

The e-Bulletin

THE COLLEGE OF PSYCHOLOGISTS OF ONTARIO
L'ORDRE DES PSYCHOLOGUES DE L'ONTARIO
Regulating Psychologists & Psychological Associates

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Outgoing President's Message

In June 2010, **Dr. Dorothy Cotton** finishes her second year as President of the College of Psychologists of Ontario and is completing her term on the College Council.

As she leaves the office of President, Dr. Cotton remarks that, "It has been nine years since I first became involved with the College of Psychologists as an elected Council member, and as you read this, I will be leaving Council."

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Welcome to the first issue of the **e-Bulletin** of the College of Psychologists of Ontario. In developing this format of communication with members, the College strives to provide frequent updates on subjects of interest to members of the College.

Elections to Council

Elections were held on March 31, 2010 for three Council positions. The College wishes to congratulate:

Dr. Milan Pomichalek - re-elected in District 1: North
Dr. Mustaq Khan - re-elected in District 2: Southwest
Dr. Allison Harrison - acclaimed in District 3: Central

[View Profiles and Candidate Statements](#)

50th Anniversary of Psychology Regulation

The Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology (OBEP) was established under the Psychologists Registration Act, 1960; the first psychology regulatory legislation in Canada. Some 30 years later, with proclamation of the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 and the Psychology Act, 1991, OBEP was succeeded by the College of Psychologists of Ontario. Now, in 2010, we are celebrating 50 years of psychology regulation in Ontario.

[Read more. . .](#)

2010 Barbara Wand Seminar

The 18th annual *Barbara Wand Seminar in Professional Ethics, Standards and Conduct* was held on Friday, May 14, 2010. A review of the seminar evaluations suggest that overall, participants agreed it was a very interesting, informative and successful day.

[Learn more. . .](#)

Member Updates

From time to time the College issues important *Member Updates*, by e-mail, on a variety of topics. As examples, on June 1, 2010 the College issued an update on changes to the Regulated Health Professions Act and on May 25, 2010, a message from the President, Dr. Dorothy Cotton, entitled *Shaping the Future*. These *Member Updates* are available on the College website in the Members of the College section. [Click here. . .](#)

Outgoing President's Message

Dr. Dorothy Cotton, C.Psych.

It has been nine years since I first became involved with the College of Psychologists as an elected Council member, and as you read this, I will be leaving Council. (The RHPA stipulates a maximum of nine consecutive years (three terms) for Council members—and thus my time is up.) Much has happened in the regulatory world in the last nine years. However, in an effort not to be too egocentric, I will add that much has happened in the last 50 years.

As some of you are already aware, 2010 marks the 50th anniversary of the regulation of psychology in Ontario. The College kicked off the celebratory year with a reception in May in Toronto following the Barbara Wand Seminar, and there will be several additional regional receptions to continue the festivities over the course of this year.

One suspects that this particular anniversary does not necessarily make the hearts of all members go pitter-pat and there may even be a few of you who forgo the regional receptions. Nevertheless, it is worth thinking for a moment about where we were then and where we are now—not only as practitioners of psychology, but as people.

The year 1960 heralded an interesting decade... John Diefenbaker was Prime Minister of Canada. Teen Angel and three songs by Elvis Presley were in the top ten. The CBC was not yet broadcasting in color—but it had Mr. Rogers, Tommy Ambrose, and the Forest Rangers. Montreal and Toronto competed for the Stanley Cup—and Montreal won.

In 1960, Canada was still under the British North America Act, there had been no referendum in Quebec; the term *multiculturalism* had not been invented. There was no Charter of Rights. You could smoke on airplanes—and virtually anywhere else.

In 1960, psychologists were using the WAIS and there was no item in the Comprehension subtest about the reasons that people in some professions require a license in order to practice.

Until 1960, anyone could call themselves a psychologist.

To those of us who have grown up in psychology as a regulated profession, we might associate terms like *regulation* and *licensure* and *credentialing* with payment of fees, onerous exams, quality assurance obligations, professionals standards and crushing volumes of legislation. And all that is true, as far as it goes. But once one gets past the immediate demands of the regulatory process, registration and licensure have far more lofty intents and goals.

