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President's Message:

Dear Colleagues,

As this calendar year winds down, I want to take the time to thank many of the people who have helped our association over this past year.

I want to thank the membership as a whole, and those of you who took time to participate in giving feedback and changes to our bylaws, and post feedback about the changes to Psychologists Regulations and the CPBC bylaws. The window of time is still open, please take this opportunity to provide feedback that will impact our profession. If you have not yet reviewed the changes, they are available to review within links in previous communication, and on our website.

I understand that as we enter 2023, we do so with some uncertainty. I appreciate the kind words of encouragement I have received from the membership, as well as those who have expressed and identified more complex issues. As a reminder, the Executive is a volunteer board, each with full-time jobs, family responsibilities, and the unexpected challenges we all must sometimes face in life. The workload that we are currently facing for BCASP alone is extraordinary and a constant stress for all of us. I ask you to kindly consider this when addressing us, and please consider stepping up to the executive during the next elections to lighten this load.

In addition to the Executive Committee, the Conference Committee works tirelessly to put on meaningful professional development. The speakers at the past conference highlighted many topics that are current within our field including behaviour, academic skill development (reading and math), trauma, ethics and so much more. Thank you so much to Barb Nichols, Karen Bentley, Simon Bazett, Tiffany Lavoie, and Kathleen Cherry for their continued dedication on our behalves.

I hope this newsletter find you and your loved ones well, as the holiday season approaches. I hope you all get to enjoy a well deserved break!

Sincerely,

Alyssa Bollans

The BCASP Executive

President: Alyssa Bollans

Past President: Doug Agar

Vice President: Barbara Nichols

Secretary-Treasurer: Melanie Baerg

Membership Secretary: Stacey Kemp

Chair, Ethics and Professional Conduct: Olivia Jaswal

Director of Communications: Gregory Pearce

Member at Large: Kim Wolff

<http://www.bcasp.ca>

Past President

Dear Colleagues,

One of the most significant roles the Past President has is to chair the Nomination Committee, call for nominations and oversee the election of Executive Officers. The election of Executive Officers, with the notable exception of the President, are held on an annual basis and the election of President is every two years. An election was called for Vice-President, Secretary-Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Director of Communications, Ethics Chair and Member at Large. I am pleased to announce that your current 2022 BCASP Executive officers are:

President: Alyssa Bollans

Vice President: Barbara Nichols

Secretary-Treasurer: Melanie Baerg

Membership Secretary: Stacey Kemp

Director of Communications: Greg Pearce

Ethics Chair: Olivia Jaswal

Member at Large: Kim Wolff

Past-President: Doug Agar

Wishing you all a Joyous Holiday Season.

Dr. Douglas Agar

Vice President and Conference Committee

Dear Colleagues:

I usually focus my newsletter submission at the wonderful work of the conference committee. And I will do that after some comments about being a member of the BCASP executive committee.

I started on the BCASP executive in the role of Ethics and Professional Practice Chair in January 2012 and moved into the role of Membership Secretary after the AGM in November 2012. The Ethics role was a large responsibility and as Olivia Jaswal might attest, it works best with a solid committee and a set of well-developed procedures. I believe the role of Membership Secretary was most rewarding because I got to see first-hand the expertise entering our profession, and it was a joy to meet and welcome the new members at our annual conference.

In November 2016, there was a vacancy within the executive, and I offered to step up; I moved to the role of Vice President, which included becoming a member of the conference committee.

While the BCASP executive dedicates many hours to the tasks of BCASP business, e.g., the promotion and support of our profession as well as the minutiae involved in being a not-for-profit organization, it might not be apparent that we also work in our assigned roles as chairs or members of various committees. As Alyssa noted, this takes time and effort as volunteers who also work as school psychologists. My work here has enabled me to connect with my professional colleagues in unique ways. Those connections have fostered lifelong collegial and personal relationships. It has been worthwhile, rewarding and enriching. But I welcome succession-planning where members join in and bring their fresh ideas and energy to the organization. As Doug noted, at every November AGM, the VP/conference committee member role is open. Please consider expressing your interest and “be the change you want to see”.

