

British Columbia and Yukon Region

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Abstract

For the period November 2018 to April 2019, activities continued around recruitment of new members through the Student Representative program, maintaining contact with the BC Chapter of CCPA as Board liaison, and representing CCPA on the board of FACTBC (Federation of Associations for Counselling Therapists in British Columbia), and the BC Disaster Psychosocial Services (DPS) Council. Work with the Quality Assurance and Truth and Reconciliation committees of CCPA continued to be full and rewarding.

Résumé

De novembre 2018 à avril 2019, les activités concernant le recrutement de nouveaux membres dans le cadre du programme Représentant étudiant ont été poursuivies, tout en maintenant le contact avec la section de la Colombie-Britannique de l'ACCP en tant que liaison avec le conseil d'administration et en représentant l'ACCP au conseil d'administration de la FACTBC (Federation of Associations for Counselling Therapists in British Columbia) et le Conseil des services psychosociaux (DPS) de la Colombie-Britannique. Les travaux avec les comités d'assurance de la qualité et de vérité et réconciliation de l'ACCP ont continué d'être complets et enrichissants.

Connections and Communications

- Connected with professors and student representatives at the University of Victoria, Adler University (Vancouver campus), and the University of British Columbia, and presented on behalf of CCPA at those institutions.
- Continued to communicate with CCPA members in the province through the CCPA member list serve and individual emails.
- Attended three BC Chapter board meetings, keeping board members apprised of CCPA and FACTBC initiatives, and facilitated a review of the draft FACTBC Registration Guidelines for a future College of Counselling Therapists.
- Facilitated an information-sharing and discussion session on regulation, and other issues of concern to members, at the BC Chapter AGM in April.
- Attended several monthly meetings of the DPS Council, and a full-day retreat in February 2019 to discuss terms of reference and strategic planning for 2019-2021.
- Actively engaged with FACTBC member association representatives and contract staff to complete phase 1 of the MLA Outreach Initiative.

Contributions and Celebrations

- On November 22nd, 2018, FACTBC was invited to meet with the Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and other Ministry officials to discuss the mandate of FACTBC.

This meeting resulted in a firm commitment for the Ministry (MMHA) to engage in ongoing discussions with FACTBC moving forward.

- Along with the Chair of FACTBC, I took part in ongoing discussions with MMHA to consider areas of alignment between the goals of FACTBC and those of the Ministry.
- Helped to update an information and recruitment article on Disaster Psychosocial Services in BC for a future edition of COGNICA.
- On February 8th, 2019, the final report of the FACTBC Indigenous Counselling Competencies Project was presented to the Board of FACTBC. The results suggest that the competencies listed in the *2016 Entry-to-Practice Competency Profile for Counselling Therapists* do include the basic competencies required for effective practice when working with Indigenous clients. Two additional competencies were suggested for inclusion in the profile: Engage actively with your client's community; Advocate for your client to address systemic barriers.

Concerns and Challenges

- Maintaining the Student Representative program at eight different institutions in the province continues to be a challenge. Currently, five of the eight universities have student representatives. At the other three institutions, the positions have been vacant for at least two years in the last three. The relatively large number of institutions, and rapid turnover of student representatives, makes it difficult for the regional director to ensure these positions are filled from year to year on a continuous basis.
- With the recent release of the "Cayton Report", there is now some uncertainty as to whether the BC government will continue to regulate new health professions by forming regulatory colleges under the Health Professions Act. The challenge remains for FACTBC to convince the Ministry of Health that title protection through a College of Counselling Therapists is essential to the safety of British Columbians who seek help from counsellors and therapists in the province.
- While a great deal of work has gone into educating employers and insurers about the Canadian Certified Counsellor designation, progress is still very much on an ad hoc basis. Despite ongoing support from National Office, and clients and counsellors looking for new and creative ways to approach the problem, movement on this initiative is slow.

TRC Calls to Action update

Most of my input into the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* http://trc.ca/assets/pdf/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf has been centred on my work with colleagues on the Truth and Reconciliation Sub-Committee of CCPA. At the face-to-face board meeting in November, our committee facilitated a sharing circle for board members to reflect on their participation in the Association's truth and reconciliation initiative so far, looking at what has gone well, naming specific concerns or challenges, and sharing insights and ideas for next steps. Many of those present really appreciated the depth of sharing and the meaningful

discussion that resulted from this activity. The other major task for this committee has been the drafting of new terms of reference for a proposed standing committee on truth and reconciliation.

Coming Attractions

- Welcoming the new CCPA Regional Director for British Columbia and Yukon.
- Working with the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions as BC Chapter representative on the board of FACTBC.
- Continuing in my journey towards truth and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.