**FACT Manitoba Report for CCPA Manitoba Chapter AGM April 2021**

1. FACT-MB meetings now begin with a land acknowledgement statement as follows:

**Indigenous Land Acknowledgement**

We are meeting on Treaty 1 territory, the original lands of the Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples, and on the homeland of the Métis Nation.

2. Financial Position: FACT MB currently has $9,635.59 with one association’s annual fees still outstanding.

3. Bylaws: On May 15, 2020, FACT-MB adopted Bylaws which I had worked on with a sub-committee, to establish policies and procedures to guide our functioning as a professional Board. It has helped to have structures and boundaries to ensure fair and democratic participation from all member associations.

4. FACT-MB Meeting with Government Policy Analyst, Victor Minenko on March 25, 2021 in response to our submission of the first draft of our RHPA application. Don Russell, Melody Newcombe, Elie Jack and myself were selected to be in attendance. Don also personally decided to invite Barbara MacCallum, which was a good call. It was beneficial to have her hear Victor’s responses first-hand.

It was a productive meeting in that Victor gave substantial feedback “playing devil’s advocate” and giving us additional points to consider. We can anticipate one of 3 outcomes:

1) agreement to designate counselling therapy as a regulated profession,

2) outright dismissal of the application, and

3) referring the application to the Health Professions Advisory Commission (HPAC).

Most likely will be the third possibility, with correspondence with the HPAC, a public review process, HPAC contacting all the other professional bodies who participate in the Reserved Act. Victor gave Massage Therapy as an example which took 3 ½ years of review by HPAC. He indicated that the process will not be linear, but rather circular. The issues Victor raised included:

a) Do we want to include members who are certified school counsellors, as they are certified through education? Excluding them may jeopardize our numbers.

b) On “Psycho Social Intervention,” he referred us to look at Alberta’s table of 4 quadrants and clarify what meets the requirement of the Act. Who would be permitted to perform the Reserved Act needs to be articulated and who would require the designation. He questioned why we are including specializations like music and art? This needs clarification. Would we have Associate Members? He referred us to go the Standards of Practice in government and check out Collaborative Care. For examples, nurses do not do the Reserved Act.

c) Who would be included in the titles? Government does not want barriers for people doing legitimate work. Eg. Chaplain vs. Spiritual Care Worker. How are First Nations counsellors included? We should use health sector language.

d) We need an accurate account of the number of complaints in the last 10 years, to indicate how busy the college would be with discipline, on the pragmatic side. Victor asked if the college would be able to sustain itself with the current rate of complaints.

e) What about labour mobility? Educational standards vary province to province. Eg. Social Work Act allows for a range of levels. We need to differentiate Bachelors and Masters from those with less education. HPAC will need to have a clear snapshot in the summary. How do we ensure that those with less training but a substantial equivalent can keep working?

f) Will the associations continue to exist? There would be separate college fees and association fees. Would members be willing to pay fees to both streams?

In general, he said HPAC will ask for more information. He also indicated that he was retiring in early April, as of this writing, and we will be working with Nicole Magas after this. So it was not a slam-dunk, but a substantial amount of valuable information to get back to work on.

5. FACT-MB has developed a timeline for the process of proceeding with the application, tracking each step of our progress in a visual way. Currently a subcommittee is working on these aspects for our April 16 meeting:

Develop email message to associations for them to forward to their membership that will update them on the plan for submission.

Develop list of Advocates/Universities

Develop key messages

Develop letter to MLA’s (letter to MLA, Minister of Health)

Develop script for video

Develop backgrounder

(Produce) a Document similar to SK Brochure

Develop Friends and Family letter

Develop social media presence.

Given the feedback from Victor Minenko, we will still have substantial time to develop these messaging pieces. It may be a couple more years before we get to the finish line.

We have had a full and productive year with advancing the agenda of making the RHPA application and being able to adapt to a new and evolving process of our associations working together, in large part due to the support of and collaboration with Barbara MacCallum.

Respectfully submitted, Mintie Grienke