

Region: Alberta/Northwest Territories
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Abstract and Membership

Alberta-Northwest Territories is a vast region with 1,204 members as of April of this year; up 170 from this time last year, and an increase of 85 from the 1119 members reported in November's report. Included in this number are 191 students, up 23 from the 168 in November. Although most members do reside in Alberta (1171—an increase of 86 from last report), there are currently 33 members living in NWT (the same as last report).

Many of the region's members are Canadian Certified Counsellors (643/1204 members or 53%, the same as last report, showing the growth is consistent), a testament to the value placed on the certification process. As with my last report, this continues to be a factor that is highlighted in the meetings we participate in with representatives from the Alberta Ministry of Health and members from other counselling groups which have joined forces to create FACT Alberta and now ACTA-Alberta. Check out the latest information on FACTAB (<https://www.fact-alberta.org>) and on ACTA (ACTA-Alberta.ca) websites regarding the status of regulation in Alberta and of the formation and entry requirements of the new regulatory college. Pay close attention to the mail-outs that come from CCPA head office as that is the avenue by which members will be kept up to date on the entryways to the new College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (CCTA). As you will see when visiting the websites, there are several avenues to join the College—it behooves everyone to become familiar with these routes and ensure that you find the most expeditious way to join. For those in regions trying to establish their colleges, it is our hope you will find this information helpful as well. The final touches are being put on the Standards of Practice; Code of Ethics; and other guiding principles and bylaws as the plans to roll out CCTA in the Fall of 2019. This endeavor has been a team one; one which could not have been possible without the support of Head Office in particular, Barbara, the AB/NWT Chapter and executive, most especially Nicole Imgrund, Regulation Director and Chair of FACT-Alberta and ACTA-Alberta. Our regions appreciation needs to be shouted out for all those who has spent hours and hours our on this work! I am humbled by what has been accomplished and honoured to have been privy to our accomplishments! We have been very busy in this region!

Résumé et adhesion

L'Alberta et les Territoires du Nord-Ouest est une vaste région comptant 1 204 membres en avril de cette année; une augmentation de 170 par rapport à l'année dernière et une augmentation de 85 par rapport aux 1119 membres signalés dans le rapport de novembre. Ce nombre comprend 191 étudiants, soit 23 de plus que les 168 de novembre. Bien que la plupart des membres résident en Alberta (1171, soit une augmentation de 86 par rapport au dernier rapport), 33 membres vivent actuellement dans les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (comme dans le dernier rapport).

La plupart des membres de la région sont des Conseillers certifiés canadiens (643/1204 membres, soit 53%, comme l'indique le dernier rapport, démontrant que la croissance est constante), témoignant de la valeur accordée au processus de certification. Comme dans mon dernier rapport, cela continue d'être un facteur souligné dans les réunions auxquelles nous

participons avec des représentants du ministère de la Santé de l'Alberta et des membres d'autres groupes de counseling qui ont uni leurs forces pour créer FACT Alberta et maintenant ACTA-Alberta. Consultez les dernières informations sur FACTAB (<https://www.fact-alberta.org>) et sur les sites Web d'ACTA (ACTA-Alberta.ca) concernant l'état de la réglementation en Alberta et des exigences de formation et d'entrée du nouveau collège de réglementation. Portez une attention particulière aux envois provenant du siège social de l'ACCP, car c'est le moyen par lequel les membres seront tenus au courant des entrées du nouveau College of Counselling Therapy of Alberta (CCTA). Comme vous le constaterez en visitant les sites Web, plusieurs possibilités s'offrent à vous: vous devez vous familiariser avec ces itinéraires et vous assurer de trouver le moyen le plus rapide de vous inscrire. Nous espérons que ces informations seront utiles pour les habitants des régions qui essaient d'établir leurs collèges. Les dernières retouches portent sur les Normes de pratique, Code de déontologie et d'autres règlements administratifs tels que les plans de déploiement de l'ACTC à l'automne 2019. Cette initiative a été entreprise en équipe; Un projet qui n'aurait pas été possible sans l'appui du siège social en particulier, Barbara, de la Section de l'AB et des T.-N.O. et de l'exécutif, et plus particulièrement de Nicole Imgrund, directrice de la réglementation et présidente de FACT-Alberta et ACTA-Alberta. L'appréciation de nos régions doit être saluée par tous ceux qui ont passé des heures et des heures sur ce travail! Je suis honorée par ce qui a été accompli et honorée d'avoir été au courant de nos réalisations! Nous avons été très occupés dans cette région!

Connections and Communications

Since my last report, I have sent out three Regional Director's messages to the membership, responded to several member requests; done two student presentations, reviewed and approved 5 Student Representative applications and attended all but one of the AB/NWT Chapter Board meetings, to which I am the Board Liaison.

