

Province: British Columbia & Yukon Director

Name: Ricardo Pickering

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Abstract

This report relates to the third half year of my tenure as CCPA BC/Yukon Regional Director. It includes activities related to my work with the CCPA Board of Directors, BC CCPA Caucus Team, BC Chapter liaison, advocacy, and the BC Regional Workshop series.

Résumé

Ce compte-rendu est relié à la troisième partie mon l'année en tant que directeur de la région CB/Yukon de l'ACCP. Mon mandat a inclus des activités reliées à mon travail avec le comité de la direction de l'ACCP, l'équipe du comité électoral de la section CB avec l'ACCP, la liaison du chapitre de l'ACCP, la promotion, ainsi que la série d'ateliers de la section de la CB.

Background Principles

Our regulatory policies and recommendations need to advocate for local, regional and national excellence in the provision of mental health services for all citizens. Accordingly, I have directly considered the feedback from my colleagues, and indirectly the needs of clients when voting on CCPA policies. I strove for balance for all field practitioners, not only from urban centers but including rural, remote and northern locations. Whenever possible, I made efforts lending a voice to the most vulnerable sectors of the Canadian population.

Advocacy

Key industry private sectors, insurance and health care providers, education and public sector services need to become increasingly aware of the advantages brought about by certified CCPA members. During this reporting period, many efforts were applied to promote the C.C.C designation as being highly sought, valued and recognized across Canada. These actions included increasing the awareness of potential employers, insurers, government bodies and academic institutions of CCPA's certification designation and its corresponding requirements. Unity of purpose, solidarity and ethical behaviour of those in the counselling and psychotherapy profession was actively promoted and supported via the Federation of Association for Counselling Therapists in BC (FACT-BC), and toward the creation of a regulatory college in BC.

Connections and Communications

I actively engaged in the following activities pertaining to CCPA connections and communications:

- 1) **National knowledge sharing and governance.** I participated in monthly CCPA Board of Directors meetings and circulated Director Reports to the BC and YK CCPA membership.

- 2) **Board Liaison to the BC Chapter.** I participated in several CCPA BC Chapter Board meetings via teleconference call. The BC Chapter Board has been actively discussing the latest updates on the counsellor regulation process in BC as information becomes available from FACT-BC.
- 3) **Employment opportunities, Advocacy and Outreach.** Karina Albert (CCPA Member Services Coordinator) continued posting BC and Yukon mental health-related job postings on the CCPA Members' Only site. I worked with Barbara MacCallum (CCPA Chief Executive Officer), and Natasha Caverley (CCPA President) contacting various employers in BC advocating for the addition of the Certified Canadian Counsellor (C.C.C.) designation to their hiring requirements for posted mental health-related positions. Natasha Caverley, Siri Brown and Barbara McCallum joined me in circulating a "Call to Action" to BC CCPA members about counsellor regulation in BC, encouraging CCPA members to email and/or meet with their local MLAs to advocate for the creation of a regulatory college in BC.
- 4) **Volunteer Opportunities.** I have been working with Barbara MacCallum, Natasha Caverley, and Siri Brown (BC Chapter President) to promote volunteer opportunities for our BC members with the provincial Disaster Psychosocial Program. A message calling for volunteers was disseminated through the BC Chapters newsletter.
- 5) **CCPA Student Representatives.** Since May 2016, we appointed nine new CCPA BC Student Representatives at prominent BC post-secondary institutions, either to replace those leaving or to expand our CCPA representation. We often discussed various topics including advocacy, student awards, research conferences, practicum insurance, and the incentive program.
- 6) **Members Communications.** I continued to respond to numerous email inquiries from BC and Yukon CCPA members with support from the CCPA National Office staff. Member queries ranged from the C.C.C. designation process, counsellor regulation, insurance and ethical issues, assistance with CECs to making connections with the CCPA National Office with member-specific queries.

Contributions and Celebrations

- a) A successful pilot implementation of the **BC Regional Workshop series** took place in fall 2016. Five regional workshops were well attended by CCPA members and other interested parties in Victoria, Vancouver, Kelowna, Prince George and Kamloops, and included the following topics: ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy); family therapy; Indigenous cultural awareness; trauma specifically in working with military and veterans populations; and updates about the current state of the counselling regulatory process in Canada. A separate report will be prepared by CCPA National Office detailing the BC Regional Workshop series.
- b) **BC/YK Membership.** I am pleased to report that of the over 5,700 CCPA members in Canada, 1,319 are CCPA members from the BC/YK region. Of the 1,319 members, approximately 800 hold a C.C.C. designation. *Note: CCPA membership data current as of May 1, 2016.*

- c) **Student Representatives.** There are still opportunities opened at a few BC post-secondary institutions to become a CCPA Student Representative. If you are interested, please contact me directly or Mandy Ricard (memberservices@ccpa-accp.ca) at our CCPA National Office.
- d) **Acknowledgements.** I would like to acknowledge our President, Natasha Caverley, for her continuous support and leadership; Barbara MacCallum, Nicole Boisvert and the CCPA National Office for the collaborative and coordinated approach that we are utilizing in supporting all Regional Directors and responding to member queries in a timely and professional manner; Siri Brown and the BC Chapter Board of Directors for inviting me to the “table” via teleconference, and all CCPA members in BC and the Yukon for choosing CCPA as your professional association.

Coming Attractions

Participate and make a difference! The CCPA Board of Directors is elected every two years. CCPA is currently accepting nominations for all positions for the 2017 – 2019 CCPA National Board of Directors. **Nominations for the Board of Directors are due by December 15th, 2016.** The 2017—2019 CCPA Board officially assumes its responsibilities in May 2017.

BC counsellor regulation continues building momentum under a renewed focus of unity and solidarity. CCPA is optimistic that through its proactive involvement with FACT-BC, the Government of BC will recognize the collective voice that FACT-BC brings together in ensuring that the counselling profession safeguards the general public from harm.

In closing, please continue providing me with your necessary feedback. I am hoping to see you at the CCPA’s 2017 Annual Conference which will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland from May 16 to 19, 2017.

Cheers,

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