

**Board of Directors:**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2015-2016 were Marie Lamey, Susan Forbes, Lucy De Pieri, Lynn Mackay, Sabrina Foldi, Faiqa Gondal, Christy Zetl (April – June 2015) and Satyendra Rawat (August to present).

**Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events:**

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ Website and Forms
- ✓ Canadian “Amalgamation” Meetings
- ✓ HANS Meetings
- ✓ Transfer of Membership Secretary Duties

**Financial Summary:**

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

**Members:**

Our membership numbers currently (as of March 26<sup>th</sup>) stand at:

Registered	32
Resident	8
Associate	11
Student	01
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>52</b>

**Website and online Forms:**

The Adobe Forms worked out very well in streamlining the case conference registration process as well as the membership renewals. In June 2015 Adobe no longer provided this service and we looked into different options. What we decided was to pay our web designer to install a plugin so the forms are integrated with the website, and it was a one-time cost for the plugin.

All the forms had to be re-created in the new format. Currently we have the following forms:

- New member application form
- Membership Renewal Form
- Case Conference Registration Form
- Event Posting Request Form
- CEU Submission Form
- Brochure order form
- Website Listing Form
- Case Conference Feedback Form (coming soon)

After the last AGM, members requested that they be notified in some way about website information updates or additions. So our web designer installed a newsletter plugin so that any new additions to the Events page and to the Feature areas on the home page (which are those items in the green boxes) would be emailed to members. Instructions were emailed to members on how to sign up for the newsletter.

For the most part these new additions to the website have been working well with only some minor issues. We have been made aware of some issues with members not being able to log in to the member only section and some problems with the directory, and we have taken steps to solve these issues.

We also obtained a new domain name which links to our current website; it is [www.bchomeopathy.com](http://www.bchomeopathy.com) (and .ca).

We encourage all members to visit the website regularly to see what has been added recently and to ensure their directory listing is accurate and their log in information is working. Also we would like feedback from members on any improvements or additions they would like to see to the website.

### **Amalgamation Meetings:**

In March of 2015 we were made aware of talks involving the “amalgamation” of the provincial organizations to form a Canadian Association. The talks were initiated by NUPATH and 3CH. Marie attended the second teleconference in April 2015, after missing the first one. Meetings were held monthly with the exception of a summer break.

The initial proposal by NUPATH was that all provincial organizations would amalgamate into one Canadian organization. This would mean that the provincial organizations would need to legally dissolve and be re-created

under a new organization. NUPATH also said that it was willing to dissolve in order to create this new Canadian organization. The talks were a little rocky in the beginning, as none of the provinces were willing to entertain the idea of dissolving their organization. Eventually NUPATH accepted this and the discussion moved on to “set up a National body to include all parties that are interested in the advancement of homeopathy in Canada”.

After each conference call it became increasingly frustrating to participate in the talks as the calls were generally monopolized by NUPATH and 3CH representatives, and their agenda which appeared to be to re-create NUPATH under a new name and get the support of the provinces but not necessarily involving them; i.e. the structure of the new organization would be an umbrella organization with its own members including practitioners, consumers, pharmacies and schools.

After researching how other professions affiliated themselves with their respective Canadian Associations and presenting this to the participating organizations, and having this proposal rejected by NUPATH, we wondered what the point was in involving the provincial organizations if there was no requirement for provincial membership or “affiliation”. How is this any different from how NUPATH is already structured? We proposed that the only viable and fair way to structure the new organization would be to have members of the provincial organizations pay a small increase in their dues which would then go to the Canadian association and then the member would be a member of both organizations. This way the provinces do not lose members, and the Canadian organization is still supported. The board would be comprised of one elected representative per province.

In January 2016 we withdrew from the talks. Susan participated in the conference call in February as an observer, and we are considering resuming our participation to ensure that NUPATH does not continue to monopolize the discussion and set up of the new association – the Canadian Association for Homeopathy. A meeting will be held in person in May 2016 to determine how the new organization will be structured. Susan and Lynn have agreed to participate.

Susan and Lynn participated in the March conference call. An in-person meeting has been set for May 28/29 in Toronto. A University of Windsor professor in the School of Business has offered to facilitate the meeting as a project for his graduating students. The students will research other national health care organizations to present us with possible models as a structure for the provinces under one national organization.

### **Name Change Proposal:**

In September 2015, we emailed all our members to ask for their feedback on changing the name of the Society to an Association. This was prompted by the discussions of creating a new Canadian organization which would be an Association. We polled the members to see what they thought and the results were as follows:

33 members responded, 22 did not respond

10 members voted for (a) The BC Homeopathic Association

12 members voted for (b) The BC Association of Homeopaths

0 members voted for (c) The BC Homeopaths Association

11 members voted for (d) no change

One member did submit a new proposal which was The BC Homeopathy Association.

