



### **CCHA Annual Summary Report 2020-12-05**

**The CCHA board of directors met recently to continue our annual working weekend and AGM. This year we met virtually, for the first time, for a Friday evening, a full day Saturday and Sunday, November 27, 28, 29, 2020. The working weekend was productive; we debriefed on our successes for the year and discussed plans for the coming year ahead.**

**Joining our online call**, there were representatives present from the provincial herbal associations in Nova Scotia, Ontario and British Columbia including directors Savayda Jarone, Daniel Wiseman, Lianna Vargas, Chanchal Cabrera and Katolen Yardley, with regrets during the weekend from one of our Ontario directors, Nancy Majouljian.

The New Brunswick herbalist association was recently founded as a non profit association within the past year and has nearly 40 members. Congratulations. This year showed our CCHA representative from New Brunswick stepping aside due to personal issues - she has indicated that she hopes to remain in touch with the CCHA in some way in the future. Lastly, acknowledgement of contributions from Alberta, Samantha Ortheib, for her time representing Alberta on the CCHA.

#### **To follow are highlights from our year. The CCHA:**

- Board of directors has met monthly throughout the year
- Policies and procedures subcommittee spent over 30 hours reviewing and refreshing internal working documents to tighten up ambiguities and make systems smoother
- The current financial balance is \$ 897.00
- A huge thank you to the organizers and visionaries of the first online Canadian Herbal Conference Colleen Emery, Yarrow Willard and Chanchal Cabrera who graciously donated funds of \$ 5000 to the CCHA for future projects. This donation will appear in the next years financials.
- Induction of two new Herbal Elders:

Marie Rose Delorme Smith, Métis Herbalist & Midwife – Alberta (1862-1960)

[http://herbalccha.org/?page\\_id=642](http://herbalccha.org/?page_id=642)

Jan Kahehti:io Longboat from Ontario

[http://herbalccha.org/?page\\_id=683](http://herbalccha.org/?page_id=683)

- Created the herbal gathering calendar for the website with links to in person celebrations and events
- Conducted several meetings with provincial associations to discuss issues of policy and good governance
- The CCHA NNHPD subcommittee has been in correspondence with the NNHPD via letter and attended one meeting of NNHPD in Ottawa before COVID. We will be following up again in the coming year via letter to ensure that we continue to stay informed on any upcoming changes which affect herbalists, private practice and access to herbal medicines.
- Created a COVID 19 safety awareness document and public statement.
- Issued a statement on Cannabis for the industry to ensure the interests and the CCHA offered the position of herbalists being experts on herbal medicine and highlighted the fact that Cannabis is in fact one of many medicinal plants that has been used traditionally as a valuable medicine.
- The CCHA has been in discussion with nascent provincial herbal associations in currently unrepresented regions. One of the challenges with new associations is the small numbers of professional practitioners in each province. This creates a domino effect of challenges as it takes a team of hard working individuals to bring a nonprofit association to fruition, the professional membership category is challenging to grow with few professional members in a province and it takes commitment and the ongoing hard work of many to promote and grow membership – and prevent burnout of the few who work hard to steer the association forward.
- The CCHA Board of Directors attended the first online Canadian Herbal Conference of 2020 and hosted a panel discussion on the position of herbal medicine in Canada.
- Social Media and Marketing subcommittee: Thanks to the previous Alberta representative, Samantha Ortheib, the CCHA has a new website under development – our vision and planning includes future interviews of elders, private log in links for provincial members to useful policy documents and native plant monographs.
- One of the which requests generated from the CHC conference is that herbalists, practitioners alike are requesting guidance and guidelines regarding tools for ethical wild crafting, and related to the sustainable practice of herbal medicine. With shifts and changes regarding accessibility to plant medicine coupled with the growing interest, demand and popularity in the use of herbal medicine; it is imperative that there is a general framework which individuals, companies or interested parties can use to assist with choosing ethical and sustainable suppliers, if gathering plants via wild crafting- to refer to as an aid to ensure that plants are harvested in a sustainable fashion ensuring their continued presence for years in the future. The CCHA is visioning to create working documents to begin this conversation- likely via hiring consultants with areas of expertise to complete portions of work to be compiled into a larger working document. More on this in future months.
- During the AGM the CCHA reached an agreement by consensus that agreement in principle that we will use some of the recent funding received to support an initiative to create documentation

on ethics, sustainability and transparency in the herbal supply chains, develop guidelines and recommendations.

