

**Board of Directors:**

Members of the Board of Directors for 2023-2024 were Marie Lamey, Lynn Mackay, Nicole Duelli, Nathalie Allen, Harkirat Kaur and Jenny Jose joined the board in June.

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

The focus this past year has been on:

- ✓ Member Events and Communications
- ✓ Website additions
- ✓ HC Cost Recovery Proposal
- ✓ Canadian Homeopathic Association (CHA/AHC)
- ✓ Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy (CCFH)
- ✓ Monitoring Regulatory Framework changes in BC

**Financial Summary:**

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

**Members:**

Our membership numbers currently (as of September 11, 2024) stand at:

|                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Registered     | 35                                |
| Resident       | 04                                |
| Associate      | 04                                |
| Non-practicing | 01                                |
| <u>Student</u> | <u>03</u>                         |
| TOTAL          | 47 (increase of 5 from last year) |

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.

**Member Events and Communications:**

The BCAH board hosted a Holiday Evening Social on zoom December 13, 2023; the invitation was extended to all BCAH members.

A Movie Watch Party for Introducing Homeopathy - the Film was organized for members and their guests to view the movie premiere on April 20, 2024. Nine members RSVP'd for a total of 21 guests; unfortunately only 12 attended.

A WhatsApp Group for BCAH members was created to connect, share and exchange ideas and information.

Minutes of Board Meetings continue to be posted to the members section of the BCAH website for members to review.

A feedback survey regarding the new membership renewal process was sent - it was only filled out by two people and they were on the board.

Regular Mailchimp notices are being sent to members with updates and action items. Interesting observation: whenever we ask members to fill out a survey, the click rate on the newsletter goes down.

### **Website additions:**

Until June of this year, the BCAH had been without a Membership Coordinator since August of 2022. Because the board has had to share the duties of this position for the last 2 years we enlisted the help of our website administrator, Michelle Russell, to streamline the membership renewal process. A MemberPress plugin was added to the website and used for the membership renewals this year.

Resources were added to the members section for Homeopathic Pharmacies and Suppliers.

### **Health Canada Cost Recovery Proposal for Natural Health Products:**

After the initial release of the proposal in 2023, Health Canada received almost 5000 submissions in response. In the following 6 months, the NNHPD worked on reviewing the feedback and revising the proposal.

On Wednesday March 27, 2024 the NNHPD hosted a meeting with stakeholders to review the new proposal and receive their comments

Marie attended the meeting along with Paul Labreche on behalf of the Canadian Homeopathic Association members and submitted a letter of feedback to HC on the new proposal. The BCAH board also wrote a brief letter which was submitted to HC.

Even though Health Canada has reduced the proposed fees by half, low selling products are still at risk of being removed from the shelves and being available to consumers. Homeopathy and TCM products are most significantly impacted by the annual RTS (Right to Sell) Fees for low sales volume products.

At this point we are waiting for further communication from HC on this matter.

**Canadian Homeopathic Association/Association homéopathique canadienne:**  
Insurance:

CHA Members have agreed to participate in future Canadian Life & Health Insurance Association (CHLIA) Conferences to maintain the visibility of homeopathy to the insurance companies and to pursue opportunities to speak at the event in the future.

In the meantime each association is to work on their bylaws, code of ethics/conduct to work towards requirements for insurance coverage.

Government:

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

OHMA is connecting with government officials such as the Minister of Mental Health & Addictions as invited guests to their events.

Other Health Professions:

The CHA board is finalizing a standard Power Point presentation 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:

Email from the CHConference planning committee:

*Our Canadian Homeopathic Conference directors have been considering all our options in holding a conference on October 19, 20, 2024, and we have realized that our financial risk for holding a national conference is prohibitive and not in the best interest of our long-term objectives for the future.*

*Knowing our financial limitations and the state of our homeopathic environment, we have developed a new strategy that should in time bring us back to having a true national in-person conference.*

*Our first step will be to promote small regional conferences starting with Ontario.*

*The Canadian Homeopathic Conference will then aim to promote other provinces after we develop a successful financial model as soon as late this year.*

*The mini conferences will be developed under the CHConference (Canadian Homeopathic Conference), as it is currently established. The regional conferences would be named after the provinces, for example, the Ontario Homeopathic Conference, Manitoba Homeopathic Conference, Quebec Homeopathic Conference.*

*In holding these conferences, we would be working in cooperation with the Canadian Homeopathic Association and their provincial association partners. The steps outlined above are meant to strengthen provincial homeopath networks and their member homeopaths.*

*By holding smaller professional conferences more often, we aspire to increase interdisciplinary exchange thus raising public awareness.*

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

Taken from the CCFH Annual Report:

*Activities in the last year from September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024 include the following:*

#### ***a) Acquiring funding***

*From September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024 \$11,040.00 in funding was secured from the paying members.*

*A “Donate Now” button was added to the website for the Go Fund Me account that was created in July 2023. To date this revenue stream has collected \$150.00 (= \$145.05). With more focus going into directing traffic to the website we foresee this increasing in the near future. Donations were also received directly via e-transfer.*

#### ***b) Website and Social Media***

*In the Spring of 2024, Victor and Neil worked on restructuring the website to allow for better organization and addition of new content.*

*Social Media following on Facebook and Instagram continues to grow. A YouTube channel was created for short video content that can be posted and shared. A variety of topics will be covered for educational and informative purposes.*

*A “Sign Up” Button was added to the website in August to collect emails for a Newsletter to directly share events and articles with interested individuals.*