Looking ahead – while our members are becoming regulated by the College of Psychologists, I see that BCASP’s conference and professional development role can be elevated as an enhancement to the practice of school psychology. It is an exciting prospect that we will work on with our committees.

Now – to the conference committee: I am not alone in noting how wonderful it was to be able to have an in-person conference this year. At the AGM, I mentioned that we have gone about some aspects differently – for example, we hired registration services to provide a more seamless registration process. The online event site was a one-stop shop for your workshop selections, CE certificates and handouts. We have also enlisted a site selector who has helped to secure contracts for the 2023 and 2024 annual conferences. We continue to consider ways to enable blended formats for our offerings. The conference committee hopes to continue our reputation for bringing one-of-a-kind conferences for your professional development and networking experience.

Planning and carrying out the details for a conference has many moving parts. I am in awe of the expertise and commitment that our conference committee members have invested. It is rewarding but also time consuming when the group is few in number. That said, we are grateful that some members have come forward to help since the November AGM. Not only do many hands make lighter work, more people will bring fresh ideas and add to our fun group of planners.

We look ahead to our Virtual Spring Workshop on May 5, 2023: please mark the date in your calendar.

Barbara Nichols

Message from the Ethics and Professional Conduct Chair

Greetings from the chilly, white north! In Prince George the snow has arrived, the Nordic ski trails are open and winter is in full swing. Today I find myself daydreaming, going back in time to our conference in balmy North Vancouver. It was absolutely wonderful to connect and interact in person, learn new things, and dust off ideas that had slipped to the back of my mind. Thank you to all of you who took the time to introduce yourselves and chat with me. It was great to finally put faces to names! I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding contributions of the current members of the Ethics and Professional Conduct Committee. I am so

grateful to collaborate with such hardworking, thoughtful and insightful people.

If you happened to miss our AGM, my annual report included two key reminders. Practice advisories, including our updated 2022 communication to members regarding virtual assessments can be found in the Members Area of our website (www.bcasp.ca). While visiting the website, I also encourage you to review information outlining the circumstances under which Certified School Psychologists can report their professional title and certification number (Guidelines for Reporting Title June 2017), particularly if you are engaged in employment outside of your school setting. Members may only present their certification number and professional title (both verbally and in writing) within the context of formal employment as defined in our bylaws. Another key nugget of information from our AGM, presented by Member at Large, Kim Wolff, is that you can log the time you spend preparing for the College of Psychologists of BC's jurisprudence exam in your continuing competency log.

Best wishes to you in the run up to winter break. As ever, please feel welcome to get in touch with questions and concerns.

Olivia Jaswal

Membership Secretary/Privacy Officer

I have had the pleasure of being your Membership Secretary since 2016. Since that time, we have welcomed 87 new members! The number of new members only represents part of the job as there are numerous requests for information and many files that do not make it through to becoming members. For reference, a file that comes from a recognized school psychology program is about 5 hours work and other files can take 10 hours or more to complete and bring forward to the Membership Committee. There can often be further work once the Membership Committee has met as well. I have certainly learned a lot in this time and continue to do so. As we move towards joining the College of Psychologists of BC, I anticipate a busy time ahead with people hoping to become members of BCASP before the merge.

The latest members since the previous AGM are:

- Vanessa Oslie
- Melody L.G. Marlow
- Wing Tung Phoebe Wong
- Simon Lisaingo
- Melanie Parent
- Ramina Khustnutdinova

We are excited to have you as part of this amazing organization!

I continue to be in awe of the dedication of the Executive and Conference Committees and the number of hours selflessly donated on behalf of all members. It is a phenomenal group of volunteers!

