



AGM 2016

# Executive Director's Report

Once again, I am pleased to be here with you all as part of our diverse, talented, energetic, and engaging community of psychologists. Manitoba Psychological Society represents a significant proportion of Manitoba psychologists and I am pleased to see so many of you here today. In meetings with other executive directors of associations across Canada and the United States, I have been met with envy and astonishment when they have learned that 80% of registered psychologists in Manitoba belong to MPS. This proportion is far higher than that of almost all other comparable associations.

MPS has continued to actively pursue opportunities to increase access to psychological services, provide more and better services to members, educate the public about the role of psychology and topics related to psychology, and provide top-notch continuing education. MPS responds to issues related to mental health via media, participates in national organizations, cooperates with community mental health groups, responds to requests from the community, and explores the needs of diverse groups within that community. We are very pleased to have your support in these endeavours.

I will be brief this year, as Dr. Piotrowski has documented in detail the numerous initiatives and successes of Manitoba Psychological Society during this whirlwind of a year. It has been a great pleasure to have worked alongside with her, in her tireless and dedicated efforts, although I sometimes have needed to run to keep up! It also has been terrific to work with the great group of people on our Board. Thank you, Andrea and the Board, for helping to make my job as satisfying as it has been.

Last year, I reported on the very significant changes to our website, and in registration for membership and events. We now have had one year to address any minor glitches and improve the system, and have continued to have excellent usage. Over the past year, 27,929 unique page views to the website; 7,916 of these have been to the Find a Psychologist page. Approximately 150 emails were sent via the website (in addition to numerous calls to our phone number).

During the past couple of years, MPS has discontinued creating newsletters and, instead, has been sending monthly Eblasts to all members. We hope that these Eblasts have served the purpose of keeping members more up-to-date with our initiatives and have provided useful, current information relevant to our practice as psychologists. We welcome your feedback about this change.

Our Ethics Consultation Service officially launched last year and the committee (Drs. Len Greenwood, Bruce Tefft, Jaye Miles, Don Stewart, and Norah Vincent) has been available for consultation to members about ethical dilemmas. There have been only a few requests to date but the ERS has been able to provide in-depth perspectives culled from each member of the committee. This type of consultation offers the type of guidance and highlighting of various considerations related to an issue that is unlikely to be found in a one-on-one consultation with a colleague.

MPS's superb continuing education offerings and annual meeting or conference continue to be well-attended. Once again, the Board decided not to hold a Members' Night this year but, in honour of our anniversary, plan to hold a very special celebration, as our President has announced. What a fabulous opportunity to review and pay homage to years of work and achievement! Please count on joining us.

The Board has been contemplating ways in which MPS can speak to social and political issues that have an impact on mental health and well-being. We have formed a Social Action Committee, comprised of Board members and, eventually, other members who would like to participate in this effort. The first task of the committee will be to develop guidelines to help determine to which issues, and in what manner, it would be appropriate and beneficial for MPS to respond or to initiate action. We look forward to your opinions and direction, perhaps at today's Town Hall meeting.

The work of MPS could not proceed without the indispensable efforts of our Administrative Assistant, Heidi Tucker, and our Webmaster, Mokhtar Joundi. In addition to being efficient, organized, accessible, and cooperative, Heidi is an absolute delight to have as an administrative partner and support. Mokhtar provides creative technical solutions for our website and membership services, and responds round-the-clock to questions and requests. The beautiful emails that you now receive are designed by him.

As well, I want to highlight the contribution of our student representative, Julie Erickson, in organizing the Student Poster Competition for this year's Conference. We wish Julie the very best as she begins her clinical internship next fall in Toronto, but (oh boy) will we miss her excellent, active contribution to the work of the Board.

To close, I am delighted to announce some exciting news! For the first time, we have applied for and received two grants. MPS was awarded \$2500 from the CPA Practice Directorate grant fund to produce promotional materials regarding psychology in Manitoba. Our plan, once these materials are produced, is to make them available to our members.

In addition, we have been awarded an APA Practice Organization (APAPO) Organizational Development Grant of \$5000 (U.S. dollars) by the Committee for the Advancement of Professional Practice. The monies were granted to help fund the Executive Director duties and office functions (including member/organizational initiatives), as well as to fund training, consultation, and assistance by a government relations expert. Over the coming months, we will determine the specific uses for these much-welcome funds.

On that very positive note, I wish you a successful remainder of today's meeting and thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director during this, our 50th anniversary year.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Sztaba, Ph.D., C. Psych.  
Executive Director