Suggestion: A suggestion to provincial associations to look at updating the new member applications to include the disclosure question: are you currently or have you previously been issued a warning or are undergoing an active grievance resolution/ **better wording???** from another herbal association? **(do we put this suggestion into the annual summary or elsewhere?)**

### **Call for Volunteers in our Subcommittees-**

The CCHA would like to highlight the associations subcommittees and invite members of provincial associations who share interest in becoming involved in these subcommittees to reach out through their provincial representative for more information.

The Insurance subcommittee is busy developing a path forward for how the CCHA could approach Insurance companies to include Registered Herbalists as part of their benefits packages. This is a large project and we welcome volunteers from provincial associations who share interest in working behind the scenes on this subcommittee.

The Social Media/Marketing subcommittee: A call out to provincial associations, please tag the CCHA for your social media posts related to members herbal events, updates and classes to we can promote you (and the provincial associations members) on Facebook. If any member of a provincial association has upcoming events, a recent blog post or website article related to herbal medicine, please also tag us on social media – so it can be shared.

Also, if each provincial association has a quarterly statement which the CCHA could post on social media, this would be greatly welcome and will enhance the sharing of what each province is busy with behind the scenes. These statements can be provided to your provincial representative for sharing.

A call for new nominees of Herbal Elders

If you or your provincial association know of any herbal elders in your province, Canada whom have been in private practice for over 25 years and have offered exceptional contributions to our field, either in community, politically or otherwise, please view the criteria to have them nominated and recognized and provide a bio along with a photo to the CCHA.

[http://herbalccha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CCHA\\_EldersNominations.pdf](http://herbalccha.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/CCHA_EldersNominations.pdf)

The CCHA wants to highlight the number of professionals within our country who have offered pearls of herbal wisdom to the public and community. The biographies of many nominated herbal elders can be found here: [https://herbalccha.org/?page\\_id=38](https://herbalccha.org/?page_id=38)

### **request for Annual Fee**

request for \$200 flat fee from each province due Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 2021 for the year  
add what the annual fee is used for within the CCHA.

- \$200 annual fee for provincial (general) membership to be invoiced by December 30<sup>th</sup>, with CCHA annual report and fees are due by Jan 31

Signed: from East to West, the Directors of the CCHA

Savayda Jarone,

Daniel Wiseman,

Lianna Vargas, (Vice President),

Chanchal Cabrera (Secretary) and

Katolen Yardley (President)

**To follow are are general highlights from each provincial herbal association as they sum up their accomplishments for the year.**

**Provincial Check-Ins Question- do we have permission and want to share these items with all- in our annual summary? This will also appear on our website? Comments from others?**

#### **NS (Daniel)**

Recent HANS meeting, new board, putting 'house in order' and preparing for activities and higher profile in community during Covid and generally in 2021. Low key now but gathering resources in association

#### **NB (written comments from Megan)**

Instead of our annual herb fair event, we video recorded a series of interviews featuring local New Brunswick herbalists. We have our first one scheduled for release this month with more to follow

-Our second issue of our 'Herbalist Thymes' was released in the summer in French and English

-To increase accessibility, we have been working on translating our website, logo and resources to make everything available in French, English and Micmac

-In August we held an herb walk in Moncton that was well attended

#### **ON (Lianna)**

- New student and newly registered herbalist commute – bridge for mentorship and support of new practitioners
- Still issues accessing alcohol bulk purchases - must be delivered to a commercial address but can be shared with other practitioners from there
- We faced a strange year over-all, all of our herbal gatherings were cancelled, many of our Herbalists were forced to shut doors, and cancel workshops/classes, for several months. Most

people have had to adapt to online mediums, or very strict practices around in-person interactions.

