



# *Addictions Professionals Association of Saskatchewan, Inc.*

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September 16, 2013

This is an update for you following the APASK Board of Directors meeting held on Sept. 7 2013 in Prince Albert:

At this meeting we heard from Treasurer, Ruth White; that she is very pleased with the results she is getting from the new bookkeeping group that we have engaged. The Board was presented with a complete set of up to date financial reports that give us a clear pictures of the funds that are available to assist us in serving the membership.

The Celebrate Recovery Month events took up a considerable amount of the Board's time during our meeting. The amount of attention we attracted, as a concerned professional body, was be quite large for the rally and the movie screening, although attendance for both events was low. There was an article in the Star Phoenix Saturday Sept 14<sup>th</sup> and an interview on Global news that ran on the 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. newscasts with the APASK logo front and center on the screen. We are hoping the article will be picked up by the Regina Leader Post.

For the wrap up breakfast on Sept 29 (in Saskatoon) we have invited numerous stakeholders including Directors of Mental Health and Addiction Services for Saskatoon Health Region, Tracy Muggli, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, Brett Danyliw and Prince Albert Parkland Health Region, Brett Enns. As well invitations have been sent to the Mayor of Saskatoon, The minister of Health, Father Andre Polivare, Dr. Peter Butt chair of the former Addictions Advisory Board, the new Commissioner in charge of the review, Dr. Fern Stockdale-Winder and Inspector Russ Friesen of the Saskatoon City police. A number have accepted the invitation and will be present.

On another note, there has been a letter of support sent on behalf of APASK to the president of SIAST to lobby for an Applied Degree in Addictions to be added to their calendar. This letter was copied to the Dean of Community Services, the Minister of Advanced Education, Don McMorris and the Commission of the review, Dr. Stockdale-Winder. We remain hopeful that we will see this as the second applied degree to be offered by SIAST along with psychiatric nursing which is in progress now.

You will be aware that the new DSM V has now been released. Some Health Region's Staff have had a bit of an in-service on what that means to them, as mental health and addictions workers. Board Member John Kreiser has been in contact with Dr. Carlton Erickson in Texas and posed some questions as how we best approach this as addictions professionals. We are hoping to make that or any other information we receive, available to membership as soon as possible.

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

One of the most exciting pieces for us, the Board, continues to revolve around formally merging with CACCF. Meetings with them are on-going and more information will be distributed to you in the next week or two as the merger becomes official.

To close I would like to wish you all Happy Celebrate Recovery month for September. I hope that you received your supply of silver ribbons and that you will wear and distribute them with pride. (and that they made it through the mail intact). Certainly we would be delighted if APASK members took part in the activities and updated us on what events they planned for their own communities. This would be for inclusion on the website and on the [www.recoveryday.ca](http://www.recoveryday.ca) website.

And please do feel free to contact your Board with ideas, questions and concerns at any time.

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