

**Board of Directors:**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2019-2020 were Marie Lamey, Lynn Mackay, Sonya McLeod, Christy Zettl and Nicole Duelli; Heather Schofield (joined May 2021)

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

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

- ✓ Canadian Homeopathic Association (CHA/AHC)
  - Media Training
  - HC consultations and communications
- ✓ Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy (CCFH)
- ✓ BC Animal Owners Association (BCAOA) and Allied Animal Health Practitioners (AAHP)
- ✓ Regulatory Framework changes/Committees

**Financial Summary:**

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

**Members:**

Our membership numbers currently (as of October 16, 2021) stand at:

Registered	39
Resident	06
Associate	06
Non-practicing	03
<u>Student</u>	<u>01</u>
TOTAL	55

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 Homeopathic Association/Association homéopathique canadienne:**

The CHA/AHC board has created a 5 year strategic plan which will address 5 different areas of focus: Media, Consumers, Government, Research and Other Health Professions. Some of these will be worked on in conjunction with other groups such as 4HCanada and the CCFH...

### Media:

In June 2021 the CHA/AHC organized a Media Training webinar for board members of the provincial organizations. Four members of the BCAH board were in attendance (Marie, Lynn, Nicole, Heather).

The CHA/AHC board has elected Paul Labreche of SPHQ to be the French media spokesperson; Heather Cardona of MHA and Marie Lamey of BCAH will share the role of English media spokesperson.

### Government:

The CHA/AHC continues to be engaged with the NNHPD with respect to the Labelling Guidance proposed for the OTC self-care regulatory framework changes with respect to homeopathic products. The most recent Stakeholder consultations were in June 2021 and our comments and feedback were sent before the September 24<sup>th</sup> deadline.

### Updates:

NNHPD Labelling Guidance – the newest version had the following changes for homeopathic products:

- The part about requiring the concentrations has been removed
- Newly added is a requirement to list the source material
- The requirement of the black box for the disclaimer has been removed (exceptions are allowed)
- The requirement for the magnifier glass icon for the disclaimer has been removed
- The disclaimer itself has been changed to “This claim is based on traditional homeopathic references and not modern scientific evidence” from the previous version “The efficacy of this product is not based on modern science. Visit [www.websiteX.ca](http://www.websiteX.ca).”
- The proposed disclaimer/statement for nosodes linked to vaccine-preventable infectious diseases is unchanged “This product is neither a vaccine nor an alternative to vaccination.” “This product has not been proven to prevent infection. Health Canada does not recommend its use in children and advises that your child receive all routine vaccinations.”

### What was addressed in the CHA/AHC submission:

- Nosodes – our letter sent Feb 2019 and the comments submitted regarding the last version of the labelling guidance in Nov 2020 have not been acknowledged, so just reiterating our points
- Source material – not useful to the consumer, can be lengthy and add confusion if consumer is not familiar with the tenets of homeopathy
- Disclaimer – is not really a disclaimer at all but merely a statement and should be moved to the Product Fact Table simply stating “This claim is based on traditional homeopathic references”

- The list of proposed category 3 claims which would require “modern scientific evidence” – mostly we were okay with what was on the list, but asked for some allowances like “relief of sore throat” or “relief of congestion” and that not all ophthalmic products be placed in category 3 - “Relief of occasional eye dryness and itchiness”
- Correcting terminology – not use dilution or attenuation but “homeopathic potency”
- The issue of what was published in the Canada Gazette Volume 155 number 26 the definition of a NHP be aligned with the definition of a drug by the removal of this passage: “such as modifying those functions in a manner that maintains or promotes health” in the NHP definition.

#### Consumers:

This arena is the role of 4HCanada. This organization has had some challenges in its first few years, mostly in financial support and in consumer awareness. Also the Health Action Network Society, which is the Registered Charity hosting the 4H campaign, has experienced its own challenges in the past few years.