Stacey Kemp

Secretary Treasurer

Dear Colleagues,

2022 was a busy year! Our physical office space is fully set up and has functioned well for us. Huge thanks to our amazing Executive Assistant, Christina Estrada, for her hard work this year. She supported the Executive, our membership and the Conference Committee with dedication and patience. I'd also like to recognize and thank James Tanliao and Kathleen Cherry for pioneering our BCASP podcast over the past year! If you haven't listened yet, check out their excellent work on Spotify at

<https://open.spotify.com/show/60PhTvbmnqcM0OPEfaZheF?si=EO1AYyzQS0y0rEEg7NaucQ>

Our social media efforts are gradually increasing our digital footprint and awareness of our organization and we will continue our work with Thrive Marketing until the end of 2023. Please like, follow and share the platform(s) you prefer (Twitter and Instagram handles are @bcaspcertified; and on Facebook search BC Association of School Psychologists). There are great posts about topics that may be of interest to a wide range of individuals, as well as announcements and information just for our membership.

On a personal note, in addition to my positions at UNBC and SD28, I've been busy collaborating with a number of school psychologists and educators in various positions to move science-informed and aligned literacy practices forward in BC education, from K through post-secondary teacher education programs. It is my personal hope that the collective efforts of advocates in all areas will result in awareness of this important human rights issue and that we will see real change in 2023.

Wishing you all a restful and joyful Winter Break!

Melanie Baerg,

Director of Communications

Well, it is that time of year again when we get a chance to have a break from our busy schedules. This is a year where we have extra things on our minds with the move to the College finally happening after many years of discussion. Personally, I have been involved with BCASP since 1997 and at that time, discussions were in process regarding an Exemption Clause which enabled the title "psychologist" to be used by school psychologists.

For those of you new to the organization, the move to the College has been in process for many years and it was initiated by government (Please see the history that Kim Wolff provided in her article, below). I had many questions myself about the process: what this will mean for us as school psychologists and when will this occur? Eventually, I took the opportunity to join the Executive as the Newsletter Editor so that I could be involved in the process, as well as help move the organization forward. I have been on the executive now for over 12 years and in that time of volunteering my time and energy for the organization, many hours were spent to ensure that BCASP members would be taken into the College based on their current merits. I understand

that there may be some concerns about the future, but we will continue to perform the duties we are now performing in our positions in schools. The difference is that we will be using the title “Registered School Psychologist”.

I also wanted to reiterate, as others above have also stated, we are a voluntary Executive who continue to remain on the Executive committee helping to organize and run the organization. These positions are open every year to all members (president is every two years) and everyone can step forward to be involved in the running of the Executive. As a member of the Executive, we are responsible to ensuring that the Association is following Provincial guidelines for all Associations, that we are fiscally responsible, that we are reviewing issues that arise from the public, and that we are representing our members to the best of our ability. What some may not realize, is that none of us are paid to do this; we do this to promote the organization. I personally work between 15 – 25 hours a week on the website, answering emails, sending out letters, and meeting with the Executive to discuss issues that arise. This is no where near the amount of hours our President has to spend on the issues that are more top tiered. I have missed many a Saturday and Sunday not to mention evenings in order to answer questions for members or to deal with an issue that arises requiring immediate attention. As such, many of us have missed a great deal of our own opportunities for time with our families and loved ones in order to serve you, the membership. We do the work that is required in order to have this organization.

As an offshoot of the Executive, we also have other committees such as Ethics, Membership and Conference where many more hours are spent to make sure that the public is being looked after when complaints come in and to ensure that you have a great Conference every year to not only obtain your credit hours but to have excellent teaching.

I, for one, would like to send out a big thank you to the Conference Committee for their time and effort in creating these events. The number of hours of unpaid time is incredible and kudos to the team of Barbara Nichols, Simon Bazett, Karen Bentley, Tiffany Lavoie and Kathleen Cherry. As well, thank you to everyone on the Executive who offers their personal time to address the needs of the membership and to work on their behalf, as without your work we would not be where we are today.

As we move toward the end of this school year, I want to say Happy Holidays to everyone! I hope you all have a great and wonderful break. It is my wish that we all have peace and relaxation at this time of year so that we can enter into the remainder of the year with energy and confidence. Our kiddos need that from us, and we need it to be helpful to them.

Thank you and have a nice break.

Greg Pearce

Member at Large

Hello fellow BCASP Members

It was good to reconnect with many of you during our 2022 Conference. Thank you to the Conference Committee for giving their time and energy so that we could have this experience.

