

Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association
Nova Scotia Chapter President's Report
April 24, 2021.

The Executive team is made up a group of volunteers who have worked on several projects for NS Chapter members this year. We welcomed four new members to the executive team in April of 2020 and operated with every position filled throughout the year. In addition to five regular meetings for all executive, there were designated focused committee meetings to work on specific projects. Regular email updates and contact between executive members was also maintained.

Chapter Executive members for 2020-2021:

President – Patricia Wentzell

President-Elect – Gary Owen Porter

Past President – Nick Zwaagstra

Secretary – Lita Llewellyn

Treasurer – Jean Blackler

Coordinator for Professional Development – Kim MacDonald

Coordinator for Professional Identity and Advocacy – Andrew Potter Cogan

Student Rep – Criss Hochhold

School Counsellor Liaison – Belinda Josephson

Members-at-Large – Derek Smith and Shane MacDow

CCPA Board Liaison – George Maringapsi

Chapter Activities:

Last year we worked on the development and circulation of a survey for members to voice their opinions on topics and activities for the Chapter. From the results of the survey distributed in the fall through CCPA Communications, we developed some dominant focus points and activities:

- Work has begun on planning for a future professional development workshop on the topic of *Diversity and Multicultural Counselling Through the Lens of the CCPA Code of Ethics*. This workshop is in the planning stages, and we plan to share the details through a CCPA Communications Newsletter later this summer.
- We developed two virtual Networking sessions for members. The first was held on March 16, 2021. Participants agreed that it was beneficial to connect with other counselling therapy professionals from around our province. There was informal sharing of professional development activities and resources that members recommended as supportive for their professional practice.

- The second virtual Networking session will be following the AGM and the focus will be on exploring some of the new components of the components of the CCPA *Code of Ethics* published last year, through small and large group discussions around a case study.
- The executive decided that offering bursaries for members and executive to attend the CCPA National Conference that will be held virtually this year in May would be a way to support NS Chapter members as well as the CCPA conference. Members were notified of this in newsletters distributed through CCPA Communications emails in January and April. The Chapter was able to support 15 executive and regular members to attend the conference.
- In his role as Coordinator for Professional Identity and Advocacy, Andrew Potter Cogan presented on the benefits of membership in CCPA to a group of Acadia M.Ed. Counselling students via Zoom last year. It was well-attended and students expressed a lot of interest in the information. Another is being planned for this spring.
- The NS Chapter president attended quarterly meetings with CCPA National Office staff and other Chapter presidents throughout the year.

Membership:

Membership numbers have continued to grow steadily, with 331 current members. Communication with members about Chapter initiatives was accomplished through two *Newsletters* circulated by CCPA. Information about PD opportunities offered through other organizations that might be of interest to members was also circulated through these newsletters.

Chapter Finances:

We maintain a strong financial status. As of February 1, 2021, Treasurer Jean Blackler reported a closing balance of \$16,285.67. Since the year-end report, expenses have included bursaries for members and executive to cover registration costs to attend the National CCPA Conference that will be held virtually next month. We also anticipate some expenses in conjunction with our planned professional development workshop.

Other:

We appreciate the support from CCPA Staff in our work for Chapter members: sharing our communication memos with members, providing advice and support on various projects, as well as Zoom access and technical support.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Wentzell

CCPA Nova Scotia Chapter President