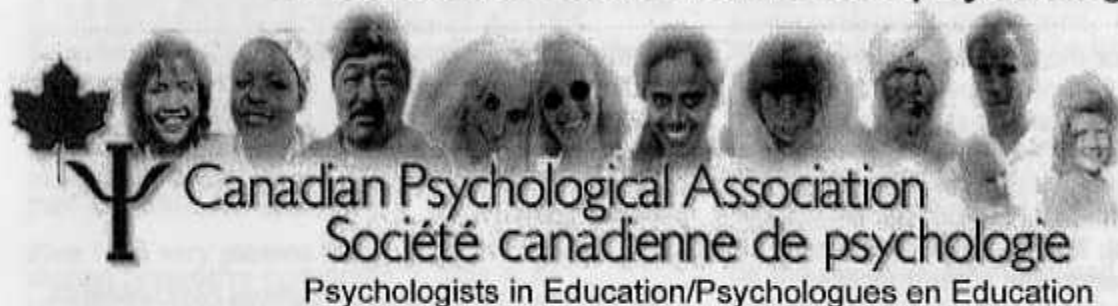


Canadian Association of School Psychologists

L'Association canadienne des psychologues scolaires



Canadian Psychological Association
Société canadienne de psychologie

Psychologists in Education/Psychologues en Education



Joint Newsletter

November 2000

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Bonjour! Welcome to the November 2000 issue of our newsletter. Yes, we do not have a new name yet. No, it's not a running gag. We hope to have a new one next issue. We do have a new President and a new Chair. And the new CPA president has added his greetings to the usual messages. All have important points to convey. We have tried to maintain a similar format but there are some differences. There is an even greater French presence. In addition to more translation, we offer an article in French submitted by a CPA Section member from the francophone milieu. This improved and enlarged edition would not have been possible without the help of the CPA Section student reps.

Merci!

The main theme of the next issue will be the CPA Convention 2000 at Laval University in Ste-Foy, Québec City. Newly adopted registration rates will make this more attractive to students and working professionals. Read this newsletter. Enjoy it. If not, please help to change future issues for the better. Submit copy for the April issue by the end of March. *Ciao!*

Your editors,

Joseph Snyder & Ted Wormeli

President's Address

Ron Martin, Ph. D.
CASP

It is a great pleasure for me to bring greetings from the Canadian Association of School Psychologists. This joint CPA/CASP newsletter is a tremendous vehicle for communicating with our respective members who have an interest in the practice of psychology in our schools. I would like to applaud our co-editors, Ted Wormeli and Joe Snyder for their dedication and commitment to producing this publication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to outline my goals as the newly-elected President of CASP. My chief goal will be to bring the practice of school psychology to a higher level of awareness across this country.

Our association is young and does not have the 23,000+ membership of NASP, but I believe that CASP does have a role and function in promoting the practice of school psychology in Canada. I would like to see an alliance with our respective provincial school psychology associations in raising our art to a higher level of public recognition and acceptance. Currently, I am editing a special issue of the Canadian Journal of School Psychology entitled *State of the Art in School Psychology Across Canada: a Ten Year Revisit*. This edition will be published in the spring and will contain ten articles from across the country addressing current issues pertaining to school psychology.

As I have read the submissions, I have noted the commonalities across the country. Many practitioners struggle with the psychometrist/consultant dichotomy. As well, there is the issue of registration as a psychologist impacting the future practice of school psychology. In my own province we faced the passage of an act to restrict the use of the title "psychologist" more than a decade ago. At that time our school psychologists were faced with a decision to accept "second-class" standing or be approved by the Newfoundland Board of Examiners in Psychology as being registered on the same scale as our colleagues in the Health Care professions. Newfoundland school psychologists accepted the challenge of

seeking further training to offset any perceived deficiencies in their training. (Interestingly, the greatest deficiency was in the area of "brain behaviour"; courses were developed to provide a background in neuropsychology for school psychologists.)

Presently, across the country school psychologists are now facing provincial legislative initiatives to monitor the practice of psychology. Decisions will eventually be made that will result in various forms of monitoring of our practice, and joining the colleges of psychology or being approved by a board of examiners is a burning issue for most, if not all, school psychologists in Canada. The entry level debate (Master's or doctoral) is another hot topic that is related to registration. Some provinces have now stipulated a master's degree, while others have raised requirements to doctoral level. Some provinces restrict title only and not the scope of practice; others restrict practice in some way.

Training programmes and recruitment seem to be also controversial issues across the country. Several provinces do not have a recognized School Psychology Programme, and those that do are seeing an erosion of their programmes. The viability and vitality of the art of school psychology will only persist with support of comprehensive training programmes, and it is imperative that national organizations, such as CASP, provide as much support as they can. No, we are not NASP, but we do require a national identity. By expanding its membership, CASP can illuminate the issues that we all face and lobby for successful resolutions to them.

Finally, I would like to extend a warm invitation to attend the CASP annual conference on the 25th and 26th of next October in St. John's, Newfoundland. I will buy a cup of coffee for any CASP member that seeks me out at that conference, and a glass of beer if you find me in a pub. Further information will be posted on the CASP homepage: <http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/casp/>. I hope to see a big turnout in North America's oldest city.