For the 2022 year, BCASP members are required to complete 25 hours of professional activities in various categories. You do not have to submit your Continuing Competency Log to BCASP this year unless it is specifically requested. You can find a fillable pdf of the Log here: <https://bcasp.ca/member-downloads/> (Member Area, Member Downloads). All active members are required to complete 25 hours of professional activities each year, regardless of FTE in your respective district. Those returning from inactive status will be required to engage in and document those activities not completed during the inactive period. Those members with extenuating circumstances are encouraged to contact memberatlarge@bcasp.ca to look at solutions.

Note: Registrants of CPBC who do not complete the required hours may be placed on temporary (supervised) registration while completing the outstanding requirements.

Category A: Formal Conferences, Courses, or Workshops – 9 hours

These activities include learning opportunities such as conferences, courses, workshops, or annual/special meetings held by BCASP or other professional associations of psychology. Online courses within the scope of the delivery of School Psychology courses would also count in this area. This year BCASP provided an opportunity to gather hours in this category with its Spring Conference held in May, the November conference, the AGM, and the Q & A session held with CPBC on November 23. Other opportunities to obtain hours in this category include NASP conferences, NASP webinars, PAR and Pearson webinars. When choosing activities for this category, keep in mind the following characteristics: the event is planned; speakers have professional credentials in mental health, health, or academic research; printed documentation is provided; a registration fee is typically charged. The activity must be within the scope of the delivery of school psychology services. Please keep your CE certificates to document your attendance.

Note: CPBC requires 12 hours in this category.

Category B: Self Study – 8 hours

These are activities for BCASP members to remain current with regulatory, academic, and professional literature as it pertains to the practice of school psychology. You can obtain hours in this category by reading BCASP documents (<https://bcasp.ca/resources/>), literature from CPBC (Code of Conduct, Bylaws, etc.) found here: <https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/registrants/library/>, preparation for the Written Jurisprudence Exam (WJE) <https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/applicants/the-written-jurisprudence-examination-wje/>, as well as reading articles from peer reviewed professional journals. If, during your preparation for presentations or workshops, you learned something new and practice enhancing, you can include those hours, too. You would not count general prep hours. Document these hours by specifying book/journal titles with reference to the url, webpage or article. Some members keep a copy of the cover page as documentation.

Note: CPBC requires 11 hours in this category.

Category C: Structured Interactive Activities – 8 hours

The intention of this category is for BCASP members to interact with a group of colleagues (other BCASP members, licensed professionals in mental health, health, etc.) for the purpose of learning and incorporating new ideas with feedback from others. Regular meetings with other school psychologists to discuss cases, assessment practices, etc. would count; regular staff meetings would not. SBT meetings would not count in this category as the purpose of those meetings is generally to provide guidance to others and not to enhance our own learning. Gathering hours in this area can be problematic for some members who are the sole school psychologist in their district. Interaction needs to be with at least one other person and does not need to be in person. Our Ethics Chair, Olivia Jaswal, (ethics@bcasp.ca) created the BCASP Collegial Network and generously offered to match school psychologists through this forum. As well, members can reach out through the BCASP Member Forum (<https://bcasp.ca/member-forum/>) to make connections. To document these activities, specify the dates and topics of discussion. Redacted (if necessary) minutes of the meeting would be appropriate documentation.

Note: CPBC requires 12 hours in this category.

Category D: Ethics – 5 hours

The intention of this category is for members to ensure that they are engaging in regular consideration of ethical issues. These are not additional hours but rather activities that are completed in either Categories A, B, or C. Those who attended the session *Ethics on Planet Psychology: Principles and Pitfalls* by Dr. Handelsman, can count those hours in both Categories A and D. Reading articles on ethics would count in Categories B and D. Ethical problem-solving with a colleague would count in Categories C and D. To document these activities, indicate which activities from Categories A, B, or C focus on ethical practice in school psychology.

Note: CPBC requires 5 hours in this category.