The procedure for changing the name of a society is a 3 step process. 1. Request approval for your society name choice from the BC Registry, 2. Schedule a meeting with the society's members, and 3. File a Copy of Resolution form with a \$50 fee. The society must pass a special resolution to change its name which would take place at an Annual General Meeting or General "Special" Meeting.

This item has been placed on the AGM agenda for discussion.

### **HANS:**

We continue to advertise in the HANS magazine and directory. It is great exposure for our members and provides us with different opportunities throughout the year. We declined participating in their Natural Wellness Career Fair this past year as the VHA was not available to share the costs with.

In October 2015, Lucy attended their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mind Alive Conference – Exploring Natural Medicine for Mental Health. Lucy was not impressed with the list of speakers they had compiled as it was not representative of what natural medicine has to offer. The list included 2 MD's, 3 ND's, 1 Dr. TCM and 1 Life Coach/Therapist. We contacted HANS afterwards to let them know we would be interested in having homeopathy included in the next conference.

In early December we were contacted by Michael Volker, the new Director of Operations for HANS, to attend a roundtable meeting of natural health organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to identify our common

challenges as natural health practitioners and to discuss ways that we could work together to overcome these issues. The idea of the meeting was prompted by several people approaching HANS regarding the recent name change of the BC Medical Association to the Doctors of BC, and how it would influence natural health practitioners.

The first meeting was held on January 27, 2016 with the following organizations in attendance:

- Health Action Network Society (organizer)
- The Natural Health Practitioners of Canada (organizer)
- BC Acupressure Therapists Association
- BC Naturopathic Association
- BC Society of Homeopaths
- BC Association of TCM & Acupuncture Practitioners
- Canadian Herbalist Association of BC
- Canadian Reiki Association
- Canadian School of Natural Nutrition
- BC Chiropractors
- Pacific Institute of Reflexology
- Society for the promotion of Manual Practice Osteopathy BC
- Canadian Federation of Osteopaths

The desired outcome for the first meeting was:

1. Associations have increased knowledge of other associations
2. Attendees identify
  - What the key internal and external challenges of the day are to be addressed in the industry
  - Potential ways to work collaboratively on key issues
  - Potential tools and processes that would enable the groups to work together
  - The associations agree to meet again

The result of the meeting was that the following areas were identified as priorities, in order:

1. Public awareness
2. Media coverage
3. Credibility and recognition
4. Marketing
6. Government support of prevention
7. Preventive medicine
8. Professional recognition

All organizations agreed to meet again to work on one (or two) issues and develop an action plan. The meeting was set for March 23<sup>rd</sup>, with the less formal agenda of brainstorming ideas of how to work together to improve

and increase public awareness and media coverage of natural therapies. Discussions included identification of target markets for each organization and ideas of how best to work together that would benefit all parties involved.

### **Transfer of Membership Secretary Duties:**

In June 2015 Christy Zettl resigned from her position on the board as Membership Secretary. A notice was put out to members for someone to fill this very important role on the board. In August we met with Satyendra Rawat and found him to be a suitable candidate for the position and accepted him as the new membership secretary.

There were many changes in the process that needed to happen in order to smoothly transition the duties to Satyendra, and this should be complete in the next month.

### **Liability Insurance Coverage for Members:**

In June 2015, Lynn inquired about the type of insurance coverage that CSH has for its members. She found out that they have group coverage, and that is the difference between theirs and ours. For example, with group coverage of \$1 million, if someone uses it, less is available to everyone else in the group for the remainder of the year. Lynn obtained this information from a representative of Holman Insurance Brokers Ltd., and he considers the CSH's insurance a lesser type of insurance. This explains why their costs less than what our members are paying.

So we now have 2 options for members for Liability Insurance; Mike Snetsinger of AC&D Insurance Services and Holman Insurance Brokers Ltd. This information can be found in the Member Only section of our website.

### **Insurance Coverage for Member Services:**

In August 2014 the BCSH was accepted by ClaimSecure to be on their list of approved unregulated paramedical associations.

In June 2015 Christy forwarded an email communication from one of her insurance contacts and a Manulife representative which reads:

I found out some interesting information about Homeopathy.

Yes, we can cover this practitioner type now. There is a systems limitation though from a claiming perspective. If we add Homeopathy then all practitioners and vision claims are no longer 'auto adjudicated'. What this means is every claim for any group with Homeopathy will be manually adjudicated, i.e. no access to Online Claims Submission and no Provider Direct ability. This means, all practitioner and vision claims would need

a (old school) paper claim and original receipt mailing.

I don't know if in the future (near or far) this will be updated or corrected so that this does not affect us from a systems and claims-paying aspect. It would be important to know though.

So, good news, yes we can cover Homeopathy.

