



**ONTARIO
PSYCHOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION**

**PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL
REPORT**

2013

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2013 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The 2013 Annual Report was prepared with contributions from committee and task force chairs, section presidents, and staff members. The report reviews the activities, projects, and accomplishments of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) since the previous Annual General Meeting and, in accordance with the by-laws, contains the views of the President on the present state of affairs of OPA.

The Report is tabled for acceptance at the 2014 Annual General Meeting held on February 7, 2014 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Toronto.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Members of the Board of Directors

Dr. Connie Kushnir, President

Dr. Jane Storrie, President-Elect

Dr. Niki Fitzgerald, Director of Audit and Finance

Dr. Natasha Browne, Director of Government Relations

Dr. Patricia McGarry-Roberts, Director of Professional Practice and Competencies

Dr. Paulo Pires, Director of Professional Development

Dr. Jonathan Douglas, Director of Communication and Public Education

Dr. Carolyn Lennox, Director of Professional Partnerships

Dr. Noah Lazar, Director of Early Career Psychologists Affairs

Ms. Karen Zhang, Director of Graduate Student Affairs

Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Directors

Dr. Doug Saunders, OPA representative to the Council of Representatives of the American Psychological Association

Ms. M. Janet Kasperski, Chief Executive Officer

Mr. Ryan Morley, Chief Operating Officer

INTRODUCTION

It gives me great pleasure to present the 2013 President's Report on the activities and accomplishments of the Ontario Psychological Association. This work was carried out by our highly valued members who volunteered their skills, time and effort and by the indispensable support of a small number of paid staff.

The Board of Directors met 6 times in 2013: February 7, April 19, June 7, October 4, November 22, and December 20. The Executive or Management Committee, consisting of myself and Drs. Fitzgerald, Storrie, and Service, and latterly Ms. Kasperski, met on an as needed basis. Members were regularly informed of the activities of the Board and the committees and task forces of the Association through the electronic newsletter published after each of the Board meetings.

INTERNAL CHANGES AND ACTIVITIES:

This has been a year of many changes in the association. We said good-bye to our interim Executive Director Dr. Service and welcomed his successor Ms. Kasperski. Her hiring marks several changes within the organization. We changed the title to that of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and she is the first non-psychologist hired to run the organization. Members will have noted by now the energy and enthusiasm that Ms. Kasperski has brought to the OPA, and many changes have been introduced. She has provided a separate report to the membership. There have been other changes in staffing with the departure of long time staff member Ms. Carla Mardonet, and the hiring of Mr. Ryan Morly as Chief Operating Officer.

This year, the new Board model, approved at the 2013 AGM was implemented. More recently work has begun to revamp the committee/task force reporting structure, with a move towards implementation of five formal Board committees. Two of the new committees, Program Planning and Research, and Communication and Member Services have been meeting, and the reports are provided here. This year has also seen the re-invigoration of the Section on Independent Practice.

This report also marks the end of my two year term as President, and I welcome Dr. Storrie as she begins her role as President.

COMMITTEE, SECTION, and TASK FORCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

OPA committees, sections, and task forces have all been very busy in advocating for the profession in a variety of ways, and their efforts are provided in detail in this report.

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

In addition to the activities of the committees, task forces and sections, OPA was involved in many other professional liaison, collaborative and advocacy initiatives. Some of these are highlighted below:

- There has been on-going contact and collaboration with the College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO). An OPA representative attends College Council meetings. Formal written responses were provided to CPO's requests for consultations around QA changes, registration requirement changes, fee by-law changes and custody and access advice to members.
- In March the CPO passed a motion to request that all applicants for registration in Ontario in future should have a doctorate degree. OPA supported this decision and a letter was sent to the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. Members were immediately informed of the decision.
- This year for the first time, OPA attended the Primary Health Care Centre Annual Conference organized by the Association of Ontario Health Centres. OPA Board members staffed an information table about the value of psychologists in primary health care teams.
- OPA participates as a member organization in the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health.
- We are involved in the Coalition of Regulated Health Professionals Associations (CORPHA).

- OPA has a representative on the Practice Research Network spearheaded by York University.
- OPA provided a formal commentary on CPA's position paper on School Psychology
- OPA wrote a letter to Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) about the HST changes introduced in the Federal Budget in March. We alerted CPA to the issue, which led to a number of advocacy activities: OPA/CPA sent a joint letter to the federal government's Standing Committee on Finance and CPA made a presentation to the Committee on the issue; CPA advocated with officials at CRA, federal Ministers of Revenue and Health, and with the health critics; CRA is developing a draft document for consultation, and will inform OPA when the draft is released.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As the two year term of the presidency comes to an end, I would like to again thank the many, many members of the association who have worked very hard on behalf of OPA over the past year, and whose names are listed in this report. There are also numerous others who have volunteered their time for the association, whose names do not appear, but whose contributions are none the less valued.

When I became registered in 1988, like most of our members at that time, I was working in one location, in a hospital clinic. The work life of psychologists has drastically changed since that time. In getting to know many more members, it has become evident that most of our members are now working in several different places, such as working part time in a private practice of their own, part time in someone else's practice, teaching a course or two at a university. This is one of the many challenges for our profession, as the new patterns of work impact on people's ability to devote time to a voluntary association such as OPA. Despite the challenge, I am impressed that a significant number of members of our profession are willing to make the effort to become involved in OPA, and am impressed at how many long-serving members have remained involved over many years. I am also heartened and encouraged by the enthusiasm and involvement in OPA by our early career psychologists and students for they are and will be the shapers of the future of psychology in Ontario. On behalf of our membership as a whole I would like to thank all our colleagues who have made a contribution to the work of the association.

Ours is a complex profession. We work in and have impact in many areas such health, schools, universities, research, corrections, social welfare settings, and community clinics. We are involved in many aspects of mental and behavioural health and with a number of large organizations such as the auto insurance industry, hospitals and WSIB. A number of us are involved in research as well. This means that the issues that are important to our members are very broad and cut across many areas, topics, and interests. This makes ours a very interesting profession to be part of and to work within.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity over the past two years to serve you as president and to meet and work with many wonderful, dedicated psychologists who are passionate about the profession. Thank you again to all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Connie Kushnir, President

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Niki Fitzgerald (Chair), Connie Kushnir, Doug Saunders, Jane Storrie, Margaret Weiser, and Ms. M. Janet Kasperski.**

The OPA Finance & Audit (F&A) Committee is responsible for the management of the association's fiscal affairs. This includes preparation of an annual budget, arrangements for and receipt of an annual audit, as well as investment management, fiscal policies, fund development, and budget management.

The committee was expanded this year and included Drs. Kushnir, Saunders, Storrie, and Weiser, and in September welcomed Ms. Kasperski. This committee met four times during the year. For a full-review of the committee's activities, please refer to the separate Financial Report.