In September 2021 it was announced that the future of the Health Action Network Society was uncertain until 5 individuals stepped forward to be elected as the new board at the AGM on October 20<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to working with the new board and seeing what they have in store for the organization in 2022.

We encourage everyone to support these organizations in their advocacy of health and homeopathy by making a donation to the 4Homeopathy Canada campaign and/or letting your friends, family and patients know about it.

#### Research:

This is in the investigation phase.

#### Other Health Professions:

No work has started in this arena at the national level.

#### CHConference:

The planning committee for the Canadian Homeopathic Conference has started work on a “hybrid” conference for April 2022 in Ontario. Due to continued restrictions surrounding the pandemic, the conference will accommodate in person attendance as well as virtual attendance.

There are plans to have different provinces, other than Ontario, host the conference in the future. If you are interested in helping organize the National Conference please let us know and we will connect you with the CHConference organizing committee.

#### HST/GST Exemptions for Homeopaths:

This possibility of applying to the CRA to have homeopathic services exempt from HST/GST is something that is being investigated. A survey may go out to

members of CHA/AHC associations to see how many homeopaths would be affected by this to determine if it is something worth pursuing.

**Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy (CCFH):**

The CCFH is now registered with Corporations Canada and has a board. The members of the Coalition include the following organizations;

- CHPA – Canadian Homeopathic Pharmaceutical Association
- CHA – Canadian Homeopathic Association
- OCHM – Ontario College of Homeopathic Medicine
- CCHM – Canadian College of Homeopathic Medicine
- NMCH – North American Medical College of Homeopathy
- HANS/4HCanada

Some individuals that were part of the steering committee continue to take part in and contribute to the meetings.

The main focus of the CCFH is to create a strong and unified voice for the promotion of homeopathy and for freedom of choice in healthcare.

*Vision: We envision a future where homeopathy is an integral part of health care opportunities for Canadians*

*Mission: to be a unified voice for Homeopathy in Canada*

*Actions to be implemented by the CCFH:*

- Be present on the stage of public debate in order to express the coalition's views and to make declarations in line with its mission.*
- Ensure the coalition's presence at media interviews, at press conferences and with related press scrums and any other media-related event that is organized by the coalition.*
- Ensure the coalition's presence at political and other public events (when necessary).*
- Ensure that the coalition is present/represented during times of crisis and assist in the management of crises.*
- Ensure media monitoring and correct misinformation of journalists, academics and media.*

**The BC Animal Owners Association (BCAOA):**

The BC Animal Owners Association started their campaign 4 years ago to establish a regulatory College for CAM practitioners, the College of Animal Health Practitioners (CAHP). This has led to the formation of the Allied Animal Health Practitioners (AAHP) group which represents the practitioners involved; the BCAOA represents the public.

Our member, Andrea Ring continues to take the lead for Animal Homeopaths; an update from Andrea is attached as Appendix A.

### **Regulatory Framework changes/ Committees:**

The Ministry of Health received the recommendations from the Steering Committee on Modernization of Health Professional Regulation in August of 2020. These proposed changes to the Regulatory Framework for Health Professions in BC will need to be approved by the Legislature. This step has been delayed due to the pandemic. So far the three Colleges of Nurses have been amalgamated into one – which alone took more than 2 years.

In December 2020 the board invited a guest speaker, Mary Venneman, to discuss how to investigate what these changes could mean for the profession of homeopathy in BC.

As the BCAH has taken on more initiatives due to the formation of, and involvement with, the CHA/AHC, 4HCanada and the CCFH it has become apparent that we need to expand our resources.

In May 2021 the board decided to form a Committee to investigate the question of regulation of the profession of homeopathy in B.C. To do this we undertook to set up BCAH Committee Guidelines that would be a resource to any future committees formed by the board, and set up a Terms of Reference for this Committee.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Change of Yahoo Newsgroup to Groups.io

Updates to board member contracts to include Code of Conduct

### **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.

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