#### ***c) Media and webinars***

*In January 2024 two committees were established to focus on promoting the Coalition and Homeopathy in different formats.*

*The Article Committee (Marie, Shahram, Haroula & Victor) is to focus on creating articles. These will be shared with print and online media, focusing on media outlets that are most likely to work with us, as well as to be used for website and social media content.*

*The first article entitled “Introducing the Canadian Coalition for Homeopathy” was completed in June and is still being circulated to media outlets for publication. In August we secured the services of professional writer and author, Alan Cassels, who will be writing the articles going forward.*

*The Research Webinar task force (Liz, Shahram, Joyce, Haroula, Victor & Lee-Ann) is to organize regular webinars on ‘research on homeopathy’. Guest speakers will be individuals who each thoroughly understand a particular area of research and will present and explain it.*

*These webinars will be advertised through our website and social media. Coalition members will also share the invitation with their networks so that very wide audience will attend and become aware of the merits of Homeopathy. It is important that such events reach individuals and organizations outside of the homeopathic community.*

*The first Research Webinar was on June 12, 2024 featuring Dr. Shahram Ayoubzadeh – ‘Unlocking the Healing Potential of Homeopathy: Debunking the Placebo Myth’.*

*Upcoming scheduled webinars include:*

- Dr. Jennifer Jacobs, Thirty Years of Homeopathic Research – Lessons Learned, October 23, 8pm EDT*
- Arya Mohan, Review of High Quality Peer-Reviewed Homeopathic Research Studies, topics TBA at closer date, November 20 at 8pm EST*
- Dr. Leonardo Faedo - Homeopathy Applied to Agriculture, Theoretical and Practical Considerations with Examples from Brazil, January 18 at 11am EST*
- Dr. Ronald Whitmont, topic TBA, March 26 at 8pm EDT*

*We are expecting a confirmation from Dr. Alex Tournier.*

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

*At the last AGM, a Task Force was created for the Cost Recovery Proposal. A webinar was planned for October 24th 2023 - ‘Are You Concerned About Your Access to Homeopathy?’ The webinar was information about cost recovery and how it will affect homeopathy in Canada. Coalition members sent out to all of*

*their contacts and databases. The speakers included Christina Barrett, Joseph Kellerstein, and Stephen Malthouse. Glen Jung served as moderator. The webinar was recorded and posted to Youtube:*

*[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=039FcL7nv\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=039FcL7nv_A)*

*Canadians for Homeopathy hosted a webinar featuring Ananda Moore and Shawn Buckley.*

*The Canadian Homeopathic Association posted their letter to Health Canada on their website.*

*Coalition members continue to share information and action items with one another and with their networks regarding this important issue.*

***e) Issues with CBSA (Canadian Border Services Agency)***

*In February 2024 it was brought to our attention that some Professional Homeopaths were having issues receiving their remedy orders from Helios Pharmacy in the U.K. The Canadian Border Services Agency has erroneously been stopping orders from getting through. Remedy orders have been seized, destroyed, returned or seriously delayed.*

*Efforts have been made to rectify this issue by contacting Health Canada. The College of Homeopaths of Ontario wrote a letter on behalf of the Regulated Homeopaths in Ontario. We will continue with efforts to resolve this issue.*

NOTE: If you are having issues receiving remedy orders please contact Marie @ [president.bcah@gmail.com](mailto:president.bcah@gmail.com)

**Monitoring Regulatory Framework changes in BC:**

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).

As of June 2024, after a series of amalgamations, there are now six health profession regulatory colleges to be governed operating under the HPA.

In recognition of the extensive work required for all health profession regulatory colleges to prepare and align themselves with the HPOA, the BC Ministry of Health awarded a \$4.5-million grant to BC Health Regulators (BCHR) to support all colleges by centrally coordinating this shared work.

BCHR has launched a major project to develop resources and supports that help BC's health profession regulators prepare to regulate in the public interest under the new HPOA. The anticipated project timeline is to Spring 2025.

More information can be found here: <https://bchealthregulators.ca/health-regulation-in-bc/regulatory-modernization/>

### **Committee for Homeopathy as a Profession:**

While the Committee met a couple more times through the year, the engagement of members has been slow and the decision was made to wait until more interest is generated before moving ahead in any specific direction. Of course, there is still much work to be done. While most homeopaths prefer the status quo and find it easier to practice without a system in place, it does not offer us a guarantee for freedom to practice nor access to homeopathic medicines. In the end, the freedom to practice and access to medicines are needs that all homeopaths can agree on.

For the moment, the Committee is on pause until more members show interest in forming a small group(s) and forging ahead on a specific topic of interest, such as bringing a school to BC or liaising with allied professions or sharing positive information on homeopathy with the media and general public (see last year's Report in the Members section of the website for the full list of recommendations).

While the Committee is on pause, the BCAH Board continues to work on these and many more topics to ensure the continued advancement of homeopathy as a profession. For example, the BCAH continues to offer events where homeopaths can collaborate, is working actively with insurance companies to ensure homeopathy is covered for patients and that we all have access to our homeopathic remedies.

For anyone interested in helping out or collaborating on any of the recommendations of the Committee, please contact Nicole Duelli @ [director2.bcah@gmail.com](mailto:director2.bcah@gmail.com)

### **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/>

### **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.

Marie Lamey  
Lynn Mackay  
Nathalie Allen  
Harkirat Kaur  
Nicole Duelli  
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