Submitted by: **Dr. Niki Fitzgerald, Chair, Audit and Finance Committee**

ETHICS COMMITTEE

The Ethics Committee has been inactive since the resignation of the Chair last year. A meeting of past committee members was convened by Dr. Connie Kushnir in May in order to review past activities and to plan for the future. The meeting was attended by: **Drs. Harvey Brooker, Joyce Isbitsky, Rebecca Pillai Riddell, John Service, Judy Shapira, Carole Sinclair, and Jane Storrie.** A plan was made for re-invigoration of the committee, a call for new members was made, and several members volunteered their time. However, the new committee has not yet been convened as the committee structure of the organization is undergoing a re-structuring.

Submitted by: **Dr. Connie Kushnir, President**

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Connie Kushnir (Co-Chair), Jane Storrie (Co-Chair), Cheryl Hartridge, Noah Lazar, Doug Saunders, Margaret Weiser, and Ms. M. Janet Kasperski.**

Two meetings of the governance committee were held by teleconference this year. The focus of the meetings was on issues arising from the restructuring of the Board, and a proposed restructuring of the committees and task force reporting. A number of by-law changes were also discussed which are being presented at the AGM.

Submitted by **Drs. Connie Kushnir and Jane Storrie, Co-Chairs, Governance Committee**

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Mary Broga (Chair), Darlene Walker, Leslie Eddy, Charles Nelson, Ms. Janani Sankar, and Ms. Karen Zhang**

The Membership Committee met by teleconference on November 23, 2012 and held a face-to-face brain storming session on May 24, 2013 at Parkwood Hospital. **Drs. Connie Kushnir (President OPA); Jane Storrie (President-Elect) and Margaret Weiser (Past President)** also attended the session. The committee engaged in brainstorming potential strategies to increase as well as sustain membership in the Association. These strategies included focusing on ECPs and how the OPA can be instrumental in helping to establish their careers, enhancing communication systems, reviewing benefits offered to members, as well as possible fundraising ventures. The recommendations were forwarded to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Submitted by **Dr. Mary Broga, Chair, Membership Committee**

PROGRAM PLANNING AND RESEARCH COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Jane Storrie (Co-Chair), Paulo Pires (Co-Chair), Bettina DeRyck, Joyce Isbitsky, Jennifer McTaggart, Ms. Abirami Kandasamy, Ms. Aranda Wingsiong, Ms. Areeba Adnan, Ms. Dora Ladowski, Ms. Erin Romanchych, Ms. Karen Zhang, Mr. Khuraman Mamedova, Mr. Mark Rootenberg, Ms. Swela Bashir, Mr. Sol Pound**

The Program Planning and Research Committee is responsible for the development and oversight of the OPA's academic and research activities, including:

- the Continuing Education (CE) Accreditation Program
- professional development opportunities
- public education
- the Annual Convention
- a network of student leaders in each of the training programs
- outreach to post-secondary faculty members
- proposal development to seek funds for the OPA's academic agenda

- supporting and guiding Steering Committees established to oversee educational and research projects.

The Committee had its inaugural meeting in August 2013, and has already developed a new CE Accreditation Program and is finalizing professional development opportunities for 2014. We are also working on a training program for supervisors, in collaboration with the College. A list of psychologists willing to provide supervision is being prepared and will be distributed to universities throughout the province. The Committee will be hosting a roundtable with representatives of other healthcare associations and colleges and test developers to clarify standards of practice within competencies with respect to psychometric testing and diagnosis. We are in the process of developing web-based educational programs and practice tools and resources, as well as implementing videoconferencing of professional development activities.

Submitted by **Dr. Jane Storrie, Co-Chair, Program Planning and Research Committee**

EARLY CAREER PSYCHOLOGISTS COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Noah Lazar (Chair), Suzanne Stone, Mirisse Forouge, and Ms. Kimberly Edwards**

Over the past year, we have mostly focused on offering monthly ECP seminars. To date, we had the following speakers:

- **Dr. Diana Brechner**, Clinical Supervision, January 2014
- **Dr. Howard Waiser**, Custody and Access Issues, November 2013 - cancelled due to lack of interest
- **Mr. Jeff Crewe**, a chartered accountant, and **Mr. Tad Gacich**, an insurance specialist, Business Issues in Private Practice, October 2013
- **Dr. Mirisse Forouge**, Family Health Teams, August 2013
- **Dr. Jeremy Frank and Dr. Mike Cheng**, Disability Assessment, May 2013
- **Dr. Rick Morris**, Tricky Ethical Issues, February and September 2013. He is also currently booked for two future sessions, March and September 2014.

We have had additional interest in joining the ECP Committee and will be meeting in the New Year to introduce these new members to the committee. We will also be looking at ways to enhance ECP involvement in OPA, as well as the OPA reputation in the eyes of ECP members.

Submitted by: **Dr. Noah Lazar, Chair Early Career Psychologists Committee**

COMMUNICATIONS AND MEMBER SERVICES COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Jane Storrie (Co-Chair), Jonathan Douglas (Co-Chair), Kris Boksman, Rafaela Davila, Dee Rajska, Sylvain Roy, Mr. Andrew Brankley, Ms. Abirami Kandasamy, Ms. Jeanine Lane, Ms. Jaclyn Ludmer, Ms. Miriam Marling, Ms. Erika Portt, Mr. Sol Pound, Mr. Kristoffer Romero, Ms. Karen Zhang**

The Communications and Member Services Committee is responsible for developing and overseeing the OPA's media and public relations program and expanding marketing opportunities on behalf of the profession, including:

- the OPA "brand" including re-designing and maintaining the "look" of the public face of the OPA from logo to website to publications such as ONPsych
- overseeing website policy and content, including a web-based searchable member directory and media contact list
- establishing guidelines and enhancing the OPA's social media presence
- establishing guidelines and overseeing the listserv and developing "communities of practice" to support dialogue amongst the Sections and Interest Groups
- supporting programs and activities that strengthen the OPA's ability to recruit and retain members
- guiding the membership renewal process.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Ms. J. Kasperski (Chair) Drs. John Service (previous Chair), Drs. Natasha Browne, Ester Cole, Marcus Feak, Niki Fitzgerald, Greg Hamovitch, Connie Kushnir, Paulo Pires, Cheryl Pohlman, Douglas Saunders, Jane Storrie, Ms. Karen Zhang, Ms. Natasha Teoli, Convention Project Manager and Mr. Ryan Morley, Chief Operating Officer.**

The 2013 OPA Convention was held at the Hyatt Hotel. There were approximately 150 registrants; however, several registrants and presenters were prevented from attending due to a snow-storm. With the quick thinking of Ms. Teoli and the AV team, two presenters gave their all day workshops through Skype. While not ideal, it demonstrated the power of technology and was a novel way to save the day.

