



Wanda Lee MacPhee, DC, President

CFCRB Annual Report 2002–2003

It is my pleasure to present to the Members of the Canadian Federation of Chiropractic Regulatory Boards the Annual Report for 2002–2003 as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Federation.

It has been an honour for me to serve as President these past three years and to see the many changes that are taking place in chiropractic regulation.

It has also been a privilege to see first hand the evolution of chiropractic regulation over the past eight years as a provincial board representative. We should all be proud of these accomplishments both by our individual boards and by our national body, the CFCRB. We need to remain focused on how to continually improve and keep pace with the ever changing needs of the public and of the chiropractic profession.

British Columbia College of Chiropractors

We are pleased to have with us at this conference two representatives of the BC College of Chiropractors. Last year, the BCCC asked if they could send observers to several CFCRB meetings in order to help them determine whether they would return as full members of the chiropractic regulatory family in Canada. We hope that they have found our meetings useful so far, that they will participate in the deliberations this weekend and that they will take back a strong and clear message to their Board of Directors that the CFCRB is a vital forum for issues of examination, accreditation, regulation and discipline and that the BC College should be at the table as a full and equal member.

Agreement on Internal Trade

The AIT has been a reality since its coming into force on July 1st, 2001. The greatly anticipated (and feared by some) migration of chiropractors from one part of Canada to another has not happened. There have been surprisingly few issues arise thus far.

Last year we approved new definitions for terms used in the agreement, and this year Dr. Rogers will be recommending we look at some of the wording in our chiropractic mutual recognition agreement to ensure that the language is up to date.

Specialties

The CFCRB Specialties Standing Committee is now meeting regularly under the chair of Dr. Hugh Armstrong. The Accreditation Sub-Committee has now been formalized and will hold its initial meeting shortly.

NORA

The CFCRB has been working together with other professions to establish an inter-professional group of organizations involved in regulatory affairs at the national level. NORA, the Network of Regulatory Agencies, is providing the CFCRB with an important window on initiatives at the federal level, such as the Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act. This new legislation will impact on all jurisdictions until they establish their own legislation, and currently it is only Quebec which has its

own information protection legislation. NORA is also a forum where we can raise the profile of chiropractic and build relationships with other professions.

Clinical Practice Guidelines

In choosing to build a new model for creating clinical practice guidelines, the CCA and CFCRB have taken on a monumental task. I am pleased to report that much of the groundwork has been laid and that the two meetings held with Stakeholder organizations were very well received.

A contract specifying the relationships between the parties has been developed and is included in the Board of Director binders for review at this meeting.

Canadian Chiropractic Examining Board

The CCEB continues to evolve as an organization to meet the needs of its member regulatory boards. I believe that the CFCRB needs to continue to work closely with our partners in the CCEB. The recent initiatives to focus on the cognitive exam are welcome and will require ongoing participation from all those involved. The CFCRB has also discussed the need for a special purpose exam and the CCEB's plans for addressing this must be given careful consideration.

Council on Chiropractic Education of Canada

A productive discussion was held at the last Board meeting concerning the protocols CCEC is using to disseminate information to regulatory boards and further discussion on this and related CCEC matters will be a major focus of this conference. For the first time, the CFCRB Executive held a conference call with the CFCRB nominees on the CCEC Board and conveyed to them the concerns of the regulatory community such that they may better represent the needs and concerns of our member regulatory boards. This was a productive endeavor and one that should be continued.

Provincial Presidents and Executive Directors

Each year, as the annual meeting of the Provincial Presidents and Executive Directors rotates across the country, the President acting as host and chair may differ the format and content of the meetings. In some ways this is excellent, in others it can be frustrating because the format is continually evolving and it is unclear what the objectives of the meetings are. For the CFCRB, what is even more frustrating is not knowing what the membership of the

group and focus of the meeting will be.

Traditionally this meeting was composed of the CCA and its Association Presidents and Executive Directors, and the focus was clearly on the association business, not regulatory affairs. As five Provincial Presidents preside over organizations where the association and regulatory function are in one body, it was inevitable that some regulatory issues would arise. A number of years ago however, the Presidents of the five sole purpose bodies began to be invited and with them the CFCRB.

Last year in Vancouver the CFCRB and regulatory issues generally had a somewhat higher profile and the group decided that it wanted to get together twice per year, and that the CCA and CFCRB, as the two senior national organizations, should be at these meetings.

