

CANADIAN
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Sections Committee

November 2007

The Committee on Sections had a very successful and productive meeting at the CPA Convention in Ottawa in June, and agreed upon several action items. To further promote membership in the Sections, it was agreed that each Chair would write a 100 word “blurb” which, Nigel assured us, would be published in Psynopsis in conjunction with the call for membership renewal. As well, following a small group activity in which Chairs examined and discussed the CPA Strategic Plan in terms of the Section’s mandate, it was agreed they would take the exercise back to their memberships and solicit feedback. To date, no feedback from Sections on the Strategic Planning exercise has been received. Unfortunately, not all Sections completed the “blurb”, and of the 11 that did, only 6 were published in the fall Psynopsis. With the help of Karen Cohen, a diplomatic solution was found to this oversight, and the situation has been rectified.

In October, Nigel Flear suggested a way of grouping Sections for purposes of commonalities, in hopes of making the listing of Sections less of a shopping list and more of a family of Sections approach. This resulted in a great deal of discussion and feedback from Chairs and it sparked a number of good ideas. Nigel intends to continue the discussion with the idea that a standard way of presenting Sections will be found.

Two new Sections have been created since June. The Section on Substance Abuse/Dependence was approved by e-mail in August, and the Section of Aboriginal Psychologists will be voted on at the November meeting. In working through the process of gaining approval for these Sections, several things were identified as needing clarification in the Section Chairs’ Manual; specifically, the parameters of the role of the student member of the Section executive. Our intention is to review the Operations Manual and clarify this role.

A number of Sections nominated speakers for CPA Invited status. Although not all were accepted as such for the convention, it is exciting to see the breadth of expertise that the Sections are bringing to CPA.

Thanks to Catherine McNeely and Nigel Flear for their ongoing support of the Sections’ listserve and attention to the concerns raised by Sections. We hope to see Catherine back with us soon.

Respectfully submitted by:

Juanita Mureika

CPA Board Liaison for Sections