Planning for the 2014 Convention began in March. With a strong program in place including keynote speakers, as well as effective marketing of the Convention program and a renewed sense of energy amongst OPA's Members, the response has been very positive with high registration rates and most of the workshops filled to capacity. With major awards being presented to well-known drivers of change at the national, provincial and local level, the Friday luncheon is providing an opportunity to display the work of the OPA and its members to government and other provincial leaders. The Awards to be psychologists on Saturday is an

opportunity to recognize the excellence and diversity of the work undertaken by our members.

The Committee members would like to thank Ms. Teoli, Mr. Morley and Ms. Sara Marini for their tireless work in overseeing all aspect of the Convention. We would like to thank, as well, the exhibitors and sponsors of our presenters at both the 2013 and 2104 Conventions and especially to Pearson for hosting receptions for the attendees. As Chair, I would like to thank each member of the committee for their guidance and hard work. We look forward to meeting each registrant at the Convention – and to developing an even more exciting program for our conference in 2015.

Submitted by: **Ms. J. Kasperski, CEO, and Chair, Convention Committee**

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

PRESCRIPTIVE AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Dr. Diana Velikonja (Co-Chair), Dr. Jane Storrie (Co-Chair), Drs. David Nussbaum, Marie Greenspan, Amber Smith, Brian Bigelow, Gayle Kumchy, David Direnfeld, Brenda Saxe, Chris Carreira, Elizabeth Hubbard, Steven Jett, Amber Filiatrault, Fatma Akcali, Nik Hou, Jeremy Harrison, Peter Prior, Sandra Medlowitz, Annette Lorenz, Faith Kaplan, Kathy Smolewska, Carmen Weiss.**

Meetings over the past quarter year have occurred on two occasions with typical frequency of meetings ranging from monthly to every alternate month depending on the work required.

Terms of Reference:

The Prescriptive Authority Committee endeavours to promote psychopharmacological expertise among psychologists, and to integrate that knowledge into the practice of clinical psychology, in order to better serve the public. Our ultimate goal is to secure prescriptive authority for those Psychologists in Ontario who would voluntarily seek this scope of practice following the completion of post-doctoral training. To reach that goal, the RxP Committee will:

- Encourage the development of Canadian post-doctoral training opportunities in psychopharmacology.
- Encourage the College of Psychologists of Ontario to formally recognize competency in psychopharmacological consultancy.
- Encourage the public, political leaders, and other professionals to view psychologists as possessing the necessary expertise to offer sound, thorough, and specific advice on the safe and efficacious implementation (or non-implementation) of psychopharmaceutical agents.

- Work to ensure that underserved populations have greater access to all psychological services, including access to appropriately trained expertise in psychopharmacology.
- Forge interprovincial and international alliances with other psychologists and appropriate committees and associations, with other professions, with politicians, and with any other individuals or organizations who may prove to be beneficial to these goals.
- Work closely with the College of Psychologists of Ontario to encourage regulatory initiatives consistent with the identification of a psychopharmacological scope of practice.

Current Initiatives:

1. Continue to work with the Canadian Psychological Association collaboratively to support their ongoing efforts to develop educational programs for RxP and to ensure consistency in support and messaging between the two organizations. Meetings related to the Ontario RxP initiative will occur in January 2014.
2. The RxP committee will be presenting to the OPA membership at the annual conference this year in February 2014 to discuss the progress on this initiative to date as well as the work required to continue to advance this initiative with the Ontario Government. The Co-Chairs of this committee will present at the conference. In light of this presentation we have elected not to have a booth at this year's conference, but rather to allow questions and issues to be raised at the presentation.
3. There was a joint workshop held between the Canadian Association of Psychologists in Disability Assessment (CAPDA) and OPA regarding prescriptive authority. The conference was held on 1 November 2013 at the Albany Club in Toronto. Attendance was good and the feedback as well as the support for the initiative was very positive. Subsequently requests were made to have RxP part of the OPA annual conference to ensure ongoing updates and support for this initiative. Presenters included one member of the committee who has completed RxP training and is currently practicing as a prescribing psychologist in the US; Dr. Robert McGrath, Professor in the School of Psychology at Fairleigh Dickinson University which is one of the American Psychological Associations (APA) approved RxP training programs, who provided a review of the program and movement; finally, the Co-Chairs of the RxP committee presented the status of the initiative in Ontario, the reasons for pursuing this increase in scope of practice and what is being done to continue with political lobbying.
4. The committee approved the draft document outlining the benefits of psychologists having prescription privileges which was distributed to attendees at the joint CAPDA/OPA workshop and will also be made available to OPA members at the upcoming conference.
5. We have developed a positive relationship with Division 55 (APA division on prescriptive authority) member Dr. Robert McGrath for the purpose of facilitating our advocacy initiatives.
6. The Co-Chairs of this committee were contacted by Dr. Robert McGrath to let them know that there was increasing enrolment in the post-graduate

psychopharmacology program at Fairleigh Dickinson University. He also requested if there was anything they could in the program to increase the relevance for Canadian students. The Co-Chairs indicated that developing a module in the program that discussed differences in psychopharmacological agents between the US and Canada would likely be very relevant and important. Dr. McGrath then developed a small committee composed of one of the Co-Chairs of our committee, a practicing prescribing psychologist, the Chair of the CPA RxP committee, and the head of education of the Ontario Pharmacy Association was struck. This committee has met and commenced the process of reviewing the current materials and developing the "Canadian Content" module.

Submitted by: **Drs. Diana Velikonja and Jane Storrie, Co-Chairs, Prescriptive Authority Committee**

PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Richard Amaral (Chair), Oren Amitay, Pat McGarry Roberts, Connie Kushnir, Harpreet Chattha, Ms. Kyleigh Schraeder, Ms. Judy Hills, ED Psychology Foundation of Canada.**

Note: **Dr. Maria Kokai** resigned from the PEC at the end of February 2013. The PEC thanks her for her incredible contributions to the efforts of public education.

The Public Education Committee (PEC) identified *Psychology Month* and *building partnerships* as the major initiatives over the 2013 year. These initiatives led to a strengthened relationship with the **Psychology Foundation of Canada**, and the development of a new relationship with the **Ontario Federal Council (OFC)**, and the **Ontario Workplace Wellbeing Network (OWWN)**.

Psychology Month 2013: For Psychology Month, PEC collaborated with the OFC and OWWN by offering to provide guest speakers for a series of Lunch 'n Learn presentations at various federal buildings in the GTA. Here is a response by the executive director of the OFC:

"We appreciate all your efforts and are truly grateful for the excellent presenters provided by the Ontario Psychology Association, thanks to your dedication and diligence. As you requested, I have included the participation numbers for each of the sessions and hope that this information will be of benefit. I have had some discussions with the provincial government with respect to joint federal/provincial offerings, should you be in a position to help us in the future."