The declaration in 1960 that psychology was indeed a profession exemplifies the social contract that we as practitioners have with the public. Regulation implies that we have a systematic body of knowledge mastered through an extensive program of study and training. It implies that we have a Code of Ethics and a means of enforcing that code. It means that we are accountable—to

each other, and to the public. And it means that what we do is important, that it is substantial, and that it should not be done lightly.

But just as the world has changed (except Elvis Presley), our profession has changed and thus our means of regulating the profession have changed. Legislation has changed, government has changed, and the expectations and rights of the consumer have changed. Technology creates a myriad of opportunities and an equal number of challenges. Issues like privacy and defining the location of one's practice have a different meaning in a time of electronic communication. Entry to practice standards must be different when the universities who produce our members are providing different programs at different levels and many of our members come from outside of Canada. Mobility issues give us all more flexibility—and give the College less flexibility. The scientist-practitioner model is not the only game in town as many of us subscribe to a practitioner-scholar orientation. "Keeping up in the field" means something entirely different when on the one hand, there has been an exponential increase in the amount of information available but at the same time it is infinitely easier to access this information. Informed consent has a different meaning when the public is educated and aware. We practice in areas of endeavour that did not exist in 1960.

We have changed in many ways. That is as it should be. But the social contract remains. That social contract is what we, the College, are all about.

The challenges of meeting our regulatory obligations are getting more complex. The next few years will be interesting. We will have new issues—and we will be revisiting old issues but in a new context.

Congratulations to all psychologists and psychological associates for 50 years of striving to meet the challenges of providing effective, efficient, creative, safe and relevant services to the public. We ARE the College—and it is our anniversary.

Election to the College Council

March 2010

Elections were held on March 31, 2010 for Council positions in three geographic districts. The College wishes to congratulate:

Dr. Milan Pomichalek - re-elected in *District 1: North*

Dr. Mustaq Khan - re-elected in *District 2: Southwest*

Dr. Allyson Harrison - elected by acclamation in *District 3: Central*

In an effort to introduce these members of Council, reproduced below are the Biographical and Candidate Statements which they submitted as part of the election process.

Milan Pomichalek, Ph.D., C.Psych. **Electoral District 1 - North**

Biography and Candidate Statement

I received my Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from York University in 2001. I am a member of the APA, CPA, and the Society for Personality Assessment, and I am also registered with the Psychologists Board of New Zealand.

Currently I work as a Clinical and Forensic/Correctional Psychologist at Northeast Mental Health Centre (North Bay Campus) where I am the sole psychologist in the Centre's Forensic Program (a 28 bed Secure Forensic Unit and a 24 bed General Forensic Unit). In addition to my primary clinical duties I provide supervision to both undergraduate and graduate interns. I am past Chair of the Centre's Research Ethics Board, and a member of the amalgamated North Bay General Hospital/Northeast Mental Health Centre Research Ethics Board. I am a member of the *Evidence-Based Practices in Forensic Mental Health Task Group*, currently appointed to the *Substance Abuse: Assessment and Treatment* sub-workgroup. I have taught college courses in psychology and served as expert witness in court.

For the past three years I have been representing the North (Electoral District 1) on the College's Council. During that time, my contributions have included serving on the Complaints (now Inquiries, Complaints and Reports) Committee, Discipline Committee, Quality Assurance Committee (the last 2 years as the Chair of the Committee), and, for the last 2 years, on the Executive Committee.

During my tenure on the Council and on the Executive Committee I have helped shape the College's responses to important issues that affect all members, such as the use of the title "psychotherapist," Agreement on Internal Trade, and amendments to the Registered Health Professions Act. In my role as the Chair of the Quality Assurance Committee, I have been involved in drafting amendments to the Quality Assurance Regulation that ensure compliance with the new requirements of the Registered Health Professions Act, while permitting enough flexibility for members to comply without incurring undue cost. A lighter side of my duties includes participating in the College's 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

I believe that three years on the Council enable a person to become thoroughly acquainted with the inner workings of the College and with the role it plays within the wider context of the

regulated health professions of Ontario. For me, this period has been instrumental in allowing me to identify ways to make the College better at both protecting the public and at the same time staying responsive to the members' needs.

