

President's report for 2020 AGM

A very special welcome to our Manitoba Chapter members at our first virtual AGM. We delayed our AGM this very challenging year to allow our volunteer members time to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic in their homes, lives and workplaces. We hope to return to our usual AGM meeting in the spring of 2021.

At last year's AGM we welcomed new members aboard and today we hope we find a few new faces to help the Manitoba Chapter board support and enhance our community of therapists from CCPA.

As president, I attend a meeting of the presidents across the country to discuss the new and continuing work of the CCPA head office and Chapters. Our head office has worked a large part of the year at a distance but their support for our members is terrific. If you have a question they will find an answer whether it is in member services or about professional development. Explore the website to keep current and up to date. I encourage you to read your CCPA email updates.

Our Chapter is fortunate to have incredibly busy members who take time to try to support and enhance our profession. We have put good energy into professional development projects that help us come together and hope to increase those chances to come together in person or virtually. We have had Board members tirelessly work toward regulation through our role in Fact-MB. This is a steady but time consuming process. We believe in the progress but much like our provincial counterparts have learned it takes years not months to achieve. We have invaluable members working on our third party

billing initiatives to move companies to recognize our education and training to prove our competencies. This initiative is bringing aboard new organizations that will cover our services and allow our clients to use new insurance policies to have our therapy services covered.

As part of my role as President this year, I answer questions and concerns if I can of our members. This year our members have been asking about what training or university programs lend themselves to good employment in our diverse field. The certification process through our organization has been a great help in finding many education choices for our members. After so many of these questions we see a need to help network veterans of our field with new members to talk about the real work we do, the places we have found to work in and the businesses we have built. The second most common concern is coverage for services. This is the key work our third party committee is doing. This needs to be work we all do to move our profession forward and make it easier for the public to find and receive our services especially under their organizations insurance plans.

Our CCPA has grown over the last year in our province and nationally. This is exciting but not unexpected. It is an incredibly diverse and talented group of members. I encourage you to explore the webpage, attend some training or volunteer for a group within our CCPA. Another way to meet these inspiring members is to conference. We lost our 2020 conference this year in Edmonton (Yes-finally an easy one for some of us to drive too) due to the pandemic. The great news is next year we have a virtual conference so now many, many more members can be part of the dynamic lectures and exciting support

services that conferences introduce to membership. We hope to see you there.

2019 saw our conference in New Brunswick where I had the opportunity to present on behalf of our Third Party Billing committee at the third party billing workshop. The key messages were highlighting the need to 'build an army of ants'. We can all help. We have vital work to do together to build public engagement, awareness and self-advocacy. Our clients and the general public can be empowered to advocate for themselves and their families. We need to increase efforts for us all to build awareness of the CCPA and the training we have to assist the community in mental health services.

Our goal as a Manitoba Chapter is to keep Manitoba a valuable part of our Canadian therapy landscapes and to spend time connecting to each other and to support the forward momentum of our profession in our prairie province.