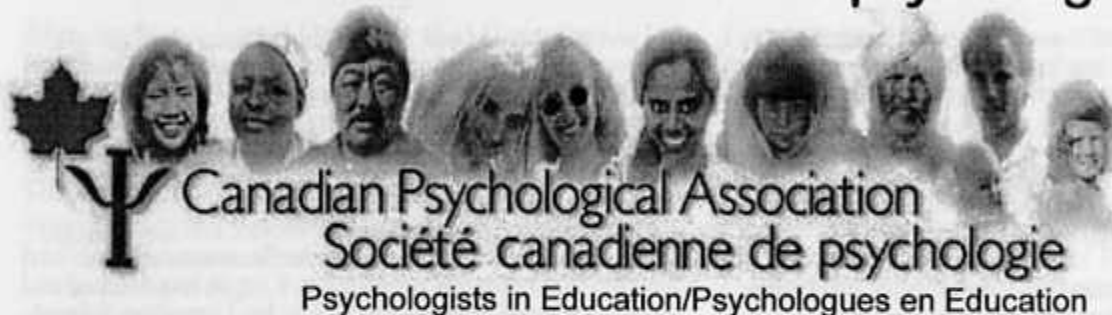


# Canadian Association of School Psychologists L'Association canadienne des psychologues scolaires



## Joint Newsletter May 2001

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*Bonjour!* Welcome to the May 2001 issue of our newsletter. Yes, we do not have a new name yet. No, it's not a running gag still. We were going to have a new one this issue. We (the true editorial we) had decided to try *Psycholog* but somehow it didn't seem right just yet. Maybe, next time, it will make its way onto the masthead! Ted has introduced a new column, *Wrinkles in Practice*. Let's hope that it will be as popular and successful as *180°*. Joe has tried to develop a column, too. It's called *Salmigondis* or *Gallimaufry*.

*Merci!*

In addition to being our resident humour columnist, Ted has set up a network of school psychology correspondents from just about every province and territory. Reports from several appear in each issue. Joe tries to solicit original articles and collect relevant news items – and does the layout. Read this newsletter. Enjoy it. If not, please help to change future issues for the better. Submit copy for the November issue by the end of September.

*Ciao!*

Your editors,

Joseph Snyder & Ted Wormeli

## Message From the CASP President

Ron Martin

Greetings to all our CASP and CPA members. To my CASP colleagues working in our school systems across the country, I hope you have had a revitalizing Easter Break. For the majority of us whose work year spans a September to June time frame, the last few months of the school year are generally the most hectic time of the year and we all need to charge our batteries before entering the home stretch.

I am pleased to announce that great strides are being made in the organization and planning of our upcoming annual conference. The conference will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland from October 24 to 26. The first day will be a full day preconference session on the combined topic of violence prevention and tragic response. The following two days will be centered around the theme of assessment. Dr. Don Saklofske has agreed to be our keynote speaker and the concurrent sessions will cover such topics as early identification of at risk learners, assessment and identification of learning disabilities in French immersion populations, assessment and programming with ESL students suffering post traumatic stress as a complicating factor, behavioural assessment and intervention as well as other assessment related concurrent sessions.

I would like to see as many members possible from Western Canada travel to our end of the country for what I guarantee will be a great professional development and social/cultural experience. I also hope to see a great turnout from our members in Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. The networking of school psychologists has to be fostered on the East coast of this country. Hopefully the fall CASP conference in Newfoundland will provide the forum to do so.

During the CASP conference, the President's Council meeting will be held. A representative from each provincial school psychology association is invited to attend a dinner meeting with CASP executive members to address issues and concerns pertaining to our discipline as well as discussing future direction for the association. With changes in provincial association executives from year to year, it is hard to keep mailing lists current. I appeal to current Provincial Association Presidents to make contact with me regarding attending the Presidents Council meeting. CASP will provide a certain degree of support with travel expenses for provincial representatives.

As national president of this association I am very excited about attending the conference on *Organizing Psychology in Canada* that will be held in Winnipeg in mid May 2001. Dr. James Ogloff, President of CPA, has outlined the focus of this conference in the fall 2000 newsletter.

As webmaster for our association's homepage at [www.stemnet.nf.ca/casp/](http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/casp/), I have an avid interest in maintaining a global perspective on the discipline of school psychology. I have been an active member of the Global School Psychology Network for the past two years and it has been a tremendous Internet forum for seeking and sharing advice with School Psychologists from all over the world. Dr. Lou Kruger from North Eastern University in Boston has spear headed this research project. Dr. Kruger has offered to set up a special area on the GSPN for Canadian School Psychologists if there was sufficient interest. More information can be found on the School Psychology Link of our homepage. I would appreciate receiving your thoughts about creating such a national link for School Psychologists on the GSPN.