This year the College will start developing a new 5-year Strategic Plan. I believe that my experience on the Council will position me in a very advantageous position of being a “voice of the north” in this exercise, allowing me to bring to the table concerns unique to District 1 members. For instance, in my opinion many of our challenges are shaped by our dispersion over a large geographic area. If elected, I intend to make it my priority to ensure that the College invests in using new technologies such as webcasting and videoconferencing to eliminate barriers to continuing education, collaboration, and a sense of belonging that our Southern Ontario colleagues take for granted. Another issue that merits particular attention in the underserved areas of north involves protecting the public from unqualified and untrained practitioners. I believe that the College can help us tackle this problem by fostering the development of a strong professional identity and presence in our communities by means of PR and education.

Above all, I believe that the only way to represent the District 1 members is to hear their concerns. If elected, I promise to keep the lines of communication open and make myself available as the members' voice at the Council.

Mustaq Khan, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Electoral District 2 - Southwest

Biography:

Mustaq Khan, Ph.D., C.Psych. attended the University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, University of Windsor, and also completed a postdoctoral fellowship. He became a Member of the College in 2001. He has been serving as the District 2 Council member from 2007 to the present. He was involved in several committees at the College, including Fitness to Practice, Client Relations, Discipline, and Complaints. His main clinical role is as staff psychologist on the Mood and Anxiety Disorders Program at Regional Mental Health Care London, where he provides assessment and treatment services. He is also an associate with a private practice, and a consulting psychologist for a Salvation Army youth custody center. His academic duties as a University of Western Ontario assistant professor of psychiatry and adjunct clinical professor of psychology include teaching undergraduate courses, supervising practicum students, being on the editorial board of an academic journal, and conducting grant-funded research on mood disorders.

Candidate Statement:

Through my active involvement with clinical practice, teaching, and research, I believe I have a balanced appreciation of the major components of our profession. I am dedicated to applying my experience to address issues that will shape the provision of psychological services. While on Council, I was fortunate to have opportunities to encourage consideration of regulatory issues from practical, educational, and empirical viewpoints, because each has an impact on the other when the issues are translated into policy. My work on Council included chairing both the Fitness to Practice Committee and the Client Relations Committee. During that time, I also participated in continuing education related to regulatory issues. Through my College activities, I

acquired valuable knowledge, insight into the practice of psychology, and developed good working relationships with a number of other Members of Council. I would very much like to continue serving our profession and the public by representing District 2 for another three-year term.

Allyson G. Harrison, Ph.D., C.Psych.
Electoral District 3 - Central

Brief Biography

I received my Ph.D. in psychology from Queens University, Kingston, in 1992. I am currently employed as the Clinical Director of the Regional Assessment & Resource Centre at Queen's University, a government funded program that provides Psychological assessments to post-secondary students Province-wide. In addition, I hold an appointment as an Associate professor in the department of Clinical Psychology at Queen's. Over and above my clinical practice, I have been quite active both nationally and internationally, providing continuing education on issues related to LD and ADHD. My areas of research interest are in assessment and differential diagnosis of LD and ADHD, and I have published over a dozen articles in peer-reviewed journals. I am also a member of the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of School Psychology.

Brief Candidate's Statement

The practice of Psychology is something about which I am very passionate, and I hope to bring that enthusiasm to my work if elected as representative for District 3. In my current role as director of the Regional Assessment and Resource Centre, I collaborate and work with Psychological service providers from all parts of the province. As such, I feel well poised to identify and deal with the broad range of issues and concerns involved in the complex business of regulating our profession.

In the next decade we will witness changes in our profession at a rate probably unparalleled in the past. The impact of technology on our practice, geographic mobility of members, and ensuring opportunities for targeted continuing education, while maintaining a busy practice, are just some of the changes that need to be addressed. My past track record of providing province-wide information and support to a large group of psychological service providers speaks to my interest in fostering ongoing training and peer support. My experience in working with large groups of professionals has given me insights into how best to keep those in our profession in the loop as it were, and to provide targeted and informative continuing education opportunities to those in remote areas or where there is little opportunity for face to face interaction with colleagues.

Changing, too, are the venues in which we practice, and training programs and evaluation methods need to ensure that graduates are being provided with appropriate training to meet current demands for psychological services. In my role as an internship director and professor, I feel that I understand these issues and am committed to ensuring that training and evaluation methods evolve based on current demands and evidence-based practice.

