

Board of Directors:

Members of the Board of Directors for 2016-2017 were Marie Lamey, Susan Forbes, Lynn Mackay, Sabrina Foldi (April – August 2016), Faiqa Gondal (April-July 2016), Allyson Burden (December 2016 to present), Jennifer Sweder (December 2016 to present)

Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events:

The focus this year has been on

- ✓ Bylaw Changes to comply with the New Societies Act
- ✓ Canadian Association Meetings

Financial Summary:

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

Members:

Our membership numbers currently (as of March 29th) stand at:

| | |
|----------------|-----------|
| Registered | 21 |
| Resident | 05 |
| Associate | 05 |
| <u>Student</u> | <u>00</u> |
| TOTAL | 31 |

Society Act Changes:

The new Societies Act came into force November 28, 2016. We have 2 years from this date to complete the transition to comply with the new Act.

The steps in the transitioning process are as follows:

- (a) A society must be in good standing – i.e. the society is up-to-date with the filing of all its annual reports.
- (b) Reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws – A review of the current Constitution and Bylaws including any amendments that have been filed since the Society was first registered.
- (c) Simplified Constitution – Under the new Act, a society's constitution will only be allowed to contain two sections; one that states the society's name and the other that states the society's purposes.

(d) Declaring if the society is “member funded” – The transition process will allow a society that is primarily funded by its members to state in its constitution that it is a “member-funded society”.

Susan prepared the current Bylaws for the lawyer that included all the amendments that have been filed since the Society was first registered. In April 2016 the lawyer sent us the first draft of the proposed Consolidated Legislation (52 pages) and the first draft of the proposed New Bylaws (13 pages).

Over the course of the last year we have had numerous emails with the lawyer, had one conference call with the board (August 2016), and revised 5 drafts of the Bylaws to come to the final version dated February 27, 2017 (17 pages).

This version was emailed to members and posted to the member only section of the website on February 28, 2017 and has been placed on the AGM agenda for voting by special resolution so as to comply with the transition deadline.

Canadian Association Meetings:

In May 2016 Marie, Susan and Lynn attended an in-person meeting in Toronto. Seven organizations attended. These included:

1. BC Society of Homeopaths
2. Manitoba Homeopathic Association
3. Ontario Homeopathic Association
4. Homeopathic Medical Association of Canada
5. Syndicat professionnel des homeopathes de Quebec
6. NUPATH
7. 3CH

The meeting was lead by Prof. Bharat Maheshwari of the University of Windsor School of Business and his team. Information was gathered by them prior to the meeting in the form of questionnaires and online investigation of the existing organizations.

The main objective of the professor and his team seemed to be to bring people together and find their common ground. Many ideas were shared and collected on paper as a starting point for the formation of the organization.

Even while we are still in discussions about the organization and structure it will take on, we, as a group, have worked very well together to address some important issues this past year.

1. Consultation with Health Canada on the labelling changes on children’s cough/ cold and flu remedies.

2. Consultation with Health Canada on the proposed new regulations for self-care products.

- i. A letter was written and signed by all organizations and sent to Bruce Randall of NNHPD. This 6 page letter, initiated by Paul Labreche of SPHQ, was a comprehensive outline of supporting evidence for the effectiveness of homeopathy in defense of the misleading statements posted on their website.
- ii. A coordinated response to Health Canada's online survey initiated by CHFA (Canadian Health Food Association).
- iii. Continued communication with Health Canada during the consultation phase of this process including upcoming meetings starting in April 2017.

We continue to seek advice during the process including a very productive conference call with a lawyer (John Mill) in November which was prefaced by a legal memo on governance and structure based on the work that had been done with Prof. Bharat.

Name Change Proposal:

The proposal is to change the name of the Society to an Association. This is prompted by the discussions of creating a new Canadian organization which would be an Association. It would also eliminate the continued confusion between the numerous societies that exist in this province.

The name request BC Association of Homeopaths has been approved by the BC Registry. A special resolution to change our name has been placed on the AGM agenda for vote.

HANS:

We continue to be a member of the Health Action Network Society. It is great exposure for our members and provides us with different opportunities throughout the year. They organize networking opportunities for members as well as public events such as Health Shows, Career Fairs and movie nights.

The roundtable meetings that they were organizing for the CAM Associations ended in spring of 2016 and there has been no further follow up.

Member Handbook:

The member handbook is complete and will be emailed to all members and added to the member only section of the website for easy access.

This handbook will serve as a guide to members on our services and benefits of membership, as well as a source of reference for documents and frequently asked questions.

Newsgroup and Communications:

After Lucy De Pieri resigned from her position as Communications Director the moderator position of the Newsgroup was to be transferred to another board member. After several unsuccessful attempts Lucy has agreed to continue as the moderator.

We will be sending a survey to members in the next few months to ask for their feedback on the Newsgroup.

Society Email addresses:

In January 2017 we adopted new email address for the purposes of conducting society business and to maintain continuity. It reduces the amount of work in editing forms and paperwork when board members are changed.

An email notice was sent to all members in January and the contact page on our website was also changed.

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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|-----------------|--|
| Marie Lamey | president.bcsb@gmail.com |
| Susan Forbes | treasurer.bcsb@gmail.com |
| Lynn Mackay | vicepresident.bcsb@gmail.com |
| Allyson Burden | membership.bcsb@gmail.com |
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