

CPA Practice Directorate Update January, 2012

Plans for Psychology Month were at the top of the list of issues discussed during the recent winter meeting of the CPA Practice Directorate (PD) held in Ottawa on January 14th and 15th, 2012. Canada's psychological associations agreed on a strategy to provide Canada's health ministers with the same messages going into their important meeting to be held in Winnipeg in mid February. The meeting is focused on mental health promotion and prevention with a particular emphasis on children, youth and families. Psychology will be represented through invitations to PD Chair and Manitoba Psychological Society President, Andrea Piotrowski and CPA Chief Executive Officer, Karen Cohen.

The national advocacy campaign developed in consultation with Delta Media will be launched in February by all associations through a central web site. The national survey, whose results are very interesting and available at <http://www.cpa.ca/polls/> was the first step. (These results were previously made available to PAA members in the fall of 2011). Based on the results, associations will begin contacting key stakeholder groups (professionals and patient advocacy groups) to work together to improve access to psychological services in particular and mental health and health psychology services in general.

Policy positions were taken regarding the prevention of concussions in sport and recreation, parity in public funding for mental and physical health services, recovery as an important principle in mental health and patient centered services that provide the most appropriate services for patients and clients in the most timely and cost effective manner.

The Directorate was introduced to Meagan Hatch, CPA's new Manager of Government Relations. Meagan is available to assist the Practice Directorate and to provide guidance to individual associations. She comes to CPA with four years experience as a political staff person on Parliament Hill, several years of experience in the private lobbying business and one year with the Canadian Psychiatric Association. She led a discussion regarding lobbying and advocacy. One of the highlights of the meeting was a Meagan led excursion onto Parliament Hill on Saturday night to a reception held by Liberals during their National Convention.

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

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