



Addictions Professionals Association of Saskatchewan, Inc.

Box 8718 • SASKATOON, Saskatchewan • S7K 6S7
apask@sasktel.net • www.apask.org

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The Board of Directors met on Dec. 7/13 in Prince Albert and, due to the number of agenda items, it was a bit of a marathon, starting at 10 a.m. and wrapping up at 4:15 p.m. There were many points of discussion not the least of which were questions about the agreement between APASK and CACCF.

The Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with CACCF has offered the APASK Board an opportunity to talk with members across the province, fielding questions both by email and phone, and we welcome the opportunity to interact with the members in this way. There does seem to be some confusion about what the MoA means to renewing members. Let me try to clarify just a bit here:

- If you work as an Addictions Professional and have been a member of either APASK or CACCF, it will now be understood by both organizations that you are a member of both. This means that in order to be a member in good standing of one, you will need to renew your membership and pay the required fees to both. The signing of the MoA removes the choice. APASK will be the recipient of the fees and will forward the CACCF portion to them as the fees are paid.
- If you are employed as an addictions counsellor, clinical supervisor, addictions consultant and are a member of either organization, you do not have the option of being an associate member paying the \$88 non-voting membership fee. That fee is exclusive to students, people who have retired but wish to stay in tune with things that are going on in the professional world and people who are supporters of what APASK/CACCF is trying to accomplish.
- Though APASK will encourage its professionally employed members to pursue certification, you do not have to be certified or pursue certification to be a member. Being employed as an addictions professional, however, will require that you are a voting member of APASK and therefore of CACCF.
- Most of you may not know that this is an agreement that is being pursued across the country. Our neighbour to the west, Alberta, has invited APASK into a discussion on how to get the same type of agreement in place for themselves as they are dealing with a piece of legislature that says in order to call yourself a counsellor in Alberta, you will have to be affiliated with a professional association or college that is self-regulating and provincially based. Ontario, too, is looking to the model that was used in the Agreement between APASK and CACCF to structure their agreement as they have the College of Psychotherapists and Registered Mental Health Therapists of Ontario Act– (See more at: <http://www.oaccpp.ca/about-regulation/#sthash.2lRgH8pV.dpuf>) – These pieces of legislation have the potential to impact all of us further as we see more and more integration between mental health and addiction work. The Board of Directors for APASK has been watching these events carefully and working to reduce the impact on the addictions professionals of our province in the future.

With Christmas and the end of the year approaching, I would like to remind everyone that the first, and cheapest, membership renewal deadline is also approaching. Payments that are received or postmarked after December 31 will be subject to the first level of late penalties outlined on your membership

What unites us necessitates we work together to find better ways.

renewal application. We know that the holiday season can create tight budgets, and that some people will make the decision on to renew their membership. If this is the case for you, I will ask you to consider some of the events that are being planned for the new year that will bring some saving for being members:

- In February, two “Crash Courses”, preparation for CACCF international certification will be offered, one in Saskatoon and one in Regina. There is also a possibility that this course will see further offerings in different locations as demand requires.
- We had been hoping to have David Powell, whom many of you will have trained with in the past, do a further presentation at our annual conference in May this year. It is with great sadness that we bring you the news that David passed away suddenly in early November, following an accident at his home. We are in discussion with another dynamic presenter who has worked with David in the past and who we anticipate will bring an equally powerful message with a bit of a different approach.
- We are also in the very beginning stages of planning for Celebrate Recovery Month and are negotiating with a well-known author in addictions for three or four speaking events. We are also exploring a training event around ethics in the practice of addiction counselling during the fall as well.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Saskatoon on March 29, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. We will be making every attempt to bring this meeting to you via technology...BUT....we might not be there just yet. We hope that you will consider bringing your concerns and suggestion to this meeting to hear more about what else is planned for 2014.

On behalf of the Board of Directors of APASK and the Board of CACCF, I want to wish you all Peace, Hope and Happiness for the Christmas season and for the coming year.

Brenda Hearn, BA, CCEd, MTS, ICADE, CSAP, ICCDP, CEAP
Chairperson, Membership Committee
APASK Board of Directors