

Board of Directors:

Members of the Board of Directors for 2022-2023 were Marie Lamey, Lynn Mackay, Nicole Duelli, Heather Schofield, Nathalie Allen and Harkirat Kaur.

Report from the Board – Summary of Actions and Events:

The focus this past year has been on:

- ✓ Committee for Homeopathy as a Profession
- ✓ Survey and updates to CEU's
- ✓ Membership
- ✓ Member Meetings re Bill 36 and the HC Cost Recovery Proposal
- ✓ Regulatory Framework changes
- ✓ Canadian Homeopathic Association (CHA/AHC)
- ✓ Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy (CCFH)

Financial Summary:

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

Members:

Our membership numbers currently (as of September 21, 2023) stand at:

Registered	33
Resident	01
Associate	04
Non-practicing	01
Student	03
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TOTAL	42

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.

Committee for Homeopathy as a Profession:

The BC government's current restructuring of the health professions prompted a conversation at the BCAH Board regarding the implications for the homeopathic profession in late 2020. A consultation with a communications coordinator then led to a discussion on the possible creation of a committee to advise the board on how to create a strong and cohesive homeopathic profession in BC as a starting

point. Following further discussions with the membership during the annual AGM in November 2021, our ad-hoc committee was formed with a renewed focus to research possible ways to support the growth of homeopathy in British Columbia, both as a profession and as a community.

The committee drew inspiration from an interview with Judyth Reichenberg-Ullman in Kelly Callahan's 1M podcast along with a published article in the NASH magazine in 1999 about how homeopaths may move forward cohesively. Dr Reichenberg-Ullman offered a long list of goals North American homeopaths might agree on.

The Committee retained the following items:

- Well-trained practitioners of classical homeopathy throughout the country (BC)
- Skilled teachers
- High level training programs across the country (BC)
- Accessible and affordable clinical supervision
- Continue to have the legal right to practice as trained homeopaths
- Widespread education and media coverage
- Standardization of training and ethics, as required by any profession (see below)
- Financial prosperity for practitioners
- Cooperation among homeopathic practitioners – and associations (BCAH and CSH)
- Establishment of an inclusive homeopathic profession – considering both classical and non-classical methods

The Final Report from the Committee was emailed to all BC Homeopaths in the BCAH database (176 emails) along with a survey to elicit feedback and the results of the survey will be presented by the Committee.

Updates to Continuing Education:

Subsequent to the vote at last year's AGM to increase the annual requirement for CEU's to 12 (from the previous 6) a survey was emailed in January 2023 to members to gather input on ways to provide additional opportunities for members to collect CEU's.

Fifteen people answered the BCAH Survey regarding the CEU's. As a result, new CEU's were added to include education obtained from First Aid courses, Professional Development courses and seminars or conferences from other health professions, to name a few.

The CEU's were divided into 2 categories, A and B, where a minimum of 6 CEU's would be required from category A, i.e. specific to homeopathy; and a maximum of 6 CEU's would be accepted from category B, i.e. non-specific to homeopathy.

The CEU table was updated and posted to the website prior to membership renewal.

Membership:

Without a Membership Coordinator the board has had to share the duties of this position.

Lynn and Heather worked on the BCAH Membership Interview Questions, updating the list of questions and rephrasing the questions to make it easier for the interviewee to understand them. The answers provided by interviewee will be added in the document and specifically if someone is interested in presenting a case at a conference or willing to be a board member. Also included at the end of the document is the final outcome of the interview, i.e. the decision to accept as a member or if more requirements need to be met.

New 5 Year Membership Certificates were sent to all members with their 2023 membership renewal.

Member Meetings:

Holiday Evening Social on zoom December 14, 2022 – invitation was extended to all BCAH members.

Bill 36 Zoom Meeting March 11, 2023 – invitation was extended to all BC Homeopaths in the BCAH database (176 emails).

Health Canada Cost Recovery Proposal Zoom Webinar July 29, 2023 – invitation was extended to all homeopaths across Canada (through CHA & CCFH members).

Regulatory Framework changes:

The new Health Professions and Occupations Act, Bill 36, received Royal Assent in the Legislature on November 24, 2022. It is now up to Cabinet to determine when this new Act will take effect and replace its predecessor, the Health Professions Act (HPA). The amalgamation of health professions is expected to be completed by June 2024. There are currently 16 Regulatory Colleges in BC, reduced from 20.

Board members met with our lawyer on April 12, 2023 in collaboration with BC Herbalists Association President, James Christian. The lawyer didn't seem to be concerned about being restricted from practice; however he did provide reference to the following sections of the current Health Professions Act:

Section 12.1 prohibits non-registrants from using any title specifically reserved to a regulated profession and from using any title that indicates a non-registrant is in fact a registrant of a regulated profession. While there is no general prohibition on the term "registered" in isolation, the use of the term "registered" in conjunction with another

term which may imply one is regulated under the HPA would likely be a violation. The application of this rule would depend on the unique facts of a situation.

Section 13 prohibits non-registrants from providing services that are restricted (that is, may only be performed by) to a particular regulated health profession. To the extent any member of your association is performing such a service it may constitute a violation of the HPA. The application of these rules would depend on the unique facts of a situation and a consideration of the wording of the restricted activity in issue.

