



# Canadian Professional Association for Transgender Health

## Newsletter

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### Call for Contributions

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Trevor Corneil outside  
Hotel Holmenkollen

### President's June Report

We hosted a successful AGM on June 6th via webCT with Rebecca Hammond as chair of the event.

This newsletter will feature a summary of the AGM as well as the CPATH Committee Reports.

You will also be introduced to the new executive board.

As I step down as president, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who was instrumental in helping me get this fantastic organization up and running. In particular, I would like to thank Dr. Oliver Robinow for his continued mentorship and

Dr. Trevor Corneil for completing the endless tasks I have asked him to perform over the past 2.5 years!

I look forward to serving you on an international level as I assume the role of Secretary-Treasurer of the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) from 2009-2011.

Gail

Gail Knudson  
MD, MPE, FRCPC



### Member Spotlight—Dr. Trevor Corneil

Dr. Trevor Corneil BA, MD, MHSc, CCFP, FRCPC

is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia, Medical Director for Urban Primary Care for Vancouver Coastal Health and a practicing physician in Vancouver's downtown south and east side. He is also in charge of Undergraduate Career Development for the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Trevor is the President of CPATH for the 2009-2010 term and I encourage you to support him in his work in the upcoming year. I wish you all the best Trevor...and, again, many thanks for all of your hard work over the years. Gail Knudson





## What We Did Well

### 1. Built a national presence

- Continued to send out monthly newsletters
- Sent timely updates to the membership about the Alberta de-listing
- Sent out press releases on behalf of the Board and Advocacy Committee addressing important issues

Alberta de-listing

Newfoundland human rights legislation

Federal bill including Gender identity

- Board members contacted by media to comment on a variety of issues
- Travelled to several provinces to promote our organization as well as the member's promoting it in within their provinces.

### 2. Advocacy versus activism

- This was one of the challenges going forward from last year
- We have allied ourselves with Egale on several occasions – the most important one being the Alberta SRS de-listing to form a stronger national voice (Egale represents the activism piece)
- The Advocacy Committee did outstanding work in this area

### 3. Membership Recruitment

- There was worry that membership would drop significantly with the institution of membership fees
- The Membership Committee proposed a fee structure that they felt would work after researching similar organizations.
- Membership dropped by 30% but we still have 70 members





# President's AGM Report (cont'd)

## What We Did Well

### 4. Providing leadership in trans health care education and provision

- Dr. Knudson provided consultation on behalf of CPATH to BC, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and Newfoundland governments when advocating for service provision
- Conferences – hosted CPATH 2008 in Toronto
  - 100 - attendance
- Presentations: Dr. Knudson delivered educational presentations on behalf of CPATH in 2008/09 as follows:
  - *St John's*—September 2008
    - 6 educational rounds presented to 6 different sets of health care providers
  - *Halifax* – September 2008
    - Hormone Assessor Training – 2 days
    - Grand Rounds presentation to Department of Psychiatry at Dalhousie

- Presentations (cont'd):
  - *Montreal*— April/May 2009 Trans Pride Fierite
  - First Quebec trans health care conference

## What We Could Have Done Better

- Started committees earlier, thus some committees were more active than others
- Increased usage of bulletin board service
- Located alternative funding sources
- Attempted unsuccessfully on several occasions to meet with Give Meaning staff, therefore, no separate foundation is created as of yet





## Advocacy Committee Report

**Chair: Marria Townsend**

The CPATH advocacy committee is made up of 10 members from across Canada. Our group includes service providers, activists, trans people and cis allies. We have recently welcomed a representative from the Trans Alliance Society of Vancouver. Marria Townsend will be stepping down as chair of this committee and we are fortunate to have Kris Sutherland taking over this position by acclamation.

Our accomplishments and ongoing work include:

- Beginning work on a position paper regarding appropriate standards for sex designation on birth certificates.
- Continuing our efforts to bring the need for a surgical program in BC to the government's attention. Strategizing on how else to advocate for improved access to trans surgeries, including phalloplasty and chest contouring for trans men.
- In collaboration with Egale we have lobbied the Alberta government to reverse their decision to suspend funding of trans surgeries.

- We also put our support behind trans activists in Newfoundland who were advocating for inclusion of gender identity as a specific area of discrimination alongside sexual orientation and other grounds.

- We wrote a letter of support for the private member's bill introduced by the Honourable Mr. Bill Siksay regarding the addition of gender identity and expression to the Canadian Human Rights Act and to Criminal Code provisions on hate crimes.