Last fall at the meeting held in Saint-Andrews, the Presidents agenda was once again very much focused on association business. The same was true of the meeting held several weeks ago in Banff. Mr. Waite represented us at that meeting and his report will be presented as part of the strategic planning discussion.

Given that the CFCRB has no control over the agenda of this group, and that its focus continues to vary, it is important that we participate when invited and that we have a seat at the table when regulatory issues are being discussed. This will enable us to bring back information from other various sources in the profession to aid in the work of the CFCRB and our members.

Executive Committee

I would like to thank your Executive Committee, Vice President Keith Thomson, DC, Secretary-Treasurer Renae Rogers, DC and Immediate Past President and Chair of the Board, Daniel Saint-Germain, DC for their outstanding efforts over the past year. In addition, I want to acknowledge the hard work and dedication to the CFCRB by our Executive Director, Mr. Peter Waite.

Acknowledgment

I would like to express special thanks to the Order in Quebec for hosting this year's conference and the special celebration we will enjoy tomorrow evening.

I also want to pay tribute to the vision of the men and women who first came together to form the CFCRB 25 years ago, and whose spirit and accomplishments we celebrate this weekend. The Past Presidents and Honorary

Directors are listed below:

Past President	Year
Ronald Carter, DC	1978–1983
Fred Barnes, DC	1983–1985
Andre Audette, DC	1985–1991
Robert Tharp, DC	1991–1993
Jim Nykoliati, DC	1993–1994
Daniel Saint-Germain, DC	1994–2000

Honourary Directors

Douglas Alderson, DC	Jim Nykoliati, DC
Andre Audette, DC	David Peterson, DC
Fred Barnes, DC	Stan Stolarski, DC
Hal Beasley, DC	Robert Tharp, DC
Ronald Carter, DC	Stephen West, DC

Planning

This year, for the first time since 1995, the CFCRB Board of Directors is undertaking a major planning exercise. In preparation for this the Board approved a survey instrument that was distributed to all our member regulatory boards, to the specialty colleges, the schools, national associations and the related agencies that also play a role in regulation, the CCEB and CCEC. This totaled over 20 organizations and reached a broad cross section of the profession as well as the public representatives who serve as our partners in the various regulatory related organizations.

While the results of this survey will form the basis for our discussion during the planning process this weekend, the survey has already served the purpose of raising the profile of the CFCRB.

I do not find the results at all surprising. They reflect the fact that the CFCRB, although 25 years old, has been deliberately kept as a fairly informal, low profile and modestly funded body. Under the constitution of Canada, health care is a provincially focused and regulated activity and the provincial and territorial regulatory boards that comprise the CFCRB are where the action occurs.

Having said that, we know through our collective experience at the national level how important a forum and vehicle for change the CFCRB can be.

We can be proud of the role the CFCRB has played in establishing the national clinical competency exam, of profoundly changing the way in which the CCEB is struc-

tured and operates and of providing a forum for dialogue on accreditation matters.

We can be proud of how the CFCRB and the regulatory bodies within the profession have matured and stepped up to the plate to shoulder the responsibility for overseeing Specialties and developing a far more concrete and accountable process for recognition.

We can be proud of how chiropractic was among the first professions in Canada to sign a Mutual Recognition Agreement under the AIT and that governments used the model developed by the CFCRB as an example.

We should recognize that had the CFCRB not played an effective role in the past decade, the CCA would not have been comfortable in handing off responsibility for specialties or in partnering on the development of clinical practice guidelines.

I want to challenge you, the CFCRB's Directors, to imagine how the Federation can better serve our regulatory boards and the public interest which we all must serve. Self-governance is a privilege, not a right, and the CFCRB can play an essential role in keeping chiropractic boards on the forefront of regulatory affairs.

If you look at the CFCRB's Mission and Objectives, you see the essential elements which I believe must continue to guide our future development ...

“To assist in the governance of the practice of chiropractic in the public interest.”

The key elements in the objectives are:

- unified standards of operation for licensing boards.
- confronting challenges together
- uniformity of educational standards

While I look forward to the strategic planning process we are going to engage in this weekend, I believe the core values around which the CFCRB has been built are sound. I believe they provide us with the base we need to grow and continue to meet new challenges as they arise. The CFCRB is our tool and I hope we will all fully participate this weekend in making this an effective instrument for better fulfilling our responsibilities to the Canadian public. It is what we choose to make it.

Thank you for your support and enthusiasm, and let us seize the opportunity to take the CFCRB to its next stage of development.