2024

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

Dr. Ronald Sheese – CPA Member
Dr. Robin McGee – CPA Retired Member
Dr. Shukri Amin - CPA Member
Mr. Clement Loubert - CPA Honorary Life Fellow
Dr. Claire Crooks - CPA Member
Dr. Roy F. Musten – CPA Member

7.0 Volunteer Recognition

7.1 Sections

The President thanked the 2024-2025 Section Chairs. A full list of the Section Chairs and the Section annual highlights can be found in the CPA Annual Report available online.

7.2 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

7.3 Committees & Working Groups

The President informed members that a summary of committee work can be found in the 2024-2025 Annual Report and thanked the Chairs of the Committees and Working Groups for 2024-2025:

Board Committees:

Finance, Administration & Audit: Dr. Anita Gupta

Governance: Dr. Eleanor Gittens

- Nominations Sub Committee: Dr. Eleanor Gittens
- Elections Sub-Committee Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker

Fellows and Awards: Dr. Colin MacLeod

Ethics: Dr. Donald Stewart & Dr. Claire Sira

Accreditation Panel: Dr. Lori Ford

Management Committees:

Scientific Affairs: Dr. Lauren Thompson & Dr. Adam Sandford

Professional Affairs: Dr. Stewart Madon

Education and Training: Dr. Devin Fowlie & Dr. Meghan Norris

International Relations: Dr. Jennifer Veitch

- Canadian National Panel - IUPSyS - Dr. Saba Safdar

Human Rights and Social Justice in Psychology: Dr. Steven Smith & Ms. Zuraida Dada

Knowledge Sharing Group/Standing Committee on Reconciliation with Indigenous

Peoples: Dr. Jennifer Chalmers

Council of Sections: Dr. Amir Sepehry

Membership: Ms. Leanna Verrucci

Convention: Ms. Julie Auger

Past-Presidents: Dr. Eleanor Gittens

Working Groups:

Artificial Intelligence: Dr. Adam Sandford (Co-Chair)

Equitable Access to Internet and Digital Health Services: Dr. Anita Gupta (Chair)

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

Loneliness in Canada: Dr. Anita Gupta (Chair)

Pre-employment Clinical Assessment of Police Candidates Principles and Guidelines for Canadian Psychologists: currently being populated

Professional Practice Guidelines for School Psychologists in Canada: Dr. Kerry Spice (Chair)

Recruitment and Retention of Psychologists in the Public Sector

- Hospitals and Health Centres Subgroup: Sean Kidd (Co-Chair) and Lesley Graff (Co-Chair)
- Schools and Education Settings Subgroup: currently being populated
- Correctional Settings Subgroup: currently being populated

7.4 Board of Directors & Partner Representatives

The President took a minute to acknowledge the Board of Directors and Partner

Representatives for 2024-2025.

Board of Directors:

President: Dr. Anita Gupta
President-Elect: Dr. Steven Smith
Past-President: Dr. Eleanor Gittens
Honorary-President: Dr. Gordon Flett
Practice Director: Dr. Janine Hubbard
Science Director: Dr. Adam Sandford
Education Director: Dr. Meghan Norris
Director-at-Large: Dr. Claire Sira
Director-at-Large: Dr. Steven Smith
Director-at-Large: Vacant
Student Representative: Ms. Anissa Nasser
Director Representing 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 the Council of Professional Associations of Psychologists (CPAP):
Dr. Jo Ann Unger
Representative from the Canadian Society for Brain, Behaviour and Cognitive Science (CSBBCS): Dr. Natalie Phillips

7.4.1 Recognition of Years of Service to the CPA Board

The President presented certificates to outgoing Board Directors and Partner Representatives:

- Dr. Eleanor Gittens, Board of Directors 2022–2025 and President 2023-2024
- Dr. Janine Hubbard, Board of Directors 2022-2024
- Dr. Sara Hagstrom, Partner Representative - CCPPP 2021-2025

8.0 Annual General Meeting

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

- June 2026 in Montreal, Quebec

9.0 Adjournment

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

Dr. Smith expressed appreciation to Dr. Gupta for their work during their term as President of the Canadian Psychological Association.

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

It was **MOVED and CARRIED** (Mikail/Sepehry) that the 2025 Annual General Meeting of the Canadian Psychological Association be adjourned.

DRAFT