

In-person attendees: Stephanie Arthur; Anisa Baker; Sheryl Bates Dancho; Tatenda Bwawa; Lynn Carriere; Marianne Cerilli; Vicki Charski; Benita Cohen; Georgette Dupuis; Lawrence Elliott; Sheri Fandrey; Marg Friesen; Serena Gawryluk; Darlene Girard; Sande Harlos; Sarah Hawkins; Laura Kasian; Joel Kettner; Caroline Krebs; Pat Martin; Marion McKay; Mokey Menion; Hannah Moffatt; Lea Mutch; Obasesam Okoi; Carolyn Perchuk; Jen Porter; Sarah Prowse; Sheikh Muhammad Zeeshan Qadar; Jan Sanderson; Jacqueline Sarna; Karen Serwonka; Kiri Shafto; Christine Symard-Chicago; Siddhesh Talpade; Stephanie Van Haute; Pamela Vernaus; Clive Wightman; Mary Wilson; Amanda Younka; Shannon Wilson

Joining remotely attendees: Denise Koh; Mary Smith; Sheri McKinstry; Tyler Hebb

Recorder: Hannah Moffatt

1. Welcome

Dr. Sande Harlos, MPHA President, welcomed the group and gave a Territorial acknowledgement. Sande offered appreciation to the Association of Registered Nurses of Manitoba for offering technological support to provide remote connection.

Motion: To approve the AGM agenda

*Motion moved: **Elder Mary Wilson***

*Seconded: **Stephanie Van Haute***

All in favour, carried.

Sande introduced Board Member, Elder Mary Wilson to open us in a good way.

Elder Mary Wilson is known as the Grandmother of Four Directions and She Who Walks With Wolves. She is a Knowledge Keeper, spiritual teacher, Spirit Walker and healer, and works to help people heal emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Elder Mary Wilson provided a gift of a welcome reflecting on the importance of relationships and in particular our relationship with mother Earth.

2. Keynote

Kiri Shafto, MPHA Board Member, introduced Dr. Elder Dave Courchane and Dr. Ian Mauro to provide the AGM keynote. Dr. Mauro began by sharing information about the Climate Atlas of Canada. The Atlas combines climate science, mapping and storytelling to bring the global issue of climate change closer to home for Canadians. Elder Dave Courchane then shared Indigenous knowledge-based solutions focused on the importance of relationships and Indigenous leadership when exploring climate change solutions.

3. Minutes

In an effort to go paperless, Hannah Moffatt, MPHA Secretary, described how all AGM materials were circulated in advance by email to members.

*Motion: **To approve the October 3, 2018 AGM minutes***

*Motion moved: **Sarah Hawkins***

*Seconded: **Marion McKay***

All in favour, carried.

4. President’s Report

Dr. Sande Harlos presented the president’s annual report (Appendix A). When she closed emphasizing that the organization is seeking volunteers noting the importance of working together - this is our public health community.

*Motion: **To accept the President’s report***

*Motion moved: **Jan Sanderson***

*Seconded: **Sheryl Bates Dancho***

All in favor, carried.

3. Financial Report

Sande introduced Holly Banner, Director of Finance at Klinik. Sande offered a warm thank you to Klinik for their book keeping and finances. Holly presented MPHA’s financial report. Klinik Community Health keeps MPHA’s funds in trust.

Manitoba Public Health Association – Funds in Trust	
For the year ended December 31, 2018	
Funding:	
Membership fees	800.00
	800.00
Funds Disbursed:	
Annual General Meeting	2,022.10
Insurance	1,331.00

	3,353.10
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(2,553.10)
Funds held in trust, beginning of year	12,835.93
Funds held in trust, end of year	10,282.83
Funds in trust at August 31, 2019	8,704.66

Motion: To accept the financial report

Motion moved: Elder Mary Wilson

Second: Clive Wightman

All in favor, carried.

4. Membership Working Group

Sarah Prowse, MPHA Treasurer, offered an update on MPHA membership.

Members have the option of a conjoint CPHA/MPHA membership. We have 29 CPHA/MPHA members. As Holly noted we have received dues from the CPHA/MPHA conjoint memberships. CPHA membership offers multiple benefits, including reduced conference registration fees.

