



MANITOBA PSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SOCIÉTÉ DES PSYCHOLOGUES DU MANITOBA

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Since July, 2012, I have had the privilege of working with your MPS Board in the capacity of Executive Director. This Board is composed of a very fine group of dynamic, energetic, action-oriented (and, as a bonus, very pleasant) individuals. As our President will chronicle in his report, the MPS Board has been engaged in a number of key tasks during the past year: the Mind your Mental Health Campaign, with a number of efforts to increase access to psychologists in Manitoba; many requests for representation in the media; writing responses to issues raised in the media and articles relevant to the practice of psychology; advocating for immediate changes in legislation to allow incorporation by psychologists; research into salary inequities in the public health system; affiliation with CPA's CPAP and Practice Directorate; developing alliances with the Manitoba College of Family Physicians; another engaging Member's Night; and advocacy for the right of psychologists to use the honorific "Dr.", which increasingly has been claimed as the sole right of physicians, both by some physician groups and by the media.

As your contracted Executive Director, I have teamed with the Board to some extent on all of these initiatives. It's been a great learning curve and somewhat of a shift from my years of doing regulatory work. I am blessed to work closely with our President, Dr. Abdulrehman and our Past-President, Dr. Piotrowski, both of whom appear to have boundless enthusiasm and energy for psychology advocacy, and who have been very patient with me as I have learned the ropes. We have sometimes met with roadblocks, of course, but they have moved tirelessly forward with optimism, nonetheless. I appreciate and admire their efforts and the opportunity to have been part of the MPS team.

As well, I am fortunate to have the wise, good-humoured, and supportive mentorship of Dr. Len Greenwood, the past Executive Director, as well as the cheery, thoughtful and experienced guidance and assistance of our Administrative Assistant, Ms Heidi Tucker. I owe much thanks to them as well.

AFFILIATIONS

Canadian Psychological Association * American Psychological Association
Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists

It also has been a great pleasure to attend monthly Board meetings with the entire Board, a fine group of psychologists who volunteer their time on your behalf for the betterment of Psychology in our province. They all, too, have shown great support and patience for me during my first months on the job. My thanks to all of our Board members.

The successes and progress of MPS are dependent not only on the work of the Board, but also on the support and action of our entire membership. It is critical that the membership responds, in person and in writing, when MPS champions a cause, particularly when it involves request for political action. Some of you already do keep abreast of issues related to Psychology in the media and also in government decisions, and communicate your opinions very effectively. The more that MPS members take this action, the more effective we all will be in ensuring access to Psychology, appropriate respect for and use of psychologists in health care, and adequate compensation. Even if a particular issue does not appear to be directly related to your current work, do consider advocating, even in small ways, on behalf of the profession as a whole. What benefits some of us now will benefit all of us as a profession, now and in the future.

I look forward to continuing our challenging and valuable work together.

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

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