I have passion, energy, and commitment to represent our district on the Council, and I believe that the breadth of my experiences gives me a wide understanding of the issues that confront psychology today. I would be honoured to represent the needs and interests of professionals in our region, and hope that you consider me a candidate worthy of your vote.

50th Anniversary of Psychology Regulation

On Friday May 14, immediately following the Barbara Wand Symposium, a reception was held in Toronto to begin the celebration of 50 years of psychology regulation in Ontario. The Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology (OBEP) was established under the *Psychologists Registration Act, 1960*, the first psychology regulatory legislation in Canada. Some 30 years later, with proclamation of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and the *Psychology Act, 1991*, OBEP was succeeded by the College of Psychologists of Ontario (CPO).

Dr. Dorothy Cotton welcomed guests and spoke about the changes that have occurred over the past 50 years. We were delighted to be joined by Dr. Barbara Wand, former Board member and Chair who also served as Registrar of OBEP for 15 years. Dr. Wand shared her experiences and perspectives on the history of OBEP and on the College as she sees it today. Another former OBEP Registrar, Dr. Ray Berry, sent his greetings by e-mail. Dr. Berry would have loved to come to the reception but was not able to make the trip from British Columbia. I enjoyed speaking with him by telephone and was pleased to convey his greetings on this anniversary.

Dr. Jack Schaffer, President of the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards travelled from North Carolina to deliver greetings from ASPPB. Other speakers included Dr. Margaret Weiser, President of the Ontario Psychological Association (OPA), Ms. Caroline Koekkoek, President of the Ontario Association of Psychological Associates (OAPA) and Mr. Peter Osborne of the law firm Lenzner Slaght, general counsel to the College.

Other reception guests included former OBEP Chairs and College Presidents, members of the College, colleagues from other health regulatory colleges and from the law firms that provide legal counsel to the College and its committees. Dr. Joshua Tepper, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources Strategy Division, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care had also planned to join us but unfortunately he was not able to attend.

Copies of the Reception Program and the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Booklet, containing historical and messages from various individuals and organizations, were provided to attendees and are available to members both on the website ([50th Anniversary](#)) and in hard copy on request.

During 2010-2011, 50th anniversary receptions will be held in a number of locations throughout the province. Members will be notified of the schedule and locations of these receptions soon. We hope to see you there!

18th Annual Barbara Wand Seminar

Current Issues in Professional Practice

May 2010

The 18th annual Barbara Wand Seminar in Professional Ethics, Standards and Conduct was held on Friday, May 14, 2010 in the Colony Ballroom of 89 Chestnut Conference Centre/University of Toronto. About 250 members of the College and others gathered to hear presentations on a variety of topics related to the practice of psychology in Ontario. The seminar evaluations suggested that overall, participants agreed it was a very interesting, informative and successful day.

The morning began with greetings from Dr. Dorothy Cotton, President of the College of Psychologists. Dr. Cotton welcomed our members and guests and noted, with a special welcome, that Dr. Barbara Wand was in attendance.

We were very pleased to have as our morning keynote speaker Ms. Lisa Hamilton, LL.B. of Bell, Temple. Ms. Hamilton addressed the topic *Issues in Complaints and Discipline & Frequently Asked Legal Questions*. Ms. Hamilton provided an interesting, informative and practical discussion of the many and diverse issues which members query with her through the pro bono legal service provided by the liability insurer, McFarlan Rowland and arising from her experiences as a lawyer often representing members in complaints and discipline matters before the College.

The afternoon session began with an informative presentation by Mr. Richard Steinecke, LL.B of Steinecke Maciura LeBlanc entitled *Being an Expert, Expert Witness*. Mr. Steinecke provided an up-to-date look at the qualifications and expectations of members who may appear as expert witnesses before the courts or tribunals and offered many practical suggestions for members to consider in preparing for and undertaking the role of expert witness.

The seminar concluded with an interactive session of *Tricky Issues* with Dr. Rick Morris. As always, members found this session to be informative and fun, prompting lively discussion and debate. Each scenario generated a spirited exchange of questions and ideas as members engaged Dr. Morris and each other in a stimulating dialogue of ethical and jurisprudence issues.

Planning is underway for the 19th Annual Barbara Wand Seminar in Professional Ethics, Standards and Conduct to be held in May 2011.