We have a long application form for Greenshield, which among other things asked for "References of other carriers who recognizes the Association". We will include the 2 references above, hopefully increasing the chances of them approving us.

We will be continuing the process of communicating with other insurance companies to have members of the BCSH set up as approved providers of homeopathy services. We will keep the membership posted on any news regarding this matter. We encourage members to write their BCSH (membership) number on the receipt they provide to patients in order to facilitate coverage through the insurance companies. 4 digits works best for online submissions (i.e. if your membership number is 16 then use 0016).

The most important issue here is that the patient must have homeopathy included on their extended benefits plan for it to be covered. As every employer chooses the type of plan provided to its employees the coverage may be different for every patient. Patients are responsible for being informed of the type of coverage they have, and lobbying for coverage if they do not have it.

### **Society Act Changes:**

We were informed by our lawyer in May 2015 that there were major changes coming to the Society Act, and outlined some possible implications the changes could have for our Society. No action was needed that time since the changes were pending approval. However the lawyer suggested that in preparation we should consolidate all the bylaw changes into one document, which Susan completed in August 2015.

In February 2016, we were contacted again by our lawyer with some important deadlines and important changes in the Act. We submitted our constitution and consolidated bylaws to him for review and he will be working on preparing our bylaws to be integrated into the new bylaws under the changed Society Act. We may need to hold a special meeting to have our new bylaws approved by the members before October 1<sup>st</sup> so they can be submitted in time to comply with the deadline of the new Act coming into force November 28, 2016.

**Member Handbook:**

The member handbook is in the final stages of board review and approval and will be sent to members as soon as this process is complete.

**Closure of the VHA:**

In September 2015 the VHA graduated its last students and is no longer in operation. In lieu of this, we have done extensive research into other options available for homeopathy students in the future and have expanded the list of schools on our website.

**Memorial for Iain Marrs:**

In September 2015 we were informed of the passing of our dear friend and mentor Iain Marrs. Iain was a very important part of our community and will be greatly missed. Many people contributed to the obituary for Iain which appeared in Homeopathic Links in the October edition. The BCSH organized a memorial in November which was well attended. The event was recorded for those who were unable to attend and will be made available once editing is completed.

We also discovered that Iain volunteered for an organization for children's literacy. This organization will benefit from our silent auction at this year's conference. The books were donated by Caroline Dent and the VHA.

All this information will be available on our website under Iain's directory listing.

**Mentorship Program:**

Due to the number of hours that went into other things, this item was not addressed this year. With the closure of the school this would be an important benefit to our new members.

If you would like to be included in the directory of mentors, please let us know. The directory will be posted in the member's only section.

**Newsgroup and Communications:**

After 11 years, Lucy De Pieri has decided to step down from her position as Communications Director. Lucy has been a very important part of the board and her dedication and passion for homeopathy that comes through in everything she does will be greatly missed. We will be looking to fill this position, which has been added to the AGM agenda.



**Contact us:**

Our continued focus is on membership and the visibility of our members to the public in order to increase growth in our practices and community. 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. Please volunteer your services if any of these projects described above are of interest to you.

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## CASH FLOW REPORT

22nd March 2015 to 19th March 2016

### Inflows

Membership Fees	\$ 6,940.25
Case Conference	\$ 2,335.00
Brochures (Sales)	\$ 202.50
Website (Adobe Credit)	\$ 196.97
<u>Total Inflows</u>	<u>\$ 9,674.72</u>

### Outflows

Case Conference	\$ 978.93
Brochures (Cost of Goods)	\$ 222.88
T-Shirts (Cost of Goods)	\$ 0.00
Office Expenses	\$ 689.60
Travel Expenses	\$ 98.60
Professional Fees (Annual Report, By-Law Changes)	\$ 75.00
Website	\$ 371.60
Legal Fees	\$ 840.00
Bank Charges (PayPal)	\$ 288.90
Iain Marrs Memorial	\$ 197.37
<u>Total Outflows</u>	<u>\$ 3,762.88</u>

Overall Total \$ 5,911.84



## **BALANCE SHEET – 19th MARCH 2016**

### **Assets**

Cash (Bank of Montreal)	\$ 22,814.17
Petty Cash	\$ 0.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 0.00
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 0.00
Net Fixed Assets	\$ 0.00
Inventory Assets	\$ 524.52
<b><u>Total Assets</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 23,338.69</u></b>

### **Liabilities**

Inventory Adjustment (Shrinkage)	\$ 22.28
Accounts Payable	\$ 0.00
<b><u>Total Liabilities</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 22.28</u></b>

### **Equity**

Retained Earnings	\$ 23,338.69
Current Earnings	\$ 0.00
<b><u>Total Equity</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 23,338.69</u></b>

**Liabilities and Equity** **\$ 23,316.41**