In the last year we've had a fee amnesty on our MPHA memberships to increase our numbers while we build our infrastructure. As of earlier this week, we have 257 MPHA memberships collected during the fee amnesty. In the lead up to the AGM a few more members have been added. Starting later in October, a payment process for memberships will be available on our website. The process will include automatic reminder emails for members and an opportunity for rolling memberships throughout the year. Fees will remain \$40 for memberships and \$20 for student and retired members. Members can also contact to join if fees are a barrier to joining.

5. Advocacy Working Group

Hannah Moffatt, MPHA Secretary, shared an update on the activities of the MPHA Advocacy Group. All members were invited to join the group via an email call for members. The group decided to prepare advocacy materials prior the provincial election. Topics and framing of public health issues were decided with guidance from the MPHA Board; with consideration of the topics being discussed in the lead up to the election and the expertise of the volunteers.

Summaries of evidence and questions for candidates for five interrelated provincial policy issues were developed:

- Closing Gaps in Indigenous Health
- Early Childhood Development
- Climate Crisis
- Housing
- Poverty

Thanks to the expertise of a volunteer a very engaging website (<https://manitobapha.ca/election2019/>) was developed, along with shareable info-graphics with visuals, data and engaging tag lines. Members were encouraged to share the information with #vote4publichealth. MPHA partnered and aligned with many of the calls of action from other community groups and organizations. The campaign was successful in reaching many members and groups.

In the lead up to the federal election, the MPHA is aligning with the Canadian Public Health Association's federal election calls to action on eight priority policy areas:

- Basic income
- Climate change and human health crises
- Core housing need
- Decriminalization of personal use of psychoactive substances
- Early childhood education and care
- Funding public health
- Opioid crisis
- Racism and health

Members can find the CPHA materials online (<https://www.cpha.ca/election-2019>). The MPHA will be sharing the materials on social media using #PublicHealthMatters.

The advocacy group will start meeting again later this fall season. Members are welcome to join. Please contact secretary@manitobapha.ca for more information.

6. Incoming Board Nomination & Approval

Sheryl Bates Dancho, MPHA Board Member described the process of incoming board nominations. As per the MPHA bylaws, a nominating committee was struck to develop a list of nominees for election or appointment. A call was put out to membership (via newsletter) to join the nominating committee, no members volunteered so the committee proceeded with four MPHA Board members: Sheryl Bates Dancho; Sande Harlos; Craig Ross and Jan Sanderson.

The nominating committee created a list of criteria to recruit a diverse board with a variety of interests and skills. A call was put out to the board and to the membership (via newsletter) for nominations of

individuals. Nominations were reviewed with a view to the willingness and skills to take on the various needed leadership roles that will move the association forward.

The nominating committee recommends:

- Stephanie Van Haute, President
- Hannah Moffatt, Secretary
- Sarah Prowse, Treasurer
- Tatenda Bwawa, Member-at-large
- Sande Harlos, Member-at-large
- Sarah Hawkins, Member-at-large
- Pat Martin, Member-at-large
- Deb McPhail, Member-at-large
- Lea Mutch, Member-at-large
- Jan Sanderson, Member-at-large
- Pamela Vernaus, Member-at-large
- Mary Wilson, Member-at-large
- Shannon Wilson, Member-at-large
- Clive Wightman, Member-at-large

Returning MPHA Board members will continue for 1 year and new Board members will take on a 2 year term, with the except of Stephanie Van Haute, who will take on a 2 year term as President.

One person has tentatively accepted the nomination to join the MPHA's 15 person Board yet they wanted to discuss with another Board they are committed to. If it works out, this person will join the MPHA Board by board member appointment for 1 year, as per the bylaws.

Motion: To approve the slate of nominees for executive board members and members-at-large as recommended by the nominating committee

Motion moved: **Dr. Joel Kettner**

Second: **Lynn Carriere**

All in favor, carried.