Here is a list of the presenters, topics, and list of participants for the Lunch 'n Learn presentations during Psychology Month.

Date	Topic/Title	Presenter	Registered
February 13 th	When things go horribly	Dr. Doug Saunders	21

	wrong: Building resilience in the workplace		
February 20 th	"You stress me out!" Stress in our everyday lives	Dr. Jaan Reitav	11
February 22 nd	Snakes on a Board: Psychopathy in the workplace	Dr. Oren Amitay	52
February 27 th	Work as a Pathway to Happiness	Dr. Erick Roat	17
February 28 th	Depression: It's more than you think	Dr. Natasha Browne	15
Total of registered participants			116

Letter Writing Campaign to "The Current":

A group of 5 psychologists also gathered via teleconference on Jan. 25th to collaborate on a letter to send to CBC in response to a news story on "The Current" regarding access to mental health services. Three of the 5 members in attendance were general members of the OPA; 2 of the members were from the PEC.

Media Award:

This year's Media Award was given to the producers and host of TVO's "The Agenda with Steve Paikin." Mr. Dan Dunskey, the executive producer, accepted the award on behalf of the cast and crew. He felt truly honoured and appreciative.

Expert Media List – Development and Dissemination:

Beginning on April 1, 2013, **Drs. Richard Amaral and Jane Storrie** had a tele-meeting regarding the development of an *Expert Media List* and have it done in a survey format to other psychologists. This list would also identify which members could deliver presentations and talks on specific topics.

There were approximately four teleconference meetings between Drs. Storrie and Amaral on this initiative. In December 2013, the idea for disseminating the Expert Media List to Ontario media outlets (e.g., television, radio, print) was approved by OPA's Board of Directors. An updated list containing the contact information for 100 reporters was then shared by Dr. Amaral to Dr. Storrie. Dr. Storrie will in turn facilitate the process of disseminating the "Expert Media List of Psychologists" to these media outlets.

APA-PEC teleconference meetings:

Dr. Amaral attended 5 teleconference meetings over 2013 with other PEC coordinators across Canada and the US. The purpose of these teleconference meetings is to provide updated information on press releases, initiatives, and campaigns that are in-line with APA's mandate of educating the public on the role of psychologists and mind-body health.

Submitted by **Dr. Richard Amaral, Chair, Public Education Committee**

DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

Committee Members: **Drs. Ester Cole (Chair), John Service, Anna Baranowsky , Linda McLean, Douglas Saunders, Margaret Weiser, Lori Gray, Rajko Seat, Maggie Gibson, and Lisa Votta-Bleeker (CPA); Ms. Jan Kasperski, Mr. Alan Dick, Supervisor –Psychosocial Health, EMAT; Mr. Brian Cole, CEO St. John’s Ambulance. The Canadian Red Cross was represented by Ms. Sarah Flis, and Mr. Tom Windebank – Canadian Red Cross – Manager, Disaster Management.**

In 2013, the Committee held 3 meetings (January 17, May 9, and October 10). The meetings and consultations took place by teleconference. The role of this committee, based on a Memorandum of Understanding, is to partner with the Canadian Red Cross; continue to share resources; review and disseminate current research based on emerging needs and services; consult and collaborate with related committees; and network with CPA and APA.

The DRN goals centre on:

(a) The coordination and provision of pro bono services to communities impacted by disaster and/or crisis situation(s); (b) The distribution of updated information and access to DRN mental health training for OPA members; (c) Support and consultation with members in their provision of disaster response services; (d) Upholding professional standards regarding disaster mental health care; and (e) Collaborating with other organizations providing disaster relief services and short-term volunteer interventions.

2013 Activities/Knowledge Sharing and Transfer:

- Ongoing consultations with CPA and the National Emergency Preparedness Advisory Consortium (NEPAC) concerning the national survey; co-ordination of standards applicable to services, and member supports. NEPAC is Co-Chaired by **Dr. Lisa Votta-Bleeker**.
- Ongoing consultations with APA - preparations of community handouts and website information; Canadian representative on the DRN Advisory Committee (**Dr. Ester Cole**), including P.D. meetings and links to Public Education;
- Members’ review of community services;
- The OPA/DRN website information continues to be updated with national and international resources. It includes III Sections: Section I – informs members and site visitors about OPA’s DRN activities, and the process of becoming a volunteer. This can be of help to groups considering the establishment of a local committee or multi-disciplinary partnerships. Section II- APA Resources-posted recent DRN Resources organized by 17 Categories for user friendly ‘hand-on’ information. The section includes, among others, categories on preparedness; response; culture; training; self-care; communication/technology, and flood specific resources. This section will be updated as a whole, in intervals. Section III- General Updates- from time to time, additional applicable information will be posted in this section concerning national and international DRN information.
- Continued discussions about OPA’s DRN communication strategy with members, and with external organizations, stakeholders and government;

- Several Committee members consulted with the media about interventions, background information, and/ or gave interviews;
- **Dr. Margaret Weiser** appraised the Committee of local volunteer services, publications, and communications with the CRC;
- **Dr. Maggie Gibson** Presented at the annual conference of the Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG):
 - *Gibson M. (2013). Disaster Response: Where Does Palliative Care Fit In? In Symposium sponsored by interRAI Canada and the Canadian Red Cross "When the Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary: How Health Assessment Information Can Be Used to Strengthen Emergency and Disaster Response Capacity for Vulnerable Persons", Canadian Association on Gerontology, October 17-19, Halifax, ON.
 - * Published a chapter in new book: Gibson M, Gutman G, Fitzgerald K, Fisher R, Roush RE. (2013). Expanding the safety envelope for seniors to include disaster resilience. In A. Sixsmith , G. Gutman G (Eds.): Technologies for Active Aging. N.Y: Springer, pp. 69-94.
- **Dr. Lori Gray** shared information about the Toronto Emergency Medical Services, and professional development events.
- **Dr. Anna Baranowsky** shared information about The Traumatology Institute, and its use of on-line technology, including: Careline1.com is a Tele-mental Health secure online portal for meeting with clients, providing supervision and offering webinars and training when meeting in person is not possible. Their newest effort is the Trauma Treatment Online Program - an internet based resource for trauma recovery. The site was designed with a 30 day stabilization video program that starts as soon as the individual signs-up for the program. Review at <http://www.whatisptsd.com/join-online-program/> .
- **Dr. Ester Cole** presented at APA Annual Convention:
 - *Symposium Chair- "Readiness, Response and Resilience- The Many Ways Psychologists Can Help with Disaster". Presenter "Psychologists' General Involvement with Disaster Work", Honolulu, Hawaii, August 4, 2013.
 - *Presenter- "promoting Social Inclusion in Disaster Mental Health Services", APA- DRN Coordinators Meeting Atlanta, Georgia, October 5, 2013.

