



ADVANCING PALLIATIVE MEDICINE IN CANADA

CANADIAN SOCIETY OF PALLIATIVE CARE PHYSICIANS

APRIL 11, 2014

INTERESTING TIMES

“May you live,” saying goes, “in interesting times.” It is indeed an interesting, wonderful, and perhaps challenging to be working in the field of Palliative Care. We have come a long way, and accomplished a great deal. Increasing numbers of Canadians are aware of our services, and although we have work to do to improve access for Canadians, and to improve education for all providers, the CSPCP looks to the future with excitement. The tireless efforts of many have yielded fruit, and Palliative Medicine now is a recognized sub-specialty of the Royal College; our Society has hired permanent part-time administrative and executive support, and we are confident that with their work, and the Board’s, and the ongoing efforts of countless members, we will continue to improve both quality of care and access to care for all Canadians.

As the issue of Physician-assisted suicide and euthanasia continue to receive “airplay,” we need to remain engaged, we need to examine our commitments, and we need to speak up on behalf of our beliefs. Though not all members of our Society share the same views on these matters, we are all dedicated to providing quality palliative care to all who could benefit, and this is our message.

CONFERENCE



Please come to Toronto in May, as we will celebrate our 21st anniversary as a Society. Your conference planning team has put together an amazing conference, and the simple opportunity to brush shoulders with colleagues and friends from around the country and around the world is rejuvenating.

We will mark our Coming of Age by honouring our pioneers and celebrating our accomplishments. Make an effort to come, to reflect on past accomplishments, savour the moment, and importantly, to actively embrace our future.

If you are attending the conference be sure to sign up for the Gala Dinner. We'll have some special guests including Eduardo Bruera, who will present the award in his name.

CSPCP MEMBERS ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A \$200 DISCOUNT ON CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PLUS A \$25 DISCOUNT ON THE PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP, so be sure to renew your membership before you register.

Conference registration fees increase by \$50 on May 3rd, so take a moment to register NOW! Hotel rooms have been blocked until April 28th. Visit the Events section of our web site for links to all the details: <http://www.cspcp.ca/category/events/>

AGM MAY 31, 2014

Please try to attend your Society's Annual General Meeting this May. Get involved and stay involved. There are 2 positions on the Board coming available, and voting will take place at the AGM. If you or someone you know might be interested, we are keenly looking for enthusiastic Society members to help further the goals of the Society. All that is required is a willingness to participate in a minimum of one board committee, a willingness to represent the CSPCP publicly, and 3-7 hours of working time per month. Board terms are for 2 years, and include 2 face-to-face meetings per year (typically 2 days per meeting), and 1 hour-long teleconference monthly. Travel compensation is provided for the face-to-face meetings.

Please send letters/emails of interest should to Kim Taylor at: ed@cspcp. In your letter of interest, you should provide two paragraphs that outline who you are and why you want to serve on the board. This information will be circulated with names of individuals standing for election.

Your letter should also state that you are willing and able to commit.

Please ensure you include the name(s) of at least 1 other CSPCP member supporting your application. If you are nominating another individual, please ensure that you include a statement that the person has agreed to let his or her name stand.

HEADS UP! YOUR VOTE IS ESSENTIAL ON MAY 31ST TO KEEP THE CSPCP INTACT.

Bylaws may seem boring ... but this year they are critical. The Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act (NFP Act) has recently established a new set of rules for federally incorporated not-for-profit corporations in Canada. The CSPCP must change its By-Laws to comply with the new Act by Oct 17, 2014. 2/3 of members must approve the bylaws. Failure to do so could result in dissolution of the Society.

It is essential that you vote at the 2014 AGM in Toronto on May 31st, or that you designate a proxy who can vote on your behalf.

The draft bylaws and a summary of key changes are posted on our web site if you wish to review them.

CSPCP INVOLVEMENT IN CMA/MACLEANS TOWN HALLS

The CMA is currently hosting a series of public "town hall" meetings across Canada, in partnership with Macleans magazine. The purpose is to better understand Canadians' thoughts and concerns about end-of-life issues. The Town Halls are being heavily-promoted by Macleans, and several multi-page articles related to end of life care have been published.

The CSPCP is providing palliative physician panelists for all of the public town halls. Our members are participating in a myriad of ways: through interviews with Macleans, attendance at the Town Halls and/or Members' meetings, and/or participation in on-line dialogues.

Thus far, public Town Halls have taken place in St. John's, NL (CSPCP panelist: President-Elect Dr. Susan MacDonald) and Vancouver, BC (CSPCP panelist: President Dr. Doris Barwich). Closed meetings for CMA members were held in St. John's, Edmonton, and Vancouver. Additional dates, locations, and on-line options (live streaming, online dialogue) are listed on our web site: <http://www.cspcp.ca/category/events/>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

My first 4 months as your ED have been a whirlwind of activity. My role is to support the Board, Committees and Members to start ramping the CSPCP up to a new level of activity and influence throughout the Canada.

I'd like you to know that palliative care is a cause I care deeply about. I think everyone has a defining moment that drew them to the field, and I'm no exception. For me, it was volunteer work I did as a volunteer facilitator of bereavement support groups. I noticed a marked difference in how families described the death of their loved ones when they were supported by a palliative team, and how they coped with bereavement. It made me wish that PC would have been available for my mom. I still remember her writhing in pain during the last months of her life - and now I know that the pain was probably unnecessary. Although access has improved a little in the 15 years since my mom's death, we still have a long way to go. I hope my business and project skills will help all of us get there a little faster.

My first steps at the CSPCP were to "get the house in order" with our new website, streamlined/efficient renewal process, timely communications, and support to your amazing Board and Committees. I keep everyone organized, track what we are working on, and make sure nothing falls through the cracks. There is an incredible amount of activity going on related to undergraduate education (letters to the Deans, upcoming workshop & trade show); conference planning; awards; an HR survey that we're doing with the CMA, Royal College and CFPC; Choosing Wisely; Wait Time Alliance; CEO Roundtable; Specialists' Forum, Royal College Working Group; CFPC work related to the CAC to name a few...

As our conference and AGM approach, my focus is shifting to the 21st Anniversary "Coming of Age" Celebration, our May Board meeting, the AGM (including voting for new bylaws and two Directors). In parallel, I'm searching for sponsors and collaborators to support us in fulfilling our mission.

It will be a big year for us and we have only a tiny permanent resource (me part time, and Michelle part time as our admin assistant and webmaster extraordinaire). If you can spare even a few minutes to help, please speak up!

Let's move from this:



...to this!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROFILE



- ED since November 2013
- 25 years in health care: clinical, research, administration, consulting (including many projects for palliative care organizations)
- Skills: specialist in multi-stakeholder initiatives, project management, business development
- Work Interests: palliative care; stroke and brain injury; community health

CHOOSING WISELY CANADA

CSPCP is contributing to Choosing Wisely Canada (<http://www.choosingwiselycanada.org>), an initiative to help physicians and patients engage in conversations about unnecessary tests, treatments and procedures. To suggest Choosing Wisely items relating to Palliative Care please email: maryjaneol@hotmail.com

NEED TALKING POINTS?

- The CSPCP has a backgrounder that provides key talking points representing Society positions. It's posted on our web site at: <http://www.cspcp.ca/information/statements/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE DUE!

REMINDER: Membership Fees were due March 1st!!

We've moved to a fixed renewal date for all members. Please renew if you have not already done so. You can renew and pay online at <http://www.cspcp.ca/joinrenew/renew-your-membership>

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