

## MEMBER EDUCATION

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The OPA also provides updates to its membership regarding current issues and initiatives, as well as opportunities for continuing education.

- *Psychology Ontario* is a quarterly publication that includes information about OPA activities and issues relevant to professional psychology in Ontario. Articles also address topics such as: ethical issues, issues in education and training, and professional well-being,
- The Annual Convention provides an opportunity to connect with colleagues, present your work, and learn from others. The focus of the 2001 Convention is “Meeting the Challenges of Change”.
- Continuing education courses such as “Legal, Professional and Ethical Issues in Psychology,” “Behavioural Treatment of Childhood Anxiety Disorders”, and, “Treating Victims of Crime: Learning from the Victim” presented by Dawna Speers, Debbie Mahaffy and Kent Laidlaw from the Office for Victims of Crime.

*Remember - Any organization is only as successful as its members - Get involved in forming the direction of psychology in Ontario.*



What is the ...

**Ontario  
Psychological  
Association**



Ontario Psychological Association

730 Yonge Street, Suite #221  
Toronto, ON M4Y 2B7  
Phone (416) 961-5552  
E-mail: [opa@psych.on.ca](mailto:opa@psych.on.ca)  
<http://www.psych.on.ca/>

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# WHAT IS THE OPA?

The Ontario Psychological Association (OPA) is the professional organization that represents psychologists and psychological associates residing in the province. Established in 1947, this voluntary association is committed to advancing psychology as an independent profession of the highest ethical standards.

The OPA is dedicated to the advancement of the profession of psychology in the province of Ontario, with the goals of benefiting the members of the Association and the betterment of the public whom they serve.

The OPA devotes its time to monitoring and addressing issues across the broad spectrum of human services that impact on the practice of psychology and on the recipients of these services. This advocacy role allows individual practitioners to focus primarily on the day-to-day needs of their clientele.



# SOME ACTIVITIES OF THE OPA

The following is a sample of OPA activities and initiatives. It is intended to provide you with a general sense of what OPA has to offer you, and is based on its' 1999 Annual report.

## ADVOCACY

OPA advocates for its members and the public at a policy level. For instance:

- OPA brought to its members' attention a proposal by the College to change the title of "Psychological Associate" to "Associate Psychologist" and encouraged members to voice their opinions on this issue.
- The RHPA Review Task Force responded to the 5 Year Review Process of the Regulated Health Professions Act initiated by the government of Ontario. This process will have important implications for the status and evolution of the profession of psychology as a health-services provider in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- The Auto Insurance Task Force speaks to issues related to the provision of assessment and treatment/rehabilitation services to crash victims.

- The Ministry of Education and Training Liaison Committee advocates for the maintenance and enhancement of psychological services within the school system.
- OPA works to identify other areas where psychological services are needed, and strives to establish new partnerships; such as developing a relationship with the Office for Victims of Crime of the Ministry of The Attorney General.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

OPA is continuously working to raise the public's awareness of the contribution that psychology can make to improve mental health and well being. Two recent initiatives are:

- "An Hour with a Psychologist". This project provided members of the business community one free hour with a local psychologist in which they had an opportunity to learn more about the services that psychologists provide.
- "Psychology in Everyday Life". This public outreach event gives the community at large an opportunity to learn about what psychology has to offer.