

MANITOBA PSYCHOLOGIST

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THE PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF MANITOBA **L'ASSOCIATION DES PSYCHOLOGUES DU MANITOBA**

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PAM is legally constituted by the Psychologists Registration Act (R.S.M. 1987) as the regulatory body for the practice of all branches of Psychology in Manitoba

Psychologists Registration Act

PAM Council has received a response from the Minister of Health regarding our inquiries about the status of the proposed new act. We were advised that the committee looking at this continues to work and that a report from them is expected early this year. We were also

assured that when legislation is drafted, further consultations would occur. PAMs proposed by-law changes have also been forwarded to the Ministry of Justice for drafting, although this has not yet started.

The Privacy Compliance Tool

Ombudsman Manitoba has prepared a self-assessment instrument available online for anyone who is seeking information about how to comply with *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)* and *The Personal Health Information Act (PHIA)* of Manitoba. This Privacy

Compliance Tool (PCT) helps people review their degree of compliance with privacy legislation and identifies recommended best practices. The website is www.ombudsman.mb.ca, Access and Privacy Division.

Fee Increase

Members will have noticed an increase in fees this year. This is to meet normal cost of living increases, plus we continue

to prepare for anticipated additional expenses associated with future legislation changes.

New FAX Number

Please note that the FAX number for PAM is now changed effective

immediately. The new number is **489-8688**.

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This is the official publication of the Psychological Association of Manitoba. Its primary purpose is to assist PAM to fulfill its legal responsibilities concerning the protection of the public and regulation of psychology in Manitoba. It also seeks to foster communication within the psychological community and between psychologists and the larger community.

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Professional Wills

Psychologists have a professional responsibility to ensure ongoing care for their patients and to protect the confidentiality of records that extends past active practice, as occurs with retirement or even the practitioner's death. In the event of the psychologist's death, management of clients and records can be facilitated proactively by ensuring that colleagues are aware of where files are stored, how they are organized, and how active/closed cases are identified. When working in an institutional setting, there is typically a structure in place to take over the service and records. However, in private practice, where the psychologist may be working independently and in relative isolation, it is important to give some thought as well as direction regarding the management of the practice in the event of unexpected death. This direction can be provided through a clause in a personal will or through a professional will, depending on the circumstances of the psychologist's practice (e.g., other employees, partnership, corporation).

An example of one such clause is: "I direct that my Trustees take all steps necessary and reasonable in the circumstances to appoint a psychologist registered to practice in the province of Manitoba to secure all my patient files and records and assume conduct of the care of any active patient cases of mine on my death. It is my wish that Dr. XX of the City of Winnipeg, in the province of Manitoba, be so appointed if he/she is willing to do so." Obviously, the content of such a clause could vary from practice to practice and should be developed in consultation with a lawyer.

The psychologist might also prepare a brief letter, periodically updated, that gives an overview of the practice management, including file storage, accounting books and billing, and relevant passwords for the computer, for example.

A recent APA Monitor (FEB, 2003) offers some similar suggestions about setting up a "professional will" and identifying a health professional to serve as an executor who would close the psychologist's practice. Some highlights from this article include:

- The executor should know where client records are kept and how they are organized
- Billing and financial records should be located
- Patient contact information and appointments should be located
- Relevant passwords and access codes should be listed
- The psychologist should state how they wish patients to be notified
- The malpractice carrier should be informed
- Compensation for the executor should be specified

The point was made that if the psychologist does not have such a professional will then it may fall to the spouse or to close colleagues to cope with these issues and that this can be a significant emotional burden.

(Thanks to Dr. Lesley Graff for her assistance in preparing this information – Editor)

Message from Membership

For several years now, Dr. Allan Moore has been coordinating oral examinations for individuals applying for full registration (C. Psych.). As a result of difficulty obtaining volunteers for these examinations, Executive Council agreed to charge the candidates a fee for this examination, thus allowing us to remunerate examiners for their time in conducting the oral exam. If anyone is interested in being placed on a list for upcoming examinations, they are encouraged to contact Dr. Moore

(946-9994) as soon as possible. Once Dr. Moore has received a satisfactory number of volunteers, further names will not be taken and an effort will then be made to rotate examinations through these individuals so as to increase the standardization of the examination process. Thank you for your anticipated interest in this process.

Alan Slusky, Ph.D., C. Psych.
Chairperson
Membership & Registration

Membership Announcements

Retired:

Terrance Oster
Albert Gazan
Terrance Hogan
Grace Lea Claydon
Joe Campbell
Ron Norton

Lapsed:

Christine O'Connor
Charl DeWet
Adrienne Leslie-Toogood
Susan Nadon
Connie Boutet
Stephan Kennepohl

(New members next issue)

EPPP Fee Increase

Due to increased costs associated with computerized administration of the EPPP, we have been informed that the ASPPB needs to implement some "austerity measures". One of these measures is to decrease the subsidy given to EPPP candidates in Canada

(i.e., paying the same fee, but in Canadian dollars). In October, 2003, the ASPPB Board of Directors voted to increase the examination fee in Canada to \$375.00 US. This increase is effective as of January 1st, 2004.

Annual General Meeting

Note in your calendars that the Annual General Meeting will be held on **April 28th, 2004 (Wednesday) at the Greenwood Inn, starting at 5:00 PM.** Agenda and reports will be available on

the PAM website prior to the meeting. The guest speaker will be **Dr. John Arnett**, President-Elect, Canadian Psychological Association.

PAM Board (2003-2005 term)

Executive Officers

President	Dr. Michael Stambrook, C.Psych.
Vice-President	Dr. Don Stewart, C.Psych.
Treasurer	Dr. Jane Bow, C.Psych.

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Dr. Alan Slusky, C.Psych.
Dr. Teresa Sztaba, C.Psych.
Dr. Hal Wallbridge, C.Psych.

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Dr. Norah Vincent, C.Psych.

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Dr. Hal Wallbridge, C.Psych.

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Dr. Joe Rallo, C.Psych.