Message From the Chair Don Saklofske

It is a great pleasure to write my first 'message from the chair' for the Joint Newsletter of the CPA Section on Psychologists in Education. My initial inclination was to be very brief and to the point but there is a saying that 'university professors are never at a loss for words.' So I am aiming for a compromise!! My intent here is to present our executive committee and summarize briefly a few past and forthcoming events.

First I am very pleased to introduce our current elected "executive committee." This is an incredibly dedicated and talented group of individuals from across Canada who are collectively committed to the Section. **Juanita Mureika** (New Brunswick) agreed to assume the chair-elect position. She is a well known psychologist within CPA and across Canada and a person for whom I have the highest professional and personal regard. **Dr. Tom Gardner** (Québec) is our past-chairperson and did a stellar job over the past several years of providing leadership to the Section. **Dr. Emily Goetz** (British Columbia) held the position of past-chair and is now a member-at-large along with **Dr. Marvin Simner** (Ontario). Both are a wealth of information and provide the section with a unique blend of experience and diversity. Marvin's work on the CANSTART series has received widespread acclaim; he was elected a Fellow of the Canadian Psychological Association last year. I just heard that Emily will be recognized by the British Columbia Psychologists Association for her efforts at strengthening relationships within the B.C. psychological community. **Dr. Dick Steffy** (Ontario) returns as program chair and already has confirmed our keynote speaker for the 2001 CPA conference. **Dr. Fred French** (Nova Scotia) is our capable financial manager and record keeper (i.e., Secretary-Treasurer). **Dr. Joe Snyder** (Québec) is the 'all-around' person who is also best known for the excellent job he does co-editing this joint newsletter.

Dr. Bea Wickett (Ontario) is our inspiration and a national treasure. It was decided at the last AGM held at the CPA conference in Ottawa that Bea should be recognized for her life-long dedication to the discipline and practice of psychology and her many contributions to our Section. It was unanimously passed that Bea be awarded the honorary position "member-at-large for life." Recently, Bea experienced some health problems and has now relocated to the address listed in this newsletter. We wish you a speedy recovery, Bea.

As expected, graduate students do complete their graduate programs and move on. **Dr. Nathalie Garcin** (UQAM) was our student representative and did a great job working with Tom and Joe on the newsletter. Nathalie has taken a position at Queen's University, and we wish her every success. We are most pleased to add three new student representatives to the section who will ensure that student interests, needs, and perspectives will be well represented. Welcome **Karina Béland** (UQAM), **Kimberley Book** (U.B.C.) and **Shari Joseph** (McGill).

What a cast!! Please feel free to contact any of us on matters related to the Section. Our email and/or mailing addresses are on the back page of this newsletter

The section organized two well-attended sessions at the CPA conference held in Ottawa. **Dr. Joe Strayhorn** (Wexford, PA) presented a full day workshop on "Teaching Psychological Skills to Children." **Dr. Charles Cunningham** (McMaster) was our keynote speaker and discussed his findings on the use of student-mediated conflict programs to reduce playground aggression. **Dick Steffy** has confirmed that **Dr. Judy Wiener** (OISE) will be our keynote speaker for the 2001 CPA conference. She will share findings from her long-term research program on the social and emotional development of children with a particular focus on the friendship patterns that emerge within school classrooms. **Fred French** is currently looking into arrangements for a pre-conference workshop. We hope that many more of the Section's 121 members will attend the forthcoming CPA Annual Convention in Ste-Foy, Québec (June 21-23) and participate in our sponsored sessions and AGM.

The routine business of the Section will keep us all quite busy for the rest of this and next year. The Newsletter is an especially demanding task and our student representatives will provide Joe with some valuable assistance to ensure the continuing quality of this publication. We invite all members of the section to contribute information, news, articles, etc. to the newsletter. A much greater effort will be made to move toward a bilingual newsletter. As mentioned above, we hope to increase the number of student members in the section and ensure that they have a strong voice. We will certainly be guided by our current student representatives. A number of relatively minor but important by-law changes are in order and Tom Gardner will be drafting these changes and presenting them to the membership for approval at the next AGM. The Section's planned participation in the 2001 conference will require a great deal of time and energy. As well, we will continue to strengthen our relationship with the Canadian Association of School Psychologists. **Dr. Ron Martin** (Newfoundland) is the new president of CASP and I will be meeting with him very soon to continue to explore areas of common interest. Certainly CASP's role (and the hard work of CASP's **Dr. Ted Wormeli**, British Columbia) in publishing the joint newsletter attests to the positive result of this collaboration. We will need to work effectively both within the larger CPA context but also with the other Sections. Some sections such as Developmental and Clinical Psychology share some very common ground with us and it is to the advantage of all that we maintain close ties. Finally, I hope that our Section will continue to be proactive and creative in the support of new initiatives. CANSTART is a wonderful example of such a successful undertaking; I expect there are many more that we can encourage and actively support.

Best wishes
Don Saklofske

