

February 2016

Message from the President – Kathleen Fyvie

Inside This Issue

1. Message from the President
2. Conference: Early bird Registration Now Open
3. Beverley & Jon Carl Scholarship for Student Members
4. Membership: How to Make Your Registration and Renewal easier
5. New Newsletter Format & Frequency
6. Newsletter Editor Volunteer Opportunity
7. We Welcome Your Feedback!

It has been a very busy year for BCNPA so far as we forge into 2016.

Our strategic plan is unfolding with the committee members tackling the priorities and goals established at our planning day back in September 2015.

Coalition Update

The BC Coalition of Nursing Associations members - BCNPA, ARNBC, LPNABC, ARPNBC and NECBC - have accepted the Terms of Reference in a historic move that is being watched across the country.

This is the first time in Canada that all four nursing associations and nursing educators have formed a collaborative and innovative association that represents all nursing groups in a province. Please see the [BCCNA website](#) for the latest updates on the Coalition.

A strategic planning day was held, and action items have been determined and assigned. This innovative and collaborative group of nursing leaders meet monthly to discuss and strategize on or work to resolve issues that affect the nursing and the nursing educator communities.

These meetings often host the MOHS leaders, and the Colleges. The most recent meeting was on February 10, 2016. Ted Patterson, Assistant Deputy Minister of Health, and Lynn Stevenson, Assistant Deputy Minister from the MOHS attended for part of the day. The Chief Nursing Officers have been invited to attend the meeting in March.

Overview of Meetings with Ministry of Health Services Leaders from Jan. and Feb. 2016

BCNPA Vice President **Natasha Prodan-Bhalla**, Past President **Stan Marchuk**, and I met with the MOHS last month on January 26.

Key items on the agenda were funding and education.

MOHS has reviewed the paper on NP implementation in BC, which was written by contractor Esther Sangster-Gormley. The paper is still confidential and has not yet been shared with BCNPA. However, the Ministry put forward some high-level ideas around NP education and funding and were keen to hear feedback from us.

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I have since compiled written feedback from the BCNPA board members, who responded to a request for comments on the Ministry's ideas. I submitted this summary to the MOHS earlier in the month.

Natasha, Stan and I will attend an in-person meeting later this month to discuss funding and education with the MOHS.

CAAPN Meeting – Feb. 10

The Nurse Practitioner Council of the [Canadian Association of Advanced Practice Nurses \(CAAPN\)](#) met for the first of its quarterly meeting for 2016. Natasha, Stan and I attend these meetings on behalf of BCNPA.

Communications Committee – Lots of Projects in Progress

The Communication Committee has regrouped under the leadership of a new chairperson, *Minna Miller*.

We have also hired communication consultant Debbie Hultgren of Links Communication Solutions to assist the committee with specific projects that require expertise beyond the knowledge of our member volunteers (e.g. website, social media, and strategic communications support, etc.)

Some of the committee's current projects include:

- A member survey, which focused on communication and content preferences that concluded in January. Thanks to all of you who participated. The results will inform the BCNPA communications strategy and the priority areas for the committee to focus on.
- Relaunching the [BCNPA Facebook page](#). If you have a Facebook account, please go like this page to show your support!
- Revising BCNPA's current communication policies to better reflect what we communicate and how we share information.
- Developing a new newsletter template and standardizing the frequency of the member newsletter.
- Improving the overall functionality of the BCNPA website.

Upcoming projects include:

- Reviewing and rewriting the content on the BCNPA website to better reflect who we are today as an organization, clarify what it is NPs do in the BC healthcare system, and articulate the BCNPA relationship with other nursing organizations.
- Addressing website issues identified by members. Membership renewals, membership completion, and finding membership status are a few areas the team will be working on.

Membership demonstrates an individual NP's support for NP representation in BC, which is significant with employers and government.

Membership Committee – Working Hard to Spread the Word on the Benefits of Membership

The Membership committee is working hard to ensure that all BC NPs are aware of BCNPA and why they should be members.

Specifically, they are particularly reaching out to students.

Please keep your membership up to date and encourage your NP peers to join.

MOHS is very interested in the level of professional engagement demonstrated by NPs in BC.

BCNPA is the voice of BC NPs. Being a member of BCNPA demonstrates that, together, we are a voice that matters. Membership demonstrates an individual NP's support for NP representation in BC, which is significant with employers and government.

The cost of membership is less than 75 cents/day and many health authority employers will reimburse this cost.

BCNPA is nearly 100% volunteer-run. We operate on a very tight budget to ensure NP representation and leadership at multiple stakeholder tables.

Please support this work with your membership dollars.

BCNPA NPs Presenting at Events

Leanne Rowand, NP of VIHA, accepted an invitation to speak about rural NP practice at a conference of the BC Union of Municipalities representatives held February 3, 2016 in Richmond BC.

Leanne reported that many community leaders in attendance had not yet heard of NPs or were not aware of what NPs could contribute to health care in their community.

She was able to clear up many misconceptions and thoughtfully answered intelligent questions, which most certainly provided a great learning opportunity for those in attendance, as well as widened the audience who now have a better understanding of NP practice and may wonder how they can integrate NPs into their community.

Great job and many thanks Leanne!

