



CCPA Ambassador Program



Member: John Driscoll

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A little word about me and what I do:

My working life has included, the proverbial management training year after earning a Bachelor's degree followed by ten years in church ministry, twenty-six years as a counsellor for the Nova Scotia Community College, and now, in the beginnings of a private practice and part-time teaching. My education and training has included a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Education in School

Psychology.

Volunteerism and my service to the community have been focused on coaching our children at various sports, being involved in the Scouting movement, and coaching and organizing Special Olympics for the Dartmouth Region. Special Olympics coaching in basketball and curling are still a focal point in my life. As for volunteering in other organizations, I had been, for many years, actively involved with the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and was a member of the Provincial Executive for a two year term. As well, I served as the first Chair of the Nova Scotia College of Counselling Therapists, 2011-2013, the regulatory body for our profession in Nova Scotia.

My wife and I have three adult children and we make our home in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

What does CCPA mean to me?

In May 2015 many of us gathered in Niagara Falls for our professional organization's annual conference. We highlighted the 50th Anniversary of CCPA by honouring the memory of the great contributions so many of our members have made over the last 50 years. We have a lot of which to be proud and thankful. The responsibilities which we have undertaken, as the leading national voice for counselling and psychotherapy in Canada, a voice of over 5000 members, continues to be vital in the service to all Canadians who seek treatment and support for their health and mental wellness.



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Just before our conference, I had the pleasure of attending our CCPA's Board meeting. As President-Elect, meeting our 13 National Directors, the executive, including our outgoing President, Blythe Shepard, and our new President, Natasha Caverley, was an experience of finding oneself at home. During the meetings, my immersion into our many services and initiatives left me with a profound admiration for what our Association is about and what it accomplishes for our members.

In addition to the Board, under the leadership of our President, the staff at our national office works hard every day with, Chief Executive Officer Barbara MacCallum, to ensure that the decisions of the Board are carried out to serve all our members and the Association. Seeing all staff in action at our Annual Conference was a reminder to me that we are well served by enthusiastic and qualified professional staff. The experience caused me to reflect about the stated vision and mission of the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association, quoted below.

Vision and Mission Statement

The Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association (CCPA) is a national and bilingual organization dedicated to the enhancement of the counselling/psychotherapy profession in Canada.

In fulfilling its mandate, the Association promotes research, education, policies, and appropriate standards of practice for the provision of accessible, competent and accountable counselling services throughout the human lifespan in a manner sensitive to and inclusive of the pluralistic nature of society.

The Association endorses therapeutic approaches across the continuum of care that have sound theoretical underpinnings consistent with current established knowledge in the field, that withstand scholarly review and demonstrate efficacy, safety, and benefit to the client.

The Association strives to understand the needs of the diverse community of counsellors and psychotherapists and their clients in Canada and is committed to providing a strong voice for the promotion and advancement of counselling and psychotherapy.

- <http://www.ccpa-accp.ca/constitution-bylaws/>

What a powerful statement about who we are as professionals, united in a common bond and common purpose, stretching across the country.

My previous involvement with CCPA:

I come to the board as a member of CCPA since 2002. In addition to attending annual conferences, I attended the 2011 Inter-Provincial Mobility Initiative National Symposium. For the past four years, I have participated in a CCPA initiative on provincial regulation in our profession, where colleagues from regulatory Colleges and Colleges-to-be from across the country have had discussions focused on understanding potential pathways for mutual provincial recognition. In 2014, I joined a committee, under the leadership of Dr. Beth Robinson and Dr. Blythe Shepard,



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whose goal is to develop Supervision Competencies for Supervisors of counsellors and psychotherapists.