



CAPL Newsletter

CAPL · ACPD

June 2014

Message from the President – Dr. Johann Brink



It is with great pleasure that I write this as the new President of CAPL. First, I want to thank Paul Fedoroff for his stellar work on our behalf as President. Under his tenure we benefited from an ever improving working relationship with the CPA. On behalf of CAPL and the CPA we saw our position on what is now C-14 communicated clearly in publications, submissions and presentations to the Parliamentary and Senate subcommittees. CAPL submitted a further position to the Senate subcommittee but the hearings proceeded without viva voce submissions from us. As we know, C-14 received Royal assent on April 11, 2014 and will take effect on July 11, 2014.

I want to thank also Dominique Bourget and her colleagues on the Program Committee, as well as Chantal Goddard, for organising an interesting and ever evolving Annual Winter Conference. The Conference, held in Lake Louise, was opened by Dr. Michael Teehan, President of the CPA, who entertained us with some “Facts, Figures and Stories”.

As a highlight of the conference, Renee Roy was presented the Bruno Cormier award for her exemplary leadership and tireless work over decades to advance the stature of forensic psychiatry in Canada. Congratulations Renee!!

Conference presentations ranged across a broad swath of forensic psychiatric interests, all were informative, all thought provoking and all providing opportunity for enhancement of our practice. The presentation by John Bradford, Lisa Ramshaw and Graham Glance on the important trend in pressuring forensic psychiatrists to permit or participate in video recording evaluations resulted in lively debate with attendees supporting the notion that video recording not be accepted as standard practice and supporting further discussion and debate. The conference offered presentations on early learnings and challenges from the PGY6 training sites, service delivery models, filicide, stalking, sexual deviance and treatment approaches, trauma related clinical issues in military veterans, and practical pointers related to civil psychiatry. Presentations on the role of forensic psychiatry in “Dying with Dignity”, the Ashley Smith inquest, mental health law, attachment and recovery, intimacy issues in psychiatric hospitals, suicide prevention and DBT treatment approaches in youth, and legal complexities related to international travel for NCRMD accused, provided a rich mix of scientific, practical, and clinical content. The Conference continues to evolve in excellence and I would urge all members to come and join us in Quebec City next year!

Members will receive in the next month or so a survey regarding desired venue and timing of the Annual Winter Conference. As you know, the meetings have benefited from settings with spectacular scenery, skiing opportunities, and a warm, collegial and informative gathering of peers with a shared forensic psychiatric interest. The Executive (Johann Brink, Sandy Simpson, Joel Watts, Brad Booth, Vicky Roth and Phil Klassen) wants to ensure that the conference remains attentive and responsive to members’ preferences, and you will thus receive a survey that will canvass your views regarding preferred time and settings for the meetings, and whether co-locating with the CPA conference should be explored.

You will note our new logo that we trust will meet with your favour. It is intended to retain our core identity while reflecting in the choice of colour and design, energy, greater autonomy and individuality as the voice for forensic psychiatry in Canada.

Our website redesign is underway with user friendly, easy to navigate and informative content as guiding principles. Stay tuned!

We now have the benefit of legal opinion, and I will communicate to you under separate cover, much needed clarification regarding the CAPL bylaws, specifically regarding the election and terms of office of the Executive.

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter, reports from the Quebec and the newly formed BC section of CAPL. As with the Quebec section, the BC chapter promises to be

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Graham Glancy, 1993 - 1997
John Bradford, 1989 - 1993

For our Next Issue...

Please submit your articles, interesting facts or information you would like to have inserted in our next newsletter our new

a fruitful vehicle for engaging colleagues in the discussion of local issues and recruitment to CAPL membership. The BC chapter last week kicked off with an education day jointly organised with the UBC Division of Forensic Psychiatry that received enthusiastic support.

CAPL Administrator

Pamela Hicks

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CAPL continues to grow and I ask that you encourage your colleagues, and especially trainees, to consider becoming a member of CAPL.

Forensic Psychiatry Review Course – Dr. Lisa Ramshaw

The first Canadian Forensic Psychiatry Review Course (endorsed by CAPL) was held at Hart House at the University of Toronto from June 10 to 14, 2013. It covered all the major areas of forensic psychiatry. The Course was highly successful, with almost one hundred attendees from across Canada. It was great to see everyone, to have the opportunity to be together, to observe the collegiality, and to have highly valued discussions from such a diverse group with a broad range of expertise within the field. The feedback and formal evaluations were very positive overall.

The Canadian Forensic Psychiatry Review Course was developed in order to provide a review for the forensic psychiatry examination. The Course will be repeated from July 23 to 25, 2014. It will be shorter (three days instead of five), and smaller. It will also be more review-oriented than exam-oriented. We envision that the course will become an annual or biannual event, providing an opportunity for our forensic psychiatry colleagues to maintain their expertise. The intention will be to provide an update for forensic psychiatrists and an overview for other professionals interested and/or working in the area. It is our hope in continuing to develop the Canadian Forensic Psychiatry Review Course to collaborate more with our colleagues across Canada, for greater communication, knowledge, and collegiality.