Goals for 2014:

- Re-activate consultation ties with the Canadian Red Cross;
- Recruit new members;
- Update the format of OPA/DRN website;
- Explore options for professional development, in line with OPA's strategic priorities;
- Update OPA's member information by completing the volunteer information questionnaire. Members are asked annually to contact their local branch of the Ontario Red Cross for training sessions, and to attend a First Aid Course. In addition, they are asked to notify the Association office staff about their local training. Copies of the Memorandum of Understanding between OPA and the Canadian Red Cross are available to the membership.
- Encourage members to share current information on the OPA listserv, and review the updated website resources.

Submitted by **Dr. Ester Cole, Chair, Disaster Response Network**

DIVERSITY TASK FORCE

Committee Members: **Drs. Natasha Browne (Chair), Arun Pillai, Pushpa Kanagaratnam, Lott Mamabolo, Alena Strauss, Vasanthi Valoo and Jane Storrie and Ms. Valda Lopo,**

Mission Statement

"The focus of the OPA's Diversity Task Force is to raise awareness of the importance of diversity, and to promote ongoing efforts to influence related social change in the field of psychology practice in Ontario."

The Ontario Psychological Association Diversity Task Force continued to engage in great initiatives in 2013. We continued our public education initiatives within our own diverse communities throughout the year through several media outlets including radio, television and print. We also had another successful round table discussion on April 25, 2013 entitled "Multiple Identities" with Dr. Roy Moodley from the University of Toronto. We also set the groundwork for great partnerships with community primary health care centres where we can increase our advocacy and awareness of diversity and psychology in primary care settings. We look forward to 2014 with great anticipation and continued advocacy for the field of psychology.

Submitted by **Dr. Natasha Browne, Chair, Diversity Task Force**

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LIAISON COMMITTEE

Committee Members: **Drs. Carolyn Lennox (Chair), Lynne Beal, Pat Carney, Ester Cole, Maria Kokai, Paul O'Connell, Cheryl Pohlman, and Ms. Carolyn Koekkoek (Past President of OAPA).**

The role of the Committee is to share information and discuss issues with the Ministry of Education concerning the provision of psychological services in Boards of Education.

Committee meetings:

In 2013 the committee requested and collected input regarding issues to be addressed with the Ministry from the Section on Psychology in Education (SecPE) Council and from the Association of Chief Psychologists of Ontario School Boards.

Liaison with the Ministry Special Education Policy and Program Branch: the Chair of the Committee and the Education Officer designated by the Special Education Policy and Program Branch of the Ministry, Ms. Zheng Xu, set up the meetings for the Committee. In 2013 two meetings were held: May 22, 2013 and October 31, 2013. For each meeting, the specific representatives from the Ministry of Education or other Ministry are invited based on the specific items on the agenda.

May 22, 2013

The Ministry shared information regarding the status of current initiatives, including PPM 156: Supporting Transitions for Students with Special Education Needs and the Tri-Ministry Memorandum: Integrated Transition Planning for Young People with Developmental Disabilities. The purpose of these memos is to ensure consistency of the transition process, and to identify goals, timelines, roles and responsibilities.

The committee provided further updates around the Professional Practice Guidelines for School Psychologists in Ontario, pertaining to feedback from boards, as well as distribution of the Guidelines. Generally boards surveyed are grateful for the extent of clarity, scope and depth of psychological services, and there was some discussion about resources to implement these guidelines for some boards.

The committee provided information about the Toronto Area Internship Consortium in Clinical, School and Counselling Psychology recently developed and piloted in 2012-13. The consortium included OISE, the Toronto District School Board and a mental health partner (this year CAMH), and in 2014 the Toronto District Catholic Board will join and Youthdale Treatment Centres, Kinark Child and Family Services, Integra, North York General Hospital will replace CAM-H. The Consortium is currently seeking accreditation.

There was concern expressed by members of the committee around Behavioural Identification, and specific issues were discussed. Representatives of the Ministry informed that work regarding identifications was pending.

There was also discussion concerning reporting to parents on the progress of their child. The committee suggested that members of the psychology sector be involved in work around this, and suggested that learning skills be included in reporting in a more fulsome way than is currently the case. As well, there was a suggestion that the Psychology Sector be more closely tied to the Curriculum Branch, and the Ministry agreed to investigate how this could best be facilitated.

There was discussion concerning the letter from the Association of Chief Psychologists with Ontario School Boards to the Ministry around the involvement of the psychology sector with mental health initiatives for students with mental health issues. Steps are being taken to increase collaboration between the Ontario Chief Psychologists and Mental Health ASSIST.

October 31, 2013

Current work on PPM 8 was shared by the Ministry with the Liaison Committee. PPM 8 included the work of the LD working committee comprised of members of the psychology sector. The Liaison Committee was asked to identify 3 or 4 representatives of school psychology to participate in consultations around this initiative. Further consultations as well are planned.

The Ministry also shared the work of the ABA working group and new funding of ABA professionals to support ABA in the schools. The Ministry invited the Liaison

Committee to provide input on Functional Behavioural Assessment supports and resources to add to their list of resources to go to schools.

The Ministry also updated in terms of Learning for All regional projects. IEP development, as well as transitions is a focus of these projects. As well, the Learning for all, K – 12 document is being updated to enhance content on student engagement.

The Ministry updated the Mental Health and Addictions strategy. There are currently a total of 770 new mental health workers in boards across Ontario, including 144 mental health nurses, working through a leader at CCAS, as well as mental health workers through the Ministry of Child and Youth. As well, all boards now have funding for a Mental Health lead.

There was also discussion and links provided to documents on the Full-Day Kindergarten Evaluation as well as The Ontario Early Years Policy Framework. And Best Start family centres.

The Ministry had asked for feedback from the Liaison Committee about approaches in various boards to diagnosis and identification in terms of DSM 5. It was reported that these issues are currently under discussion among psychologists, and that there would be 4 speakers on this at the OPA Convention. The differences between boards in terms of diagnosis vs., Identification was discussed. Some boards require a diagnosis, others don't require the diagnosis but instead elements of a learning disability including processing deficits as well as and an indication of need.

The Liaison Committee reported on the upcoming submission to the Ministry entitled "From Great to Excellent" by the OPA and SecPE, and that this would be shared with the Special Education Branch of the Ministry.

The Liaison Committee discussed possible upcoming registration regulation changes and the need for increased training spaces for psychologists at universities. There was a member of the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MTCU) at this Liaison Meeting, who spoke to the fact that MTCU is beginning focused work on facilitating transitions for students and communication between Ministries. A future connection with the OPA will be explored.

As well, a shared concern about the high demands for assessments to be done for the student as they enter university in order to access Disability Services was discussed. Concerns will be discussed more widely with MTCU, the Ministry Transition website link of MTCU would be shared when it is up and running and sharing information about assessment services at the universities with guidance staff in schools was suggested by the MTCU representative.

