



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Members of the CPA's Criminal Justice Task Force receive John C. Service Member of the Year Award

Ottawa (July 19, 2018) – The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is pleased to announce that the members of its Criminal Justice Task Force have won this year's John C. Service Member of the Year Award. This award is presented to CPA members or Fellows who have given exceptional service or made distinguished contributions to the association in the previous year.

The members of the task force include: Drs. Joanna Hessen Kayfitz (IWK Health Centre, Halifax, NS), Barry Cooper (private practice, Kelowna, BC), Laura Guy (Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC), Andrew Haag (Alberta Hospital Edmonton, Edmonton, AB), David Hill (University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB), David Kolton (Forensic Psychological Services, Winnipeg, MB), Milan Pomichalek (North Bay Regional Health Centre, North Bay, ON), Ronald Roesch (Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC), and Margo C. Watt (Saint Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, NS).

Together, these outstanding members authored a position paper for the CPA entitled: "Fitness to Stand Trial and Criminal Responsibility Assessments in Canada: Improving Access to Qualified Mental Health Professionals." This paper, published in 2017, is the cornerstone of the CPA's advocacy initiative to have psychologists explicitly recognized under the *Criminal Code of Canada* to conduct these assessments. Dr. Hessen Kayfitz, who chaired the task force, and her colleagues exemplify how members can effectively and expeditiously mobilize their expertise to advance the profession and meet a public need.

The members of the task force received their awards at the CPA's awards ceremony during the 29th International Congress of Applied Psychology in Montreal, QC last month.

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About the Canadian Psychological Association

The Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) is the national association for the science, practice, and education of psychology in Canada. With nearly 7,000 members and affiliates, the CPA is Canada's largest association for psychology. To learn more about the association, visit: <https://cpa.ca/>

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