Category E: Self Care – one self-care assessment per year

The intention of this category is for BCASP members to identify factors that contribute to their stress load and in some way impact their ability to perform professionally, and then to engage in activities that mitigate these factors. As stress factors are unique to the individual, members can choose their own self assessment and follow-up activities. No documentation is required; however, members will be required to attest that this has been completed upon renewal of membership.

Note: CPBC has similar requirements.

As it is now confirmed that BCASP will be part of the College, it was decided that no further changes would be made to BCASP's Continuing Competency Program. Members should note that since BCASP introduced the Continuing Competency Log (based on the College's log), CPBC has updated the requirements for registrants. Members must complete 5 hours regarding Indigenous Cultural Safety. These are not additional hours but covered in other categories much like the Ethics hours. Registrants must also complete an Annual Practice Review Questionnaire and Practice Quiz. This is intended to be educational and can be completed within a group. Individual scores are not submitted to the College.

Lastly, I would like to thank my awesome colleagues who make up the BCASP executive. Some of you may not be aware that members of the executive and conference committee do so entirely

on a volunteer basis. Some positions regularly require upwards of 20 hours per week over and above the full-time work in their respective school districts. As we move toward the deadline of becoming members of the College, understandably, BCASP members will have questions. As part of your Category B hours, I encourage you to read the following document; the move to the College has been over 25 years in the making, and much of the history is documented here: <https://bcasp.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Response-to-Members.pdf>

Kim Wolff

34rd Annual BCASP Conference Report

We are back in person, and it feels SO GOOD! This was our first in-person event since before the pandemic. What a treat it was, to see each of your smiling faces as you reconnected with colleagues, perused the exhibitor tables, and crossed notes about your learning experiences.



Our goal this year, was to provide you with the opportunity to hear from leading experts about best practices pertaining to learning, safety and the well-being of students, while simultaneously addressing current challenges in education. We hope you enjoyed it!

Overall, our registration numbers were quite high this year, with just under 200 registrants. It was really nice to see everyone! The responses we received on the feedback survey suggest that most of you were pleased with your experience this year.

Based on the 46 responses received, here are the numbers:

93.2% judged the quality of the conference to be Good or Excellent.

56.8% felt the conference was as good as could be expected, while 31.8% thought it was a lot better than expected.

72.7% found the quality of the venue was good to excellent.

In addition to giving us quantitative feedback, as always, you gave us some fantastic and thoughtful qualitative feedback. Thank you to those who took the time to share your thoughts!



Here are the highlights:

“Thank you again for a top-notch conference. I appreciate the work and time it took to organize this. It was wonderful for it to be in person this year.”

“Thank you so much for the care and detail that goes into planning the BCASP Conference! It was nice to gather in person again. The registration, gift items, prize draw, luncheon etc. are



wonderful touches and traditions. The speakers were great and covered a wide range of relevant topics. The online system was very convenient for keeping track of a schedule resources and CE certificates.”

“I really enjoyed being in North Van.”

“Thank you again for a top-notch conference. I appreciate the work and time it took to organize this. It was wonderful for it to be in person this year.”



“More options and quantity of food at the wine and cheese.”

“I had so much fun and am so happy the conference is back in person. Thank you all for the hard work that I’m sure goes into organizing it!! Also, I thought our BCASP president did a great job handling the AGM discussion of the move to the College. That can’t have been

easy!”

“The hotel service and food was excellent, and as much as I loved the scenic spot, I think I prefer the conference to be moved back downtown, or perhaps even try Richmond in the future.”

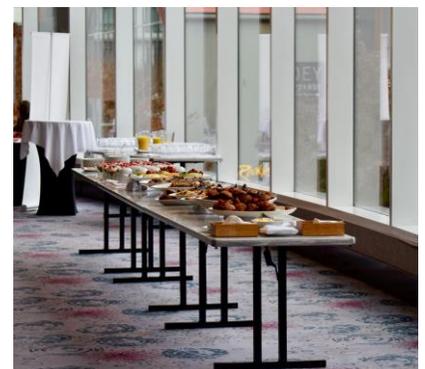


“The technology for this BCASP Conference for registration etc., was exceptional.”