- BC members have met in person three times to discuss local issues and we are encouraging others across the country to consider doing the same.

- We are also in the early stages of providing input to the DSMV GID committee.

We have approached the CPATH policy committee and are hoping to be involved in the development of membership and ethics policies.

Our challenges:

- We would like to have greater representation from other regions of Canada.
- Communication has been a particular challenge given the wide geographic distribution of our members.



# AGM Committee Reports



## Communications Committee Report

Chair: Trevor Corneil

This committee was late starting this year depending mostly on its chair and board member, but several new items have been initiated which will provide a platform for regular activity in 2009/10.

### Internal...

- Monthly newsletter:** timely and well received - thank you Gail
- Blog service:** could be used more effectively, but likely there will be more pick-up as the committees start to become more active
- Web:** undergoing a redesign and will include better contact info, links to committee chairs, and a membership/conference management platform

### External..

- News agencies: with our increase in profile, the committee needs to be more available to the President (the "voice" of the organization) for input and the writing of briefings to ensure consistent messaging

## Governance Committee Report

Chair: Nicole Nussbaum

Nicole Nussbaum sent out an invitation inviting others to join her committee. Unfortunately, she remains the sole member of the committee. A CPATH member had approached us with an interesting idea about having an "Ask the Expert" forum on our website. Nicole sought counsel from other lawyers specializing in web law and Gail Knudson contacted the Canadian Protective Medical Association. The idea has now been forwarded to the Communications Committee for further consideration as they will need to approach each provincial medical college across Canada as to their guidelines with respect to answering questions on the web. We understand that we will not be offering medical advice but this definition varies from province to province.

Submitted by: Gail Knudson



# AGM Committee Reports



## Membership Committee Report

**Chair: Julian Young**

The Membership Committee was formed at the conference last June in Toronto. Our first duty was to recommend membership categories and fees to the board for the 2009 year. Towards that end we surveyed other professional organizations and compared their fees and benefits. One of our goals was to keep fees low enough to not deter people from joining. We also recognized that although it is a professional organization there would be many people who for example, worked in volunteer positions or peer counseling and advocacy roles who would like to be members and whose membership would benefit the organization.

We thought the different categories were needed because of the varying abilities to pay and because the online clinical supervision that is available presented some challenges as far as ethical supervision of members was concerned. We realized very quickly CPATH could not take on the role of ethical oversight and therefore chose

to require that those who access the online clinical supervision be governed by the ethical oversight of their own professional organizations.

We hope the different categories that were created have allowed a broad membership base in terms of the types of experience that people bring. The issue of voting rights still needs to be addressed and I am hopeful that at the next AGM I will be able to report progress on that topic.

Finally, thank you all for your patience in working with our varying forms and trying to do things through email and the post. Happily we will have a new web system starting in July that should improve things in many ways including streamlining membership applications and renewals. Stay tuned.





## Annual Conference Committee Report

**Chair: Jim Oulton**

Jim Oulton secured funding for the satellite meeting in Oslo through the AstraZeneca grant which has been detailed by the treasurer. Kayla Landau and Gail Knudson made the local arrangements. We have 15 CPATH members confirmed for the cocktail party on June 16<sup>th</sup> and the meeting June 17<sup>th</sup> at Hotel Holmenkollen.

CPATH 2010 will take place in Montreal April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>. This will be presented in concert with the Quebec Trans Pride Conference. Walter Bockting, president of WPATH, has accepted our invitation as a keynote speaker in addition to Vivian Namaste, Pierre Brassard and Françoise Susset. Our AGM will also take place that weekend.

## Policy Committee Report

**Chair: Julien Davis**

The CPATH Policy Committee has begun the process of developing an Ethical Guidelines for Members policy, using the WPATH policy as a framework. The WPATH Policy Committee has approved our use of their document and we will continue to work on this policy modifying it to be relevant for CPATH members. Future policies are to be developed in consultation with the CPATH Advocacy Committee, as per the request of the Advocacy Committee chair.

## Research Committee Report

**Chair: Melady Preece**

The CIHR grant that was submitted in 2008 to follow health care practices of transgender people across Canada was not funded. Unfortunately, the funding category in CIHR was not offered this year so the grant proposal was not resubmitted.





*President:*

Trevor Corneil,  
Vancouver



*President-Elect:*

Donna Hendrickson,  
Saskatoon



*Past President:*

Gail Knudson,  
Victoria





*Treasurer:*

Joan Quinn,  
St. John's



*Secretary:*

Nancy Wright,  
Halifax