Karen Sims, NP of FHA and BCNPA Treasurer, attended the annual stakeholder meeting of *Do Bugs need Drugs*.

Karen reports back that there was great discussion on antibiotic prescribing. The hardcopy of *Do Bugs Need Drugs* is being phased out.

Go to the [Do Bugs Need Drugs website](#) for info on purchasing the online format.

Thanks for taking this on Karen!

Upcoming NP Events

June 3-5, 2016: BCNPA AGM in Kelowna, BC. As part of the larger BCNPA annual conference, it is important that members also attend the AGM. If you can, please attend to vote, nominate new leaders, and get involved! This is an important meeting for your voice to be heard!

Conference: Early Bird Registration Now Open

BCNPA is proud to host the 11th Annual Conference where knowledge, skills, and information are shared among those dedicated to working as NPs in BC.

11th Annual BCNPA Conference

June 3 to 5, 2016

Delta Grand Okanagan Resort and Conference Centre
Kelowna, BC

*Early bird conference rates in effect until **May 1, 2016.** Rates for members, students, and non-members apply.*

Early bird rates are in effect until May 1, 2016. [Register online.](#)

All NPs and interested colleagues are welcome. Rates for members, students, and non-members apply.

The Conference Committee is working hard to secure keynote speakers, develop the program, organize the gala dinner and entertainment, and create what will be three fulsome days of learning, sharing, and networking.

The annual conference is the only fundraising event for BCNPA with all the dollars we raise going toward operating costs (e.g. website hosting and maintenance, bringing in outside expertise to help with business strategy and communications, tools for online registration, etc.)

Participation in this hallmark event is not only an opportunity to learn from other NPs province wide, but also shows your support for BCNPA as a professional organization.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Beverley & John Carl Scholarship for BCNPA Student Members

The Beverley & John Carl Scholarship is available to eligible BCNPA student members in the amount of \$1,000.

Submissions will be accepted until March 31, 2016.

The criteria:

- Must be a resident of the province of British Columbia
- Must be enrolled in a British Columbia Nurse Practitioner program
- Must be a student member of the BC Nurse Practitioners Association
- Demonstrated ability for nursing leadership

The scholarship is made available through the Canadian Nurses Foundation. [Please go to their website for more on the application process.](#)

Membership: How to Make Your Registration & Renewal Easier

1. Chose an email address that you will have for a long time. Avoid work and university email addresses, if you can.
2. If you encounter a problem [contact us](#), and we will help to sort it out.
3. Renewing in March and April ensures you get full access to the member area throughout the year and keeps your membership active.
4. Print your receipt as soon as you receive it in your email, and keep your log-in information secure.
5. Register for the conference at the same time you renew your membership to make the process easier.

New Newsletter Format and Frequency

The BCNPA member newsletter is getting a makeover.

In the member survey on communications, you told us the newsletter is one of the main ways you would like to receive BCNPA information. (Email was the top answer, followed by the newsletter, and finally the AGM and the BCNPA website.)

We are currently in the process of evolving the overall format of the newsletter. (This new “look and feel” is our first attempt: expect tweaks and minor changes moving forward as we receive your feedback.)

*Student Members:
Deadline for submitting
your application to this
scholarship is
March 31, 2016!*

*You told us the
newsletter is one of the
main ways you would
like to receive BCNPA
information.*

We also plan on publishing this newsletter more regularly at quarterly intervals (Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter).

Expect to see content on a variety of relevant topics, when it is available. Through the survey, you have told us that you expect BCNPA to provide updates on:

- How NP profession is progressing politically (93.47% of respondents)
- Updates on BCNPA projects and political efforts (89.13%)
- NP practice issues (82.61%)
- Updates from BCNPA leadership (78.26%)

We plan on kicking off the new newsletter circulation schedule in a few weeks.

Again, your feedback is always welcome! Please email us at info@bcnpa.org with your comments.

Newsletter Editor Volunteer Opportunity

Are you interested in helping build a unified Nurse Practitioner voice in BC? Looking for opportunities to express your creativity, and help bring forward varied views? Have you been wondering how BCNPA might better reach the membership, and maybe have some ideas in this regard? Then, this could be an opportunity for you!

BCNPA is seeking a committed newsletter editor for a two year period to coordinate and publish the quarterly e-newsletter for members.

The association would welcome up to two individuals to act as co-editors.

Previous experience with newsletters is an asset, although not mandatory. (We prefer that you are enthusiastic and able to commit the time needed to produce the editions.)

The successful candidate(s) will have plenty of support from the Communications Committee and the benefit of working with BCNPA's communications consultant, who will assist with setting up the process and offer guidance and mentorship as needed.

Expected commitment: 20 to 25 hours per edition spread over three months.

[Click for more on the role, start dates, and desired qualifications.](#)

Please email your interest, plus a few bullets on your background and how you are perfect for the role to **Debbie Hultgren** at debbie@linkscommunicationsolutions.com.

Deadline for submissions: **February 21, 2016** end of day.

We Welcome Your Feedback

Please continue to send us your questions, concerns, and feedback. Your input helps ensure that what you receive through this newsletter is of value to you, as a BCNPA member.

Email us at info@bcnpa.org any time.

Your comments will always be kept confidential. We do not publish your feedback without your explicit consent.