Update concerning meeting with Ministry concerning PPM 8

This meeting occurred in late November including the chair of the Liaison Committee, the chair of SecPE, a representative of the French Board, and a

representative of OAPA. Further consultations will be held, and the forecast implementation date is September 2014.

Update concerning submission to Ministry concerning “From Great to Excellent”

The submission from the educational sector included a response to 7 questions from the Ministry around skills needed by students and resources and supports for these issues.

Suggestions of skills included a variety of mental health and learning skills such as self-regulation, coping, communication, resiliency skills, as the need for more psychologists in the schools to address both early screening and primary and secondary prevention, as well as current needs. The importance of integrating mental health partners from outside the school board professionals was also discussed.

Submitted by **Dr. Carolyn Lennox, Chair, Ministry of Education Liaison Committee**

AUTO INSURANCE TASK FORCE

Committee Members: **Drs. Faith Kaplan (Co-Chair), Ron Kaplan (Co-Chair), Robert Gates, Doug Salmon, Amber Smith, Jane Storrie**

The OPA Auto Insurance Task Force was formed by the OPA Board in 1989 to advocate to government and the insurance industry for auto accident injury patients with psychological impairments including brain injuries and to provide education to the profession regarding the auto insurance system.

The transition in Ontario and Canada to austerity budgets in the last few years has been accompanied by a determined effort of the Ontario government to slow the growth of auto insurance premiums and actually reduce them. The minority Liberal government has responded to pressures from the opposition, notably the NDP, to reduce premiums. The current government has committed to a 15% reduction in premiums over two years.

The Task Force has presented and made submissions in a number of forums on several topics over the past year. These included: the legislative standing committee on General Government on all aspects of auto insurance; the Anti-Fraud Task Force; and the Dispute Resolution Review. The Task Force represented psychology at a Ministry of Finance Roundtable on Catastrophic Impairment. A joint submission on catastrophic impairment was prepared for the Ministry of Finance by OPA and CAPDA. A Task Force member has represented the Coalition of Health Professionals in Auto Insurance in bimonthly Health Claims for Auto Insurance (HCAI) and HCAI Antifraud meetings.

The first HCAI Data regarding costs of services has been issued by the IBC. Antifraud efforts have led to legislation and now implementation of a licensing system for health professionals to invoice HCAI.

The Financial Services Commission (FSCO) is now conducting a mandated three-year review of auto insurance and submissions are requested by March 2014. In addition, in 2014 we expect release of more data about the actual costs of auto insurance med/rehab services, implementation of business licensing of all providers, release of reports of the scientific panel reviewing treatments for minor (bodily soft tissue) injuries.

Therefore we expect that 2014 will again be a busy year for the Task Force. We have asked for volunteers to assist us in preparing the submission for the Three-Year Review. If you missed the request and are interested in participating in this work, please contact the Task Force c/o ron@kaplanpsychologists.com.

There will be a Task Force presentation at the OPA Annual Meeting in February, 2014.

Submitted by **Dr. Ron Kaplan, Chair, Auto Insurance Task Force**

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESSIBILITY TASK FORCE

Committee Members: **Drs. Albert Silver (Co-Chair), Rafaela DaVila (Co-Chair), Irwin Altrows, Alicia Araujo de Sorkin, John Service, Jane Storrie.**

We continue to promote engagement with psychologists, other mental health professionals, important stakeholders, and the general public in the campaign to establish mental health services accessibility in Ontario at the same level as services for physical health.

A letter addressed to the general public promoting participation on our campaign was published on May 9, 2013 in a special supplement for mental health in the National Post. While a contact with the media has been initiated, the issue of the social media and OPA's position needs to be clarified before we attempt to re-establish the connection.

A link for an e-advocacy campaign was available through the OPA website until November 2013, for OPA members and for the general public. Up to November 18, 2013 636 e-mails with letters were sent from this link. The link was removed from the OPA web-site on November 2013.

The written materials created by the MHATF were requested by the Practice Directorate of the Canadian Psychological Association to be used in their provinces and territories for similar campaigns.

Members of the MHATF met with the health critics, Hon. Christine Elliott (January 15, 2013) and Hon. Frances Gelinias (March 14, 2013). They are truly knowledgeable, interested in improving mental health for Ontarians, and keenly aware of the need for change of the delivery of mental health services.

Drs. Silver and DaVila met with Hon Cansfield, Etobicoke MPP three times, two of them in 2013, June 25, 2013 and September 13, 2013; she is fully supportive of MHATF's approach of mental health services to be provided at the primary care level and accessible as medical services. Hon. Cansfield accepted submitting a Private Member's bill promoting mental health services accessibility. She also offered assistance with the process, and distributing a letter in this regard to all MP's and MPP's in our behalf. The letter has as yet not been vetted.

A blog was created (mhatf.blogspot.ca) to inform the public about the importance of mental health services accessibility and promote participation in the e-advocacy campaign. Seven entries have been posted, the blog gets visited regularly, to date we had over 11997 visits. Particularly relevant to this issue was the development of an approved disclaimer statement by OPA.

We created a twitter account (@mhatf-mih) and a Facebook account (mhatf-mih). Over the summer a volunteer sociology student, with appropriate skills helped us with the social media. We submitted information that would be used in the Facebook account for vetting to OPA; to date we did not receive feedback. Consequently these accounts designed to enlist vital public support and information are not active.

Submitted by **Dr. Rafaela Davila, Co-Chair, Mental Health Accessibility Task Force**

CPA PRACTICE DIRECTORATE (PD) AND COUNCIL OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY (CPAP)

OPA Representative: **Dr. Connie Kushnir**

MANDATE

The mandate of the Practice Directorate (PD) is to support and advance professional psychology through collective advocacy. It is based upon the shared commitment to meet the advocacy needs of the practice of psychology across Canada's fourteen jurisdictions. Trust, good faith and a collective commitment to the common good of psychology are keys to success.

The PD has a Directing Council drawn from representatives of the provincial, territorial and national associations. The Practice Directorate meets twice per year, once during the CPA annual convention and once in January.

The Council of Provincial Associations of Psychology (CPAP) meets at the same time as the PD and consists of the same representatives as the Directing Council of the PD.

The following is a summary of the highlights of the activities of the Practice Directorate and CPAP over the past year.

A New Director

Ms. Amy Barnard was been hired as the Manager of the Practice Directorate and started in this role in June. Ms. Barnard is the first non-psychologist to be hired in this role.

Psychological Services: The Business Case

In May, CPA released "An Imperative for Change: Access to Psychological Services for Canada", the first business case for psychological services in this country. It is a landmark report that strengthens the importance of the profession of psychology. One of the key strengths of the report is that it was commissioned from independent health economists and health policy specialists. The information and recommendations do not come from psychology but from impartial external experts.