“Bill 36 which is not yet in force contains similar provisions in sections 29, 30 and 34.”

Whether Homeopaths and Herbalists practicing outside the HPOA would be in jeopardy if Naturopaths and TCM practitioners claimed exclusive rights to provide those services remains to be determined and more consultation is being sought on Bill 36 at this time.

Health Canada Cost Recovery Proposal for Natural Health Products:

Health Canada failed to consult with stakeholders prior to publishing their proposal for cost recovery for Natural Health Products in Canada Gazette I. A mandatory 60 day consultation period followed in the form of an online consultation portal. The BCAH submitted a response prior to the August 10th deadline.

Members were invited to an information meeting on July 29th and encouraged to participate in the online consultation process as well as contacting their MP with their concerns surrounding this proposal.

Canadian Homeopathic Association/Association homéopathique canadienne:

Insurance:

The Manitoba Homeopathic Association (MHA) attended the Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association (CHLIA) 2023 Claims and Anti-Fraud Annual Conference June 7 to June 9th in Winnipeg MB on behalf of the Canadian Homeopathic Association. This opportunity proved to be very beneficial in gaining information needed to move forward on this initiative. From the MHA representatives:

“It was extremely worthwhile attending the CLHIA Conference. We made connections and had fruitful conversations with people from insurance companies, natural health associations, and other relevant organizations. We came to understand the benefits and hurdles to insurance coverage, and came away with much useful insight and information to move the CHA and its members forward into being covered by insurers.

Overall, we would say it was a highly productive and useful event for the CHA to have a presence at”

CHA Members have agreed to participate in future CHLIA Conferences to maintain the visibility of homeopathy to the insurance companies and to pursue opportunities to speak at the event in the future.

Government:

The CHA/AHC continues to be engaged with the NNHPD with respect to the OTC self-care regulatory framework changes with respect to homeopathic products. Most recently in response to the Cost Recovery Proposal for NHP's a letter was emailed and a submission entered through the online consultation portal.

Other Health Professions:

The CHA board has identified and prioritized several other health professions to work with and educate about homeopathy. A standard Power Point presentation is being created that can be customized easily for different health professions. Once completed CHA members will seek opportunities to present the benefits of and the supporting evidence behind Homeopathy to other CAM practitioners.

Brochures have also been created for events which include the logos for the Canadian Homeopathic Association, the Quebec Coalition for Homeopathy and the Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy.

CHConference:

The planning committee is working on a hybrid conference for October 18 to 20, 2024 in Ontario. More information will be shared as the details are released.

Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy (CCFH):

Taken from the CCFH Annual Report:

Activities in the last year from September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023 include the following:

a) Acquiring funding

From December 2022 to July 2023 \$11,306.40 in funding was secured from the paying members.

The terms of an agreement with Canadians for Homeopathy was decided upon to bequeath them 40% of the funding collected for the CCFH as it was received. This agreement is for the duration of 2023 after which time C4H will secure their own funding.

A Go Fund Me account was created in July to accept donations from the public.

b) Website and Social Media

With Victor in place as the Executive Coordinator, a general email for the CCFH was created and posted to the website.

Social Media accounts were created for Facebook and Instagram and a social media calendar prepared by Victor.

c) Media

Positive media articles were posted to the website along with the joint Press Release on June 19, 2023 from both coalitions; Quebec Coalition for Homeopathy and Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy.

A media contact list was compiled by Victor.

d) Seeking opportunities to present the CCFH in a large forum

In October 2022 Marie prepared a 5 minute video to introduce the CCFH at the Canadian Homeopathic Conference, a virtual event. The video was part of the introduction to the conference which was attended by homeopaths across the country.

Numerous attempts were made to connect with the Canadian Health Food Association (CHFA) in order to obtain a spot at one of their Spring or Fall events. These attempts were unsuccessful so we moved on.

e) Sharing and coordination of responses to Health Canada Cost Recovery Proposal

One of the benefits of a coalition is the ability to communicate and share ideas on important matters that affect all stakeholders of homeopathy. Sharing the responses prepared by each group allows the others to see what the common points are and to reiterate those points while maintaining their own unique viewpoint on the issue.

The Coalition sent a letter to the NNHPD before the deadline of August 10, 2023 for the Health Canada consultation period on the cost recovery proposal.

At the end of July, Coalition members were invited to attend a webinar hosted by the BC Association of Homeopaths regarding the Cost Recovery Proposal.

RAAHP Canada:

This multi-practitioner group, the Registry of Allied Animal Health Practitioners of Canada (RAAHP Canada) continues to be active in their pursuit of obtaining recognition and the legal right to use their Complementary and Alternative health care modalities with animals.

The advocacy work that this national organization is doing will help to further promote the benefits and use of homeopathy.

Our member, Andrea Ring continues to take the lead for Animal Homeopaths. Check out their website here: <https://raahp.com/home-page/>

Miscellaneous:

Website updates – addition of resources to member only section, addition of Press Releases and Homeopathy in the news/publications. A meeting was arranged with Michelle, our website administrator, regarding changing website platform in order to facilitate easier Membership Renewal and Membership Coordinator duties.

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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