“Lovely area for a conference but very long drive. Online platform for downloading notes and viewing schedule was great. Food was good.”

“The benefit is speaking with colleagues during breaks and lunch. It would be nice if there was more facilitated opportunities throughout the day to learn about what each other is doing across districts.”

“Very well organized. Friendly, engaging, and knowledgeable presenters. It was lovely to meet other school psychologists.”



“Breakfast, snacks, coffee/tea appreciated.”

Overall, many of you noted how great it was to reconnect with colleagues, enjoy the snacks, and to have the opportunity to learn together from leading experts in our field, once again.



Additionally, some of you stated that we may need to increase the hors d’oeuvres at our next annual Wine and Cheese gathering. Duly noted! As a side note, we did request extra hors d’oeuvres when we were placing the order. Despite the snack dilemma, we were thrilled that the gathering was so well attended and that the hors d’oeuvres were enjoyed!

The speakers we featured this year were all well received.

Your favourite speakers were Dr. Ben Springer, (90% Good or Excellent) Happy Kids Don’t Punch You in the Face, Dr. Jan Hasbrouck (88.5% Good or Excellent) speaking on The Science of Reading: What We Know and How to Implement It, and Dr. Daniel

Ansari (88.4%) who was not far behind, speaking on The Typical and Atypical Development of Numerical Skills.

Howard Knoff’s session on FBAs for the 21st Century: The Seven High Hit Reasons for Student’s Challenging Behaviour was the least popular presentation, and rated at 60% Good or Excellent.



Thank you for all your excellent recommendations for speakers for future events. We hear you and are already working hard to secure some of your suggestions! We hope you will all consider joining us on May 5th, 2023 at our 8th Annual Virtual Spring Workshop.

Next year, we will be moving the conference to the Pinnacle Harbourfront Hotel in Downtown Vancouver. The hotel is located just two blocks away from the city’s famous seawall and the Vancouver Convention Center. We look forward to seeing you all there!

Before I go, I want to extend a HUGE welcome to: Holly Kavanaugh, Karen Mortimer, Laura Berlanda, Madelyn Worth, Lynde Hill, and Kate Caswell. These BCASP members have kindly offered to help with conference endeavours. We are thrilled to have them on the team and look forward to working with them soon!

Finally, the winner of the 2022 Conference Survey draw for a \$100.00 credit towards registration at the 35th Annual BCASP Conference is...

DRUMROLLMackenzie Saip! Congratulations, Mackenzie.

On behalf of the entire BCASP Conference Committee, I want to thank each and every one of you who made the effort to attend the 34th Annual BCASP Conference in North Vancouver this year. Your presence is what makes our conference exceptional and brings meaning to the work we do as a committee. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you all! To those who couldn't make it, we missed you and hope you'll be able to join us next year!



Wishing you all a very happy and well-earned holiday season.

Cheers,

Leona Tiffany Lavoie, BCASP Conference Committee Member

BCASP

Collegial Network

Are you the only Certified School Psychologist in your District/School?

Do you wish you were better connected with other Certified School Psychologists for consultation?

Do you sometimes wonder how your local procedures and practices compare to those in other school districts/independent schools?

Are you struggling to complete your *Ethics* or *Structured Interactive Activities* hours for your Continuing Competency Log?

Limited Time Offer!

From now until the 2023 AGM, your BCASP Ethics and Professional Conduct Chair will coordinate a member pairing/networking program, connecting Certified School Psychologists around the province.

If you would like to be paired with one or more Certified School Psychologists, please email ethics@bcasp.ca and share your name and where you work.

Unless you indicate another preference, every attempt will be made to connect members with peers within the same general geographic area.

**Participating members will remain personally responsible for their conduct and professional decision-making. Professional conduct is expected to align with BCASP ethical and performance standards, and practice advisories/guidelines (available online at www.bcasp.ca). BCASP Executive Committee members will not moderate, supervise, or assume responsibility for members' activities or conduct.*

Olivia Jaswal, Ethics & Professional Conduct Chair
BC Association of School Psychologists, ethics@bcasp.ca