

Board of Directors:

Members of the Board of Directors for 2018-2019 were Marie Lamey, Lynn Mackay, Sonya McLeod, Tina Spathis, Allyson Burden (until March 30, 2018), Jennifer Sweder (until March 30, 2018), Kristi Rielly (April 1 to September 4, 2019), Christy Zetl (April 22nd to present)

Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events:

The focus this past year and a half has been on:

- ✓ Canadian Homeopathic Association Meetings and Conference
- ✓ Canadian Stakeholder Meetings
- ✓ 4HCanada/HANS
- ✓ BCAA
- ✓ HC consultations and communications
- ✓ Insurance
- ✓ Public Events (West Coast Women’s Show / HANS Movie Night)

Financial Summary:

A summary of the Society’s finances is appended to this report.

Members:

Our membership numbers currently (as of September 30, 2019) stand at:

Registered	42
Resident	06
Associate	09
Non-practicing	01
<u>Student</u>	<u>00</u>
TOTAL	58

Please help us increase our community by encouraging your colleagues to renew their membership on time or to join our Association if they are currently not a member.

Canadian Association Meetings:

Since the last AGM much has happened on this front...

In June 2018 the Canadian Homeopathic Association / Association homéopathique canadienne became a legal entity as a Federal Corporation. It represents the collaboration and unification between the following five provincial associations:

- ❖ BC Association of Homeopaths (BCAH)
- ❖ Alberta Homeopathic Association (AHA)
- ❖ Manitoba Homeopathic Association (MHA)
- ❖ Ontario Homeopathic Medical Association (OHMA) and
- ❖ Syndicat Professionnel des Homéopathes du Québec (SPHQ)

In November 2018 Marie travelled to Niagara Falls to the Canadian Homeopathic Conference to present the launch of the organization. It was very well received! The next Canadian Homeopathic Conference is being organized for April 2020 in Toronto, ON. This will be led by the OHMA and supported by contributions from all provincial Associations. We are looking for a member to represent the BCAH – someone who would participate and contribute to these planning committee meetings. Please consider getting involved.

The corporate bylaws are in the final stages of review and will be completed soon.

A basic website was created for the November launch and since then has expanded to include:

- The Vision and Mission statements in English and French
- Links to the 5 provincial member Associations
- Links to HRI (Homeopathy Research Institute) and 4HCanada
- As well as social media links to FB, Instagram and Twitter

The new logo was added in April 2019.

As far as our activities, see below...

Health Canada consultations and communications:

The Canadian Homeopathic Association, as well as the provincial Associations that comprise it, are recognized stakeholders with Health Canada when it comes to homeopathic remedies.

In January 2019 Paul Labreche, president of SPHQ, arranged a meeting between CHA provincial Associations and Manon Bombaridier, Director General of the NNHPD. This one hour online meeting was very positive and encouraging. In February 2019 a letter was submitted to the NNHPD regarding the proposed labelling requirements for nosodes.

Currently HC has completed the consultation for phase 1 of the regulatory changes for OTC self-care products, which involves labelling requirements.

More information on this can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/topics/self-care-products/what-we-heard-product-labelling.html>

We will continue to be involved in the consultations for phases 2 and 3 which involve defining risk categories for products, and evidence standards.

Health Canada will update its approach to regulating self-care products based on extensive consultations over recent years. The Self-Care Framework will roll out in phases over the coming years:

- Phase I – Targeting spring 2020: Introduce, for consultation, targeted amendments to the [Natural Health Products Regulations](#) to improve labelling of natural health products (NHPs). This proposal will require essential risk information to be presented in a standardized format, with minimum font size and black-on-white contrast, making it easier to read, understand and compare with that for other similar self-care products, such as non-prescription drugs, on store shelves. The use of plain language will also ensure that information on labels can be easily understood by Canadians.
- Phase II – Targeting spring 2020: Introduce, for consultation, targeted amendments to the [Food and Drug Regulations](#) to introduce a risk-based approach to regulatory oversight for non-prescription drugs. These include: expedited pathways for lower-risk products. These changes are intended to align the oversight for non-prescription drugs with other self-care products of comparable level of risk.
- Phase III – Targeting 2021: Introduce, for consultation, regulatory amendments to address: evidence standards for similar health claims, extending risk-based regulatory oversight, seeking additional powers for Health Canada, such as the ability to require a recall or label change for all self-care products.