The report's recommendations strongly support the advocacy positions taken by OPA and other associations in Canada. For example, it calls for increased access to psychological therapies, the integration of psychologists into primary care practices, increased psychological services in secondary and tertiary care and the expansion of private insurance to more Canadians with more realistic benefit amounts. The recommendations are based on a comprehensive analysis of domestic and international programs and data. CPA was very open and collaborative, consulting with the Practice Directorate throughout the process.

It was suggested that each provincial/territorial association send the report to MPPs in their jurisdictions and OPA has done so. In July, Dr. Service and I wrote a letter describing the report, a link to the full report and, an attachment with a summary of the report. This letter was sent to the following Ontario government ministries: Health; Education; Children and Youth, Community and Social Services, Aboriginal Affairs, Community Safety and Correctional Services, Finance. Responses were received from several ministries, with an invitation to meet with Ministry staff about the report.

Supply, Demand and Need of Psychologists in Canada

This was an invitation only event of approximately 75 persons from within psychology's communities of science, education and practice in addition to invitations extended to external partners (e.g. government and non-government agencies involved in human resource planning). The event sought to include the participation of scientists, practitioners (defined broadly to include applied psychologists), and educators (teachers, trainers and students). I attended the conference as the OPA representative of the PD.

The purpose of the meeting was:

1. To hear from organizations within and outside of psychology about what we know about students, practitioners, scientists, trainers and faculty in psychology.
2. To identify the data needs and gaps that will enable the discipline and profession to better plan for its future and chart its contributions across Canada's many sectors.
3. Develop a strategic plan and its associated activities to fill data gaps and hone psychology's capacity to contribute to the health and well-being of Canadians.

There were 3 plenary sessions offered around these three purposes. Further details are available on the CPA website. It is expected that the formal proceedings from the conference will be published in the very near future. Some of the outcomes from the conference are being incorporated into action plans for the PD.

Negotiating Contracts with Third Party Payers

The PD compiled a fee schedule/recommended rates for third party payers across Canada. It is expected that this will be useful for each jurisdiction when negotiating new contracts.

Issues with Insurers

In Nova Scotia and Manitoba, some insurers are not covering psychological services offered by students and interns even when the registered psychologist is in the room observing the student/intern. This is a significant issue for students trying to get supervised hours post-internship. The PD asked each association to determine if this is an issue in their jurisdiction, and no other association indicated that it was. Fifty-four OPA members responded to a survey about this issue. 15 responders (28%) indicated that they have either had payment refused by insurers or that they had heard of this happening. Of this group: five indicated that the supervisees had been on the Temporary Register; five indicated that the supervisees were non-regulated persons; and the remaining five did not specify. In some of these instances the psychologists was able to have the decision reversed. The PD is exploring options to manage this issue.

Mind Your Mental Health Campaign

The "Mind Your Mental Health Campaign" developed by the Manitoba Psychological Society has been taken nationally by CPA. Associations across the country have agreed to participate in the campaign. The full scale launch of the campaign will be in February for Psychology Month.

Strategic Planning

A strategic planning session was held and the following strategic goals were agreed upon.

1. Provide continuing professional development that enhances the competence and effectiveness of psychologists within each provincial and territorial association while at the same time improves the overall delivery of mental health services for all Canadians.

2. Ensuring that the value of the discipline is understood by the public and policy makers and those in mental health services delivery, additionally that the PD and participating associations are seen as a large contributor of regional strategies related to mental health care in Canada.
3. Continue to serve the needs of the council and participating associations through supporting initiatives that will strengthen membership through resources and organizational responsiveness.

A number of action plans were agreed upon and members will be informed as these goals are accomplished.

For more information on the Practice Directorate, please go to the CPA web site at <http://www.cpa.ca/practitioners/practicedirectorate/>.

COUNCIL OF PROVINCIAL ASSOCIATIONS IN PSYCHOLOGY (CPAP)

The by-laws of CPAP were revised in order to comply with the Federal Not-for-Profit Act, and these were voted on and passed at the January meeting.

Submitted by **Dr. Connie Kushnir, OPA Representative, CPAP and Practice Directorate Council**

APA COUNCIL OF REPRESENTATIVES

OPA Representative: **Dr. Doug Saunders**

During 2013, the APA Council of Representatives (COR) met in Washington DC for its mid-winter meeting and in Honolulu, Hawaii during the APA Convention in August. A major organizational theme for this year has been the recommendation of Good Governance Project (GGP). At the August Council meeting, the Council was asked to consider fundamental options for re-structuring the Council of Representatives and associated Committees to better represent the various factions within the decision-making structure of APA.

In the August meeting, the APA President for 2013, Don Bersoff, identified three important priorities that were being implemented during his tenure as President:

- The first was a Convention program developed to review and evaluate the provision of psychological services to military personnel, veterans and families as well as those sexually harassed in service.
- The second plans to advance psychological knowledge that benefits society and improves people's lives by retaining and attracting academicians and scientists to become APA members (fostered by an April Board retreat brainstorm followed up at the October Board retreat developed plans for reaching out to the scientific psychology community)
- The identification of three innovative doctoral programs that had admitted, retained and graduated students from diverse ethnic cultures to promote and better serve diverse minority populations

Among other issues that were finally settled within the APA were changes to the APA policy regarding psychologists working in National Security settings and the Reaffirmation of the APA position against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhumane and Degrading Treatment and Punishment.

- The first amendment prohibits psychologists from working in unlawful detention settings except when they are working for the detainees; independent third parties working to protect human rights or providing psychological services to military personnel on-site. It included recognition of settings that have conditions of confinement that constitute torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.
- The second amendment called upon the United States Government to prohibit the use of torture or cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment by individuals in interrogations and other detainee operations. It also expressed APA's intention to prohibit psychologists from participating in such methods and working in these settings.