Again keeping to an international perspective on the practice of School Psychology, I am pleased to announce that our association will be represented at the 24th International Colloquium on the practice of School Psychology which will be held in Dinan, France from the 25th to 29th of July this coming summer. School Psychologists from all over the world will convene to address the issues facing the practice of our art.

I am pleased to announce that the special issue of the Canadian Journal of School Psychology entitled *State of the Art in School Psychology Across Canada: A Ten-Year Revisit*, will be published this spring. Our readers will receive a perspective on the current practice of our discipline from ten provinces and the North West Territories. We hope to see a submission from the Yukon in a subsequent edition.

In closing, I want to recognize and encourage the efforts of School Psychology Practitioners as advocates for all children, families and educators. This organization (CASP) was established to consolidate members, lobby for a national identity which stresses the importance of our work and ultimately achieve a national standard for certification. I would also like to recognize the efforts of our colleagues from the CPA Psychologists in Education. Many members of this section are University professors committed to training future school psychologists as well as promoting the discipline of school psychology.

Finally, as President of CASP, I am optimistic that our association will continue to grow and develop as a truly national body representing the interests of our members. As a School Psychology organization we will be committed to promoting the distinction between the practice of "School Psychology" and the practice of "Psychology in the Schools."

Hope to see you in Newfoundland this fall. All the best.

Ron

## Message from the Chair

Don Saklofske

Alas, spring is here!! One way that Canadian psychologists keep warm during the winter is to stay very busy. Our section's activities were no exception!

Tom Gardner took suggestions from our executive members and from the last AGM and has drafted several revisions to our current by-laws. These will be voted upon at our AGM during the CPA convention in June. Which leads us to Dick Steffy who again has assured that we will have an excellent program at the CPA meeting. Judith Wiener will be presenting an invited address on the topic of *Social-Emotional Functioning of Children with Learning Disabilities: Cognition, Comorbidity or Context* to be followed by our AGM, all on **Friday, June 22, 9-11 AM**. Our section will also be represented by Marvin Simner (*Human-Figure Drawing Tests*), Tom Gardner (*Competence: A Collection of Skills or a Theme for a Paradigm*) and a symposium titled *WAIS-III: New Developments in Adult Cognitive Assessment* presented by David Tulsy, Richard Gorsuch, Colleen Patterson and Don Saklofske. These presentations are scheduled for the afternoon of **Thursday, June 21**. Dick and his committee also approved a number of posters for presentation on Saturday morning. I do encourage all members of the Section to support our section's CPA program.

Our student representatives have given us a comprehensive list of recommendations upon which to base our new *student research awards* program. Karina, Kimberley, and Shari surveyed other CPA sections on this matter, and then prepared a set of recommendations which have now been forwarded to our membership sub-committee. This group including, Joe and Juanita, will develop guidelines for implementing the student research award initiative. Joe and Juanita are currently looking at ways to increase the section's membership. Also, during a conversation with John Service, our section was encouraged to prepare a brief paper on Psychologists in Education that would be published and distributed by CPA. Juanita and Fred are taking the lead on this by drafting a paper which will then be forwarded to the executive members for review. Finally, our thanks to Joe and Ted Wormeli for another great Newsletter.

I represented our section at the conference on *Organizing Psychology in Canada* held in Winnipeg, May 10-13. The organizers of the conference included the Council of Provincial Associations of Psychologists, Canadian Psychological Association, Canadian Register of Health Service Providers in Psychology, Council of Canadian Departments of Psychology, and Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs. The purpose of the meeting is succinctly summarized in a recent memo:

"For some time now there has been discussion among psychologists regarding the current organization of psychology in Canada. Concern has been expressed that, given the relatively small number of psychologists in Canada, we may not be organized as efficiently or as effectively as possible".

The national groups listed above have coordinated the planning of this meeting and invited representatives from each of the national and provincial psychology associations (including CPA Sections) to "explore options for organizing psychology in Canada to better meet the needs of all psychologists" (and, in turn, the public we serve). I shall report the proceedings to you at our AGM.

On a personal note, I just returned from a second trip to China where I presented some lectures and workshops to the psychology students at Beijing Normal University. It is very interesting to compare the graduate programs that train psychologists and the practice of psychology in China and Canada (and the USA). The role of psychologists in education (e.g., school psychologists, counsellors in schools and universities, etc.) is much less conspicuous in China. However, there is a great deal of interest in both the discipline and practice of psychology in China and I expect that we will see many increased opportunities to collaborate and share information with our Chinese colleagues in both university and applied settings.

In all, a busy, productive, and exciting time for our section. See you all at the CPA convention in June.

Best wishes and *merci à tous*.