Also, we have been in touch with Health Canada on 2 separate occasions to clarify certain issues that created media attention.

The first involved the Health Products Compliance Branch as it was an issue surrounding giving a remedy that was not compounded, but was instead imported and given as a finished product, which is against HC regulations as this would require a site license which the practitioner did not have.

The second involved the Marketed Health Products Directorate as it was an issue on marketing/advertising claims, namely CEASE therapy and HP on websites. This issue is currently still under investigation.

HANS / 4HCanada:

The Health Action Network Society is a registered Charity organization and was chosen to be the umbrella group for 4HCanada. The launch presentation of this organization also happened in November 2018 at the Canadian Homeopathic Conference.

This organization was created to continue the work, here in Canada, of 4H which was started in the UK along with the “Homeopathy works for Me” campaign. It is a consumer-based organization to educate Canadians about the value and use of homeopathy for the improvement of their health and well-being.

Some of their activities include:

- A comprehensive website with many resources for consumers
- Webinars for consumers
- Social media

Most recently HANS launched a Change.org petition to support the sale of homeopathic remedies in Pharmacies in response to the petition put forward by one Pharmacist in Ontario to stop Pharmacists from recommending homeopathic products to their customers. The original petition has 814 signatures; the response petition has over 8,300 signatures and continues to grow. This is due to the efforts of all stakeholders coming together to promote the petition.

This petition, along with letters supporting the sale of homeopathic remedies in pharmacies has been sent to the Colleges of Pharmacists in BC and ON, and will be sent to the other provincial Pharmacy Colleges as well. The petition has been translated into French and the letters will be translated as well and submitted to the College of Pharmacists in QC.

A big Thank-You to Nathalie who has been very generous with her time in doing translations for us when needed!

We support the good work that these organizations are doing and will continue to work with them for the good of homeopathy and its successful future in Canada.

Canadian Stakeholder Meetings & Media:

Many opportunities have presented themselves for the BCAH to work with other organizations this year. These organizations include the: CHPA (Canadian Homeopathic Pharmaceutical Association), CIMA (Canadian Integrative Medical Association), HANS/4HCanada, CHA provincial Associations, and other individuals (CHO, NASH, CHC, schools – homeopathic and naturopathic, etc.).

As a group we identified:

- The 5 Pillars of Success, which are areas we need to focus our activities on to promote and ensure the success of homeopathy in Canada. These are: Consumers, Media, Government, Other Health Professionals and Research.
- The need for a Strategic Narrative – a consistent message that will be used by everyone.
- Areas of vulnerability, such as Homeoprophylaxis (HP), CEASE therapy, claims for cure, etc.
- Key media resources i.e. people who are “experts” in certain areas (such as Research or Government policy/Health Canada) and the need for media training.

This is the same group of people/organizations that were instrumental in gaining the over 8,300 signatures for the Change.org petition for HANS.

BCAOA:

The BC Animal Owners Association has been a champion for animal owners' access to Complementary and Alternative Medicine and to establish a regulatory College for these practitioners, the College of Animal Health Practitioners (CAHP). Our member, Andrea Ring, has been instrumental in these efforts and in preparing an excellent document on behalf of BCAH for submission to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Recent activities include:

- Investigation into reserved titles
- Consultation with SPCA
- Budgeting for viability of the College
- Preparing for meeting/phone call with James Mack (Assistant Deputy Minister MOA)

We will continue to provide Andrea and the BCAOA any assistance they may require to make the CAHP a reality.

Insurance:

This has been one of the most difficult areas to make progress. In December 2018 we submitted an application to Sun Life to have BCAH members recognized as providers of homeopathy services. In May 2019 we received a letter of rejection from Sun Life, saying that "the BC Association of Homeopaths does not meet our eligibility requirements for approved professional associations".

We have also obtained the application for Green Shield, and are working with other provincial associations to ensure all the applications submitted by CHA organizations are consistent to maximize the chances of these applications being approved.

In Ontario, Manulife has stated that they do not provide coverage for homeopathy services under any of their plans, despite homeopathy being a regulated profession in Ontario. We are looking into this to see if it is the case for any other provinces.