The GGP (Good Governance Project) team held several virtual town halls during the Spring and Summer of 2013 prior to the Council meeting at the Convention to obtain further input in regards to the three basic designs for the APA Governance prototypes for the 2014 February Council meeting. Resolutions passed at the August meeting of Council in this regard included those that:

- Support enhanced technology use to engage members and facilitate Governance
- Broaden opportunities for leadership participation and development
- Enhance COR's role in ensuring that APA's policies are aligned with APA's mission and strategic plan
- Delegate fiduciary responsibility to the APA Board of Directors on a three year trial basis
- Alter the composition of the APA Board of Directors to include 6 members-at-large, 4 members elected by Council
- Establish an Implementation Work Group (IWG) to develop implementation and transition plans to present to Council at the February 2014 COR meeting

More broadly, the APA leadership has continued with the Strategic Plan. They have allocated \$2 million for the following seven initiatives:

- Assessing and restructuring APA business models to enhance member engagement and value (build out from APA on-line communities and member services);
- Conduct ongoing analysis of current and future demand for psychology workforce to meet national needs;
- Continue to develop and promulgate treatment guidelines (depression, obesity);

- Evolve and expand public education campaigns (PEC) to include the entire discipline of psychology; a PEC initiative on 'willpower'; and a new campaign to show off psychology research labs;
- Promote opportunities for graduate and continued PD to advance psychology in health, especially in interdisciplinary settings;
- Reduce health disparities among underserved/marginalized populations (obesity, addictions, and substance abuse)
- Forge strategic alliances with health care organizations to include psychology in integrated health services

With regard to fiscal matters, APA council report steady increases in assets but anticipated further decreases in membership revenue in 2013, due primarily to lower membership numbers. The operating revenue for 2012 was even with budget; operating expenses lower; and the overall operating margin was less than a few thousand \$\$\$. The APA revenues are anchored by three primary sources of funds

1. Real estate: buildings remain fully leased. Their asset value at present is \$60M & \$62 M respectively; both buildings were refinanced and the mortgages paid off in 20 years. These investments contribute \$6M annually of which \$3.5M goes into the operating budget, and \$2.5M is invest in APA strategic plan initiatives.
2. Long term investments: had eased off somewhat from 2011 but maintained a more than acceptable overall annualized return.
3. Invest in APA plan ---13.5M over 5 years --\$8.5M operating margin in 2010 (due to sales of APA Resource Manual plus 2010 R&D Transfer 1.2M and 3.1M operating margin from 2011; and small margin in 2012
4. 2013 Membership Dues of \$10.8 M vs. 2008, 2009 15M

Overall \$80M revenues to the overall contribution to the annual budget

Staffing (largest expense item)

2009 – 630
 2010 – 543
 2011 – 555
 2012 – 575
 2013 – 566

Specific increases in staff FTEs will now be allocated for the 'Invest in APA' project

Plans continue apace to build a special 'Investment in APA' fund to preserve and grow the APA publications stream by creating new (typically electronic) products, expand the organization's marketing efforts and enhance APA's infrastructure (primarily IT) to support this expansion.

In 2013, the new communication tool exclusively for APA members. **APA Access** is an e-newsletter that will be distributed to all APA members twice a month. The newsletter, part of the initiative to foster greater member engagement is intended

to keep APA members update twice a month on APA activities, achievements, services and products in an attractive and easy-to-access format.

As the Ontario representative on Council, my role includes liaising between Council and OPA, as well as representing OPA and Ontario members at Council meetings regarding both services and governance. I make use of the OPA members listserve to keep members updated regarding APA activities, opportunities, and information. I also provide information, linkage, and support to OPA members seeking information about APA. Finally I try to inform APA of relevant OPA activities and initiatives.

Submitted by **Dr. Doug Saunders, APA Council Representative**

SECTIONS

SECTION ON PSYCHOLOGY IN EDUCATION

Section President: **Dr. Debra Lean**

This report was previously presented at the Section on Psychology in Education (SecPE) Annual General Meeting, Sala Caboto, Columbus Centre, October 24, 2013

SecPE remains a strong advocate for students in Ontario schools. This is especially important as school boards in Ontario are entering their second year working with the "Mental Health Workers in School" and "Mental Health and Addictions Nurses (MHAN) in Schools" program through the province's three-year Mental Health and Addictions Strategy for Children and Youth. As well, in the 2013-14 school year, all Ontario school boards are participating in School Mental Health ASSIST and all have a mental health lead, many of whom have been recruited from their school board's psychology department.

SecPE continues to make more education and mental health stakeholders aware that school psychology staff are the school's mental health experts and have the most training, knowledge and skills for diagnosing mental health disorders in addition to learning and developmental disabilities. These practitioners work in Psychology Departments in the majority of school boards in Ontario, and include Psychologists, Psychological Associates and supervised non-registered psychology practitioners. SecPE continues its cordial and supportive relationship with the Ontario Association of Psychological Associates. This connection benefits both groups and allows us to speak with a united voice on behalf of the students of Ontario, and our own profession of school psychology.

The Dorothy Hill Memorial Symposium was held in October, 2012 at the Columbus Centre in midtown Toronto. Dr. Jonathan Weiss presented on psychological treatment for mental health problems in youth with Asperger's Syndrome, Dr. Tracy Solomon and Peter Chaban presented on the Tools of the Mind research study at the Hospital for Sick Children. Tools of the Mind is an early child education program

that promotes self-regulation. Dr. Ester Cole presented on the ABC's of Mental Health, a re-launch of the popular child and youth mental health intervention website with strategies for teachers and parents. Feedback was very positive about the presentations and the venue.

The Ministry Liaison Committee continues to have ongoing meetings with the Ministry of Education with regard to Bill 157 and other initiatives. Jointly with OAPA, ACPOSB and school social workers, new PPMs to replace 144 and 145 were released. These PPMs modify the expectations for school psychology and social work staff regarding reporting student behaviour that may be subject to suspension or expulsion.

Drs. Maria Kokai, Debra Lean and Carolyn Lennox continued their work on the adaptation of CPA's Professional Practice Guidelines for School Psychology to produce a set of guidelines specific to Ontario. The document was widely circulated for input and was approved by the OPA Board to be released through the OPA website in September, 2013. Hard copies were ordered and are available at the Symposium today.

SecPE Council has taken the lead in organizing the addition of poster sessions for students and practitioners at the OPA Convention starting in February, 2013. Despite Toronto's worst snowstorm of the year, the poster session was very successful.

The 2013 SecPE Award of Merit was presented at the OPA convention to Dr. Patrick Carney for his support and advocacy work for school psychology.

SecPE, through the OPA, is a member of the Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health. SecPE set up an OPA table at the Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health in October, 2012.

Submitted by **Dr. Debra Lean, President, Section on Psychology in Education**

SECTION ON INDEPENDENT PRACTICE

Section President: **Dr. Donna Reist**

The Section on Independent Practice (SIP) was revived in December 2013. An interim executive was appointed consisting of the following members:

President:	Dr. Donna Reist
President-Elect:	Dr. Carolyn Moss
Vice President:	Dr. Lori Dyni
Treasurer:	Dr. Madhu Bardwaj
Counsellor:	Dr. Sonia Singh

The current SIP membership of approximately 113 OPA members has accumulated \$25,379.23 in previous earnings and accumulated dues.

The new Executive has submitted an introduction of the SIP to the OPA membership via email and has also submitted a piece to OnPsych. Currently the Executive is working to identify the needs, ideas and suggestions of the membership going forward. To this end, a SIP table hosted by the Executive members will be at the annual conference February 7 & 8th and an online survey will also be distributed to the membership

Submitted by **Dr. Donna Reist, President, Section on Independent Practice**