



BC Association of Homeopaths
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BCAH AGM Meeting November 5, 2022 1:00 pm

1. AGM began at 1:03: it was determined that a quorum for the meeting was met.
2. The agenda was approved: Louise motioned to accept the agenda and all were in favour.
3. Approval of the minutes from the last AGM held November 20, 2021: only those who attended the last AGM could vote. Two members abstained, otherwise all were in favour and the last AGM minutes were approved.
4. Unfinished business from the last AGM: the only unfinished business was the CEU discussions which were deferred from last year; this had been added to the agenda, see #9 below.

Ordinary Business

5. Director's report of the previous financial year: the Treasurer, Christy Zettl, was not in attendance to present the report, so the President, Marie Lamey, shared the financial report with the members (see Financial report).
6. Director's report of activities and decisions since the previous AGM. Marie gave an update of the activities through the year. The BCAH Membership coordinator, Karina Budhrani, left the province, leaving the position open. The Canadian Coalition for homeopathy is continuing to gather speed as a coalition of many homeopathic parties, including homeopathic professional associations, homeopathic pharmaceutical companies, homeopathy schools and consumers, among others, in order to work in a coordinated effort to minimize attacks and work in unison to support homeopathy in Canada. The BCAH has had several meetings over the last year with the members to identify issues, putting processes in place and ensuring board transparency. Further to transparency, the BCAH is adding the Board minutes to the members only section of the website, next year we will have certain Board meetings open to members attending, and succession planning for Board members will be prioritized. The online Meet and Greet was a small event as some could not attend, so the plan is to do it again this year. Since members preferred an online event, the case conference was organized virtually. Regarding CEUs, members requested more opportunities, so we will put out a survey. The complaints process was updated due to some member complaints and a lawyer was consulted to review the process of any missing pieces; furthermore, a document on

“How to make a complaint” was created. The BC government is moving ahead with regulatory changes to the Health Professions Act, so a lawyer is being consulted regarding the implications to homeopaths as a profession, and the Committee on the Advancement of Homeopathy as a Profession began its meetings in March (an update on the Committee follows #7). The Canadian Homeopathic Association together with the Canadian Homeopathic Pharmaceutical Association is working closely with Health Canada; there have been multiple consultations regarding the wording on the packaging of OTC homeopathic products, both single and combination medicines, which could potentially include messages such as “Not based on scientific evidence” even on vials which are not making any claims. In Quebec there are also some issues with the French translation. CHA board has prioritized the potential to work with and educate several allied health professionals about homeopathy. The Canadian Homeopathic Conference in October was online, and cost \$100 for over 28 CEU hours. Last November the CBC Marketplace aired another episode on homeopathy in pharmacies and a Canadian Senator was being influenced by the skeptics to negatively affect homeopathic labelling, but this was stopped through a number of letters and education on homeopathy. See the Annual Report for more information. The former 4 Homeopathy Canada became its own organization after the Health Action Network folded, becoming Canadians for Homeopathy to better reflect the consumer voice and the Canadian Coalition will collect membership fees in part to help support their purposes. Results of the survey are included in the Annual Report.

Andrea Ring gave an update on the Registry of Allied Animal Health Professionals: the official website should be launched soon and will include a lot of different allied health practitioners such as homeopathy, acupuncture, chiropractic etc. even though the regulation states that in BC they cannot practice without direct supervision of a veterinarian. It was decided to go ahead and create a registry of qualified people anyway. Furthermore, a 40 hour program in animal homeopathy is being set up (Linda Steed and Andrea Ring), teaching acute and first aid homeopathy for animals to lay people. The next step would be to start a certification program in animal homeopathy. The regulations will have to come later; as regulations change in other provinces, it will affect BC.

7. Report from Committee for the Advancement of Homeopathy as a Profession. Nicole Duelli gave an update of the Committee, with its 5 members, which began in March, 2022, originally designed to assess some of the potential impacts that the BC government restructuring of the Health professions and occupations has on homeopathy but grew to include the wider problems facing the profession of homeopathy today. As a positive initiative of what the Committee is working on, Lucy shared her experience in presenting with the local community centres, as a template for what any homeopath in BC could do to support homeopathy in general and their practice specifically. For anyone wanting more information, refer to the Preliminary Report. Another member, Abdul Razzak suggested we offer free webinars on behalf of

the BCAH on homeopathy to the general public to help homeopathy grow, as he has found this work in the past.

8. Election or appointment of directors. Marie Lamey is in the first year of her two-year term for president; Lynn Mackay is in the first year of her two-year term for vice-president; Heather Schofield is in the first year of her two-year term as Director at Large. Nicole Duelli has completed her two-year term as Secretary; Christy Zettl completed her two-year position as Treasurer; Karina Budhrani vacated her Membership coordinator position when she left the province earlier this year so there were three Board positions open. Harkirat Kaur has agreed to take on the role of Secretary; Lynn nominated and Marie seconded the vote: twelve in favour and one abstained.

Marie described the tasks for each role of Membership coordinator and Treasurer positions, respectively. Lynn nominated Nathalie to the Treasurer position and Marie seconded. All twelve were in favour. Marie will speak two potential candidates for the Membership position, though it is not a required position for the running of the Board. Nicole Duelli offered to be the Director at Large. Eleven in favour, one abstained.

9. CEU's: there was a discussion about increasing the number of CEUs from 6 to 12. It was suggested that we could add a number of CEUs for attending the AGM and this could be put out in the survey. Currently, most provinces require 15 CEUs per year, including Alberta, Quebec and the Canadian Society. Furthermore, the majority of our members exceed the 12 and with online events, these are not difficult to attain. It was suggested that we could expand the number of CEUs to other include attending the AGM, time for serving on the Board, for first aid courses and other medical courses to name a few, and this could be put out in a survey.

It was also suggested that it may also be easier to have 24 CEUs over a two year period rather than 12 per year and it could be prorated for members who join part of the year. It was recommended that we wait to hear from members in the survey before increasing CEUs, however this minor change to the bylaws can be added at any time as soon as the survey numbers come in. It was also mentioned that not all members are getting their newsletters about CEUs and thus may not know about online learning opportunities. Another suggestion was that since online learning is not for everyone, there could be a proposal for self-directed learning, however this could be burdensome to the Board if this required special vetting, as Board members have much to do and are volunteers.

10. Vote to accept the Special resolution – amend Bylaw #14 (1) to increase the number of CEUs from 6 to 12. The special resolutions was passed with 9 votes. We will continue to expand the CEU opportunities after the responses to the survey.

On a final note, Marie mentioned that Boiron Canada has been very active promoting

homeopathy and working closely with the Quebec coalition to affect laws and skeptics. In September they took 6 journalists to France for 3 days, giving them a tour, showing them how remedies are made, and going to pharmacies carrying homeopathy. Rachel Roberts gave a talk on the research and a medical doctor who uses homeopathy in his practice also shared his experiences. These journalists will be writing articles in Canadian magazines, including the Canadian Living Magazine. Furthermore, Rachel Roberts will be giving a talk on homeopathy research to restore homeopathy with the naturopaths.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:31 pm

Present: Marie Lamey, Lynn Mackay, Lucy De Pieri, Nathalie Allen, Andrea Ring, Susan Forbes, Abdul Razzak, Roland Guenther, Louise Fridman, Srinivasulu Vuppala , Harshavardhan Kale, Heather Schofield, Nicole Duelli