Recently, we have also received a letter of support from the Canadian Integrative Medical Association to submit to the insurance companies, and the Health Action Network Society has committed to assist us in gaining consumer support.

Public Events:

In October 2018 the BCAH was offered an opportunity to share a table at the West Coast Women's Show. We took advantage of the opportunity to get exposure and interact with the public. The BCAH arranged 7 members to volunteer at the table and provided brochures to hand out. A new banner was purchased for the event due to the name change.

A huge Thank-You goes out to those volunteers!

The movie Magic Pills by Ananda Moore was shown on April 16, 2019 at Cinematique in Vancouver as part of the HANS Movie Night series. Marie and Anke were part of the discussion panel hosted by Ted Kuntz.

Complaints Policy:

Over the last number of years we have received a handful of inquiries from patients on how to make a complaint. Most never materialized. This year the board prepared a guideline document on “How to make a complaint” to create better clarity and process.

This is important to have available to consumers/patients, as having a complaints process is one of the questions on the insurance application forms.

Social Media:

At the request of the other CHA organizations, the BCAH created a FB page and an Instagram account. These are accessible through links on our website and will be used to engage with the public and practitioners with education and news about homeopathy in Canada and Worldwide.

In April of this year we helped provide content for the CHA FB page for Homeopathy Awareness Month.

Member Handbook:

The member handbook has been updated with additional items such as:

- changes to the member login, newsletter and directory since the website updates
- the addition of new insurance company information
- the addition of the history of the formation of the Canadian Homeopathic Association
- Social Media links
- And more

We hope that members continue to find this a useful resource.

Other Activities:

Letters written:

1. Letter regarding the use of Nosodes sent to Dr. Bonnie Henry (BC Provincial Health Officer) in April 2018

2. Letter regarding the labelling of Nosodes sent to Manon Bombardier (Director General of NNHPD) in February 2019 by CHA
3. Letter in support of HTSF sent to Jean Fortin in March 2019
4. Letter regarding Homeopathic Remedies in Pharmacies sent to Mr. Bob Nakagawa (Registrar of the College of Pharmacists of BC) in May 2019
5. Letter of support sent to the Health Action Network Society in September 2019

Skeptic complaints:

On 2 separate occasions we received threatening letters regarding our members who have taken the CEASE therapy training and were listed on the CEASE Therapy website. These skeptic letters went to all homeopathic & naturopathic organizations in Canada.

As a result of these skeptic complaints, the College of Naturopathic Physicians of BC implemented a policy banning their members from advertising or offering CEASE Therapy to patients. They also updated their Immunization policy to prevent naturopaths from advising patients in any matter regarding the use of alternatives to vaccines/immunization. The College of Homeopaths in Ontario implemented similar policies.

Regulation:

In July 2018 members were invited to contact Marie for feedback and thoughts regarding regulation. The general consensus was that members wanted more information. So, in September 2018 we set up an online meeting to engage members in a discussion with Pat Deacon to hear her experience and thoughts on regulation in Ontario. Pat was president of the BCSH in 2005-06 and moved to Ontario just as the regulatory College was being established.

Due to our small numbers, the advice from our lawyer was to join a College that is already established, such as the Naturopathic College. If accepted we would be required to pay the costs involved, such as the name change, bylaws, etc.

The BC government is currently doing a review of regulatory Colleges and the report is expected at the end of the year. This report may change what happens in the future. Changes are already underway in Ontario.

First Aid Course for members:

The BCAH does not require members to have a First Aid certificate for membership. However, as a health professional, it is always a good thing to have. We have researched a few options and if members are interested in a group course we could arrange it.

Saying Goodbye:

Sadly, this past year we lost 2 of our members:

In July 2018 we said goodbye to member Rheanni Khasepoul.

And in January 2019 we said goodbye to one of our founding members, Monique Marcq.

Other Projects in the works:

Education program in BC

HST/GST exemptions

Lobbyist status

More details on these activities will come when there is more to tell...

Contact us:

If you have any suggestions for the Board, or feedback, please feel free to contact us. We can only do so much so any help is greatly appreciated.

Marie Lamey	president.bcah@gmail.com
Lynn Mackay	vicepresident.bcah@gmail.com
Tina Spathis	bcah.treasurer@gmail.com
Sonya McLeod	membership.bcah@gmail.com
Christy Zettl	director1.bcah@gmail.com