



AGM 2015

Communications & Public Education Report

Dear Members,

During the past year, there were a number of psychologists who were interviewed by media (radio, television, newspaper) with Press Releases sent to media each month on a variety of topics. This collaboration has been advantageous for MPS to reach a greater number of media outlets resulting in more interviews by members of our Society. More specifically, MPS was responsible in writing Press Releases on Summer Vacation Stress (July), Mental Health Awareness Week (October), Ottawa Shootings (October), Diabetes Month (November), MPS endorses plan to increase access to necessary psychological services (November), Holiday Blues (December) and Psychology Month (February).

MPS would like to thank everyone who agreed to do interviews with media during this past year. Any member of MPS interested in doing interviews with media are invited to submit their names, contact information, and areas of expertise to Dr. Jeffery Harvey (Communications@mps.ca).

In terms of Public Education, activities this past year have focused primarily on Psychology Month, monthly Press Releases, adding more talks throughout the year, and promoting the Mind Your Mental Health Campaign. Our dedicated MPS members and other psychology colleagues provided an excellent display of Psychology Month events this February.

Here's how it all shaped up:

- 17 Talks open to the general public
- 2 Media interviews
- 2 Talks for specific invited audiences
- 100 Psychology Month Posters distributed
- 500 Psychology Month Pamphlets distributed to a variety of locations
- 250+ "Mind Your Mental Health" Post-it Notes handed out to attendees at events
- 500+ people learned about the "Mind Your Mental Health" campaign

Thank you to all those who participated in Psychology Month this year by selflessly donating your time to increase public awareness about the role psychology plays in the community. This year's presenters were: Dr. Leslie Graff, Dr. Lesley Ritchie, Dr. Colleen Murphy, Dr. Gary Shady, Dr. Andrea Piotrowski, Dr. Brigitte Sabourin, Dr. Jim Clark, Dr. Melanie Soderstrom, Dr. Kelly Robinson, Ms. Clove Haviva, Dr. Maxine Holmqvist, Dr. Alicia Ordonez, Dr. Jo Ann Unger, Dr. Claire Milgrom, Ms. Jennifer Thorsteinsson, Mr. Chris Villing, Ms. Caroline Simard, and Dr. Kirsten Wirth. Please check out the full listing of 2015 Psychology Month events on our MPS website.

Special recognition to the members of the Psychology Month planning committee (Dr. Lisa Thouas, Dr. Pamela Holens, and Ms. Julie Erikson) for all their hard work in helping make Psychology Month 2015 such a success. Also, a big thank you to Heidi Tucker for her additional administrative and "on the ground" assistance.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffery Harvey, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Public Education and Communications Director

AFFILIATIONS