- We have been facing challenges around acquiring alcohol, the rules have changed and herbalists who do not have a "commercial/business-zoned address", cannot order alcohol from the main suppliers any longer, and now must resort to paying much higher prices through the LCBO.
- We also had some new unfoldings from some matters brought to the OHA's attention that required us to go through our disciplinary procedures, and assemble a Professional Ethics Sub Committee. We faced challenges that shed light on that areas that needed addressing and forced us to look at our Professional Code of Ethics and Scope of Practice documents, asking how we could ameliorate them.
- We created a new bursary program, offering several bursaries for practitioners who may be struggling to get their CEU credits due to financial hardship.
- We updated our professional application process, now applications are reviews only 3 times a year, and all applicants must submit the application, case studies, reference letters, and do an interview.
- OHA's virtual AGM was held over Zoom, due to COVID 19 restrictions. Highlight of the meeting was a Panel discussion between six herbalists of different modalities and moderated by Penny Beaudrow, on the topic, Herbs for Immunity. Tenzin Gonpo represented Tibetan Herbal Medicine, Ayurvedic tradition represented by Shanthi Balasubramaniam, Western Herbal Medicine by Rick DeSylva, TCM by Hsuan Huang, Indigenous medicine tradition by Joe Pitawanakwat and Esoteric Medicine by Dee Gauthier.

The afternoon speaker was Nicole Rose, representing Herbalists without Borders, talking about her experience working with prisoners in the UK.

The panel discussion, Nicole Rose's talk and OHA business were recorded in separate segments and will soon be available for members who were unable to attend the AGM.

- The board hired a new General Manager who will be taking care of our newsletter, event postings, expanded RH bios and other member-outreach; as well as a Social Media Coordinator who will be focusing more on our public outreach.
- We've begun "Herb Talks' initiative, where we interview a different herbalist each session. Our first talk featured a TCM practitioner, the next is featuring Monika Ghent and her Plant Spirit Medicine practice.
- We have a new semi-annual ezine, The Herbalist's Way. The first issue is available to everyone, on the OHA website, and second issue is about to be released, for all OHA members. If anyone have interest in contributing to the zine in anyway (photos, articles, updates, artwork), please email [ezine@ontarioherbalists.ca](mailto:ezine@ontarioherbalists.ca)
- We have a Newly Registered Herbalist and Student Committee that has recently formed who are working towards connecting new herbalists with those studying, and organizing our volunteer efforts for outreach and fundraising. There is a lot of fresh, youthful energy gathering on this front – we are excited to see what we can accomplish this year with so much excitement from these

members.

- We have a community garden space for members that has had some work done this year to make it more accessible and inviting for members.
- We have recently reconfigured our website's 'Members Area' to feature reference documents, part journal articles, the new ezine, herb talks and other information for members-only.
- Complaints procedure has been tested and disciplinary procedures have been put in place (3 x in 2 years leads to automatic suspension).
- General manager and social media coordinator recently hired to move OHA forward.

### **AB (Katolen)**

- No further update since herb conference
- CCHA requirements for board nominees have been sent to AHA as per their request

### **BC (Chanchal)**

- Changed the name of the association to better represent who we are (leaving out Canadian) as we are not a national association.
- New logo
- New website in development, more interactive and looking at ways to improve membership registration through software that helps facilitate this
- Developed COVID-19 recommendations based on the BCCDC, WorkSafe BC and the PHO and sent out special newsletters to the membership.
- Continued to work with the BC Animal Owners Association to coordinate a movement forward for non-veterinary practitioners to legally work with animal healthcare in BC. Movement has been made in this area and the BCHA is an official member that has participated in conference calls with the Ministry of Agriculture on this subject.
- Monitored the situation with the changes to the regulations of health care providers in BC through the Cayton Report and the modification of the regulatory colleges. The BCHA maintains relationships with other non-regulated health profession associations and has been engaged with professionals in the field of regulation. We are having another information session with Nadine Ijaz this month (November)
- Have been updating our internal systems and working with our administrator to improve workflow.
- Looking to bring on an Executive Director to help with taking on new projects to generate more revenue and make the general public more aware of herbal medicine and herbalists as a profession.
- Reviewed and modified the requirements for CEU credits.

- Been busy creating new newsletters to keep in regular contact with membership along with greater social media posts to highlight the work of our members.
- Hosted our first ever online AGM that was very successful and had our first sponsored webinar presentation. We look forward to hosting more educational forums in the future.