I continue to use my position as RD to appeal to members of other associations, especially those who are regulated through other Colleges to lobby their respective Colleges to support our quest for regulation prompting them to remember why it is that any profession chooses to be regulated—for the protection of the public and to ensure that there is a level of accountability and privilege of having this designation. I am a member of two of those associations and have many friends and colleagues in regulated professions who I speak to constantly to try to keep us on their radar and why all Counselling professionals being regulated just makes so much sense. I have reached out to Board members in each of the other associations I am a member in as well as those I am not, with very mixed and often negative reactions...surprising since they should want this step to occur if they really believed in the purpose of regulation—to protect the public!

In terms of student gatherings—I did one in January for Athabasca University and another in Calgary for students in the undergraduate Psych Student Club at Mount Royal University to help explain the various pathways that will be open to them in the future. Both were well attended, and most questions focused on the status of Regulation and its implications.

I am pleased that we have 7 Student Representatives in the region perhaps a reflection of the high student membership. I do wonder if the strong support of Counsellor educators in the region is also reflected in our solid student membership.

Contributions and Celebrations

One of our regions greatest celebrations are the dedicated people we have who give so much—often at deep personal and professional cost to themselves and yet ask for nothing. One of those individuals, Nicole Imgrund, will be honoured with the Professional Contribution Award by our National Board in Moncton. Nicole continues to be my “hero” as she finds 28 hours in every day to devote to FACT-Alberta and ACTA-Alberta, the many, many meetings with government and associations and the hurried and detailed work required to get a College operational. There aren't enough awards to bestow to demonstrate the gratitude our membership has. I am truly thrilled she has been chosen!

There are others who work so tirelessly for our members, who also deserve enormous kudos—Blythe Shepard for her continued work on Supervision standards, course development and delivery; guidance with regulation, standards of practice, and code of ethics; stepping back into the role of President of the Regional Chapter; as well as being elected for the second time as our incoming Regional Director—dedication to our region is an understatement! Dawn Israel who reaches out and connects with insurance company after insurance company and is gaining success to get counselling services by CCC's covered—and is often very successful! Our Student Liaisons, Lindsay and Barbara, who take time out of their busy schedules to attend meetings and connect with their campuses and the Region's Student Reps. The list could go on, but I will stop and assert, I am very blessed to work alongside such committed and incredible people!

Lastly, I was surprised and completely caught off guard when I was honoured by the AB/NWT Chapter Board when they presented me with the Dr. Blythe Shepard Award for Outstanding Contributions during the fall AGM. I truly had no idea that this was going to be conferred or I may have not attended the meeting. My style is more to promote others than be in the forefront; to say I was honoured and humbled are simply not adequate to convey my gratitude. It is my hope to continue the work I have begun on the national front in my new role as president-elect.

Concerns and Challenges

As with earlier reports our greatest challenges continue and always will be our vastness. Travel is both costly and difficult during the winter months—which seems to be lasting longer and longer each year (we had snow last week!). Because weather must always be taken into account, we plan to host events in a short window and rely heavily on electronic communication, and much like the often-heard messages around the Board table—we are never really sure how many of these get opened or read. Some do because we do get responses, so we continue to send out messages and hope to reach as many as we can.

My only other concern is that we will need to recruit a few new members for the Chapter Board, as Blythe's election to the National Board has prompted her to step aside from the Chapter to balance her time between her many other activities. The Chapter bylaws require the

President positions to come from within the Board, so there will need to be some shuffles within which will require additional promotion activities.

TRC Calls to Action Update

Being more responsive to the TRC Calls to Action, cultural offerings opportunities and PD are included and disseminated with both RD and Chapter mail-outs. I continue to actively work with and seek out learning opportunities within our communities. This past week, I was privileged to learn and work alongside colleagues at Old Sun College, on Siksika nation, southeast of Calgary. I make it a point of passing on the knowledge and teachings I receive to ensure greater awareness and inclusion occurs within our profession and practice.

Coming Attractions

FACT-AB and ACTA-AB will continue to meet, student presentations will be planned, as well as PD offerings—hopefully one in NWT in the fall. We recently received responses from close to 200 northern members in AB/NWT and BC/YK regions regarding PD they would be interested in. We want to capitalize on this feedback and ensure we share this information with the Edmonton conference committee as well. This kind of rich feedback could be very useful in terms of promoting and selecting conference proposals. And of course, we have the 2020 national conference to be hosted in Edmonton to look forward to!

It has been both an honour and privilege to serve as the region as director for the past 4 years. I look forward to working with each of you and National Office, as I transition to President-Elect.

Respectfully submitted,



*Kathy Offet-Garner,
CCPA out-going Regional Director, AB/NWT*