



HELLO FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT-ELECT

PRESIDENT-ELECT'S MESSAGE

Greetings on what I hope is a lovely, sunny day in your area! Winter seemed so long this year and it felt like spring was not going to come at all, and with a blink, summer arrived and the earth became colourful and bountiful again. What a sight to behold—rejuvenation!

Rejuvenated is how I felt after coming together in Moncton to meet the new Board and attend the conference. Like Jen, I am always amazed at the vibrancy of our profession, association, and most especially, those who volunteer their time and talent to make all aspects of CCPA run so well! As we have few paid staff—all of whom do an exceptional job—we are for the most part a volunteer run association. I want to take a moment to give a huge shout-out to all who helped make the conference great and to those who contributed to the various newsletters, the journal, the various PD activities, Chapters, and all other events. Most especially, I would like to thank and send a grateful “see you soon” to my colleagues on the two Boards from 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 that I had the privilege of working with, as well as extend a “warm welcome” and thank you to those who have just joined. I would also like to extend my deep gratitude to Bill Thomas and Boyd Perry who also put

their names forward to serve as your President-Elect. It is my sincere hope that you will consider offering your names again, for this is a great association and we need that kind of enthusiasm! On behalf of all members—thank you, merci, meegwetch!

For those who do not know me or did not “meet me” through my campaign statement, let me offer a small portion here. My first contact with CCPA came in 1988 when I attended a conference co-hosted by one of its predecessors, the Canadian Guidance and Counselling Association. I knew then that, I had found “my people”. Once my four children were grown, and I was finishing my PhD, I had more time to give and began to get involved with PD and volunteer opportunities. I joined Chapters, went to conferences, attended AGMs, became a founding member of a few Chapters, volunteered with the journal, mentored and supervised students, and helped promote membership through my various positions, especially as a Counselling Instructor and practicum supervisor. In 2008, I began serving on the executive of the newly formed AB/NWT Chapter and in 2015 on the National Board, both of which were most rewarding—I highly recommend it!

For decades, I have been a staunch supporter and

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advocate of Counsellors, the profession of Counselling, and the CCPA. I am a full-time practicing counsellor at a post-secondary institution, who also teaches, supervises, writes, presents, mentors, and plays with my grandchildren as often as I can! I love my family, friends, and our profession—deeply, passionately!

In the past several years, I have been involved with the push to have the profession of counselling recognized and regulated in Alberta, a feat I am thrilled to report was achieved this past December! It is my hope that all counsellors, regardless of location, can be part of a regulated college. I believe this requires a strong Board and National Office team, with broad counselling and business experience, the ability to see both the big and little picture of issues before them, and the ability to be collegial, courteous, respectful, and strategic. I also believe it requires heart, passion, patience, and tenacity. I am happy to assure each of you that I

believe we—CCPA—has this in spades. We will continue to work toward our many goals as an association and strive to keep you informed and well served. Please feel free to contact me, Jen, any one of the Board members, or National Office staff. Remember, this is *your* association! Don't be shy, we welcome the connection!

Yours in service,



Kathy Offet-Gartner,
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President-Elect, CCPA