Lisa Ramshaw, Treena Wilkie, Hy Bloom, Jeff Miller (co-organizers)

News from the Quebec branch of CAPL – Dr. Joel Watts



Summer has finally arrived and our branch has profited from the seasonal spirit of renewal in our various advocacy activities, particularly within the psychiatric community in Quebec. Our executive has had useful and productive meetings with our provincial psychiatric association (l'Association de médecins psychiatres du Québec/AMPQ) and we are encouraged by their openness to hear our concerns. We hope to foster the same kind of relationship that CAPL and CPA share, especially with regards to issues of public concern, such as forensic cases attracting the attention of the media. CAPL-QC is also awaiting the proposed medico-legal practice guidelines of the Collège des médecins du Québec this summer. They had consulted several professional groups on the development of new guidelines in the wake of several high profile forensic cases and positions taken publicly by organisations such as the AMPQ. We are also waiting for the Collège to allow us to use the official title "forensic psychiatrist", but we are told this could take a year. We would like to thank CAPL members who voiced their solidarity with us after we shared the developments on these issues during the annual conference in Lake Louise.

Our executive would like to recognize the contributions of Dr Pierre Gagné, who has decided to step down from our executive after serving since our inception as a branch. Dr Marie-Frédérique Allard has aptly replaced him after being appointed at a meeting of our members this spring.

We look forward to further developments on the reorganising and restructuring of forensic services within the province of Quebec. These are challenging times, especially given provincial budget cuts to health services, but plans are in the works on several levels to implement these badly need changes. Given the large number of forensic patients distributed across a large number of designated facilities who have limited forensic training and forensic-specific resources, the challenge is massive, even within the region of Montreal.

Lastly, we are already getting excited to have the CAPL annual conference in Quebec City in March 2015. This is a great venue (Chateau Frontenac), a beautiful city and should be a fantastic conference. The last time we held the annual meeting in Quebec City, we had record attendance and a vibrant francophone program. Let's continue the tradition!!!

Joel Watts
CAPL-QC Vice-President
CAPL Secretary

CAPL BC – Dr. Todd Tomita

The newly formed CAPL BC Regional Chapter elected its inaugural executive committee. Members include:

Chair: Dr. Todd Tomita
Vice Chair: Dr. Rakesh Lamba
Secretary: Dr. David Morgan
Member-at-Large: Dr. Jeanette Smith

On May 30, 2014, CAPL BC co-sponsored a forensic psychiatry day with the UBC Division of Forensic Psychiatry. It was held at the UBC Robson Square campus in Vancouver. It was very well attended with 30 forensic psychiatrists and psychologists participating. There were also 5 UBC psychiatry residents ranging from PGY1 to PGY5 who attended. Topics for the day included a half day workshop conducted by Dr. Stephen Hart on the HCR-20 version 3. Dr. Hart also provided an update on honour-based violence and an introduction to the PATRIARCH risk assessment tool. Dr. Tonia Nichols presented the results from the National Trajectory Project on the clinical characteristics and recidivism rates of the NCRMD population in BC, Ontario, and Quebec. It is our hope that future CAPL BC activities, such as this will boost participation by our BC CAPL colleagues and encourage others to join CAPL.

Royal College Specialty Committee Update

A large number of forensic psychiatrists across our country can now breathe a lot more easily since they have studied for, attended courses for, written the examination and passed the examination.

This has almost felt like something of a refractory period for many practicing forensic psychiatrists after the anxiety and stress of being examined in an area of professed competence. Although there were more than a few concerns expressed about the examination, the relief of having passed examination and being able to proudly say that one is a forensic psychiatrist, has been visible and likely palpable for many of us.

The examination board that worked so hard to develop a series of questions has now geared up for the second examination this fall. A smaller group of psychiatrists with special expertise in the area of forensic psychiatry (sic) will write the examination this year, and likely a smaller group in years to come. We can now safely say that now our specialty is populated by a large group of forensic psychiatrists who are certified by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and by doing so has elevated the proficiency and standardization of our profession.

Other forensic psychiatry programs have come on stream recently. We anticipate that Alberta and British Columbia will add forensic residents imminently. Already Toronto and Ottawa can say they have established forensic psychiatry residencies. Montréal will soon follow and we anticipate that McMaster University will have its fellowship/forensic psychiatry residency up and running by next year.

The Royal College Specialty Committee in Forensic Psychiatry, the stewards of the profession, continues to meet regularly and update the critical documents that define training, supervision and administration in our specialty. We review the documents supplied by programs applying for accreditation and for reaccreditation. We also ensure that the applicants for writing the examination through the practice eligibility route meet the criterion defined. The examination board reports into our committee and we continue to maintain a healthy relationship with the national specialty society, CAPL.

Many of us on the committee have been working in this area for several years now, initially as part of the working group and then after the formal recognition of forensic psychiatry by the Royal College, as the specialty committee. For most of us this will be our last two year term. Dr. Brad Booth currently vice chair, is now chair elect and will take over the specialty committee in two years. We will be looking for forensic psychiatrists to join the specialty committee, hopefully forensic psychiatrists who have examination! As you know being a member of the committee precludes you from writing examination for a period of time. We will be reaching out to you over the next while for people to represent the regions across Canada.

This has been extremely hard work but also extremely rewarding work, and your committee looks forward to continuing to serve our new specialty, and all Canadian forensic psychiatrists.

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