7. Remarks from Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Dr. Brent Roussin thanked the MPHA for the invitation to speak and thanked the elders for sharing their wisdom. Dr. Roussin is in a new role and still excited about it. He started as a family physician and took a course on the economics of healthcare and learned about the social determinants of health, which peaked his interest in public health.

Dr. Roussin spoke about the opportunity for public health in this time of healthcare system transformation. He mentioned how the Peachy Report makes reference to how no one outside of public health knows what public health is and how there is opportunity to be more visible and offer our value-add. The public health association is well positioned to support that change.

Dr. Roussin spoke about the importance of protecting and promoting the health of Manitobans and working together to close health gaps. Closing Indigenous health gaps will require leadership and influence to work together on Manitoba's The Path to Reconciliation Act. The next Chief Public Health Officer's report will focus on harmful substances and the need to reduce stigma.

Dr. Roussin closed by thanking the association and noting he looked forward to listening and learning together.

8. Remarks from the Canadian Public Health Association

Dr. Benita Cohen, Chair-elect of the Canadian Public Health Association shared remarks from the CPHA. She apologized for arriving late and missing the blessing from Elder Mary Wilson. Benita offered kudos to Mary's involvement in the Board to provide year-round guidance. The new MPHA mission, vision and values offer the group a strong foundation and the two-eyed seeing approach is outstanding. The CPHA Board and Directors and Executive Director are so pleased about MPHA's revitalization.

As mentioned previously the CPHA is currently sharing evidence and questions for candidates on eight priority policy areas in the lead up to the federal election. The election materials can be found at: <https://www.cpha.ca/election-2019>.

Since the last MPHA AGM in October 2018, the CPHA has released three position statements:

- Position statement on [Racism and Public Health](#)
- Position statement on [Children's Unstructured Play](#)
- Position statement on: [Public Health in the Context of Health System Renewal in Canada](#)

Another position statement will be released later this week, [Climate Change and Human Health](#).

In May of 2018, the CPHA established an Indigenous Relations Advisory Committee to define and describe the Association's roles and responsibilities with respect to meaningful reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Canada. The Advisory Committee has developed a CPHA Policy on Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation (approved by the Board last week) and will now become a permanent Indigenous Advisory Council as part of CPHA's governance structure (i.e., a standing committee).

CPHA's annual conference is happening in Winnipeg April 28 to 30, 2020. Public Health 2020 is the national conference where public health professionals, researchers, policy-makers, academics, students and trainees come together to strengthen efforts to improve health and well-being. CPHA has opened a call for abstracts, due Nov 7th. For more information: <https://www.cpha.ca/publichealth2020>.

9. Remarks from the Incoming Present & Closing Reflections

Incoming president, Stephanie Van Haute provided closing remarks. She shared her appreciation for the work done by the interim board over the past year. Reflecting on the new vision statement, Community rooted in equity, growing in balance. Describing how MPHA is, in its own way, a community; one that is growing. We face many public health challenges. There are many activities coming up like Public Health 2020. It is my hope as a community that we come together to discuss public health – and to strengthen relationships. The Board is eager to collaborating with you in committee work, community work and fundraising. We need your voice and your passion. Please contact us to offer your support.

Stephanie invited Elder Mary Wilson to close us off in a good way.

Motion: To adjourn the 2019 MPHA AGM.

Motion to adjourn: Dr. Sande Harlos

Second: Marion McKay

All in favor, carried.

Appendix A: MPHA President's Report October 2019- Sande Harlos, outgoing president

This past year since the October 2, 2018 AGM has been one of rebuilding with some key accomplishments in both infrastructure and public health action. The board met monthly and held an all-day planning meeting in January. Additionally, six committees were active, most of which included MPHA members as well as board members. Members are welcome (and needed) on all committees.

- Website development
- Member communications
- Summer school planning
- Advocacy (including elections)
- Nominating
- Membership management

MPHA participated in the Canadian Network of Public Health Associations and is contributing to planning the CPHA conference 2020 which will be held in Winnipeg April 28-30, 2020.

Some of the key accomplishments include updated Vision, Mission and Value statements and a website. The website is notable in that it was entirely developed by volunteer effort with many thanks to the website committee led by Kiri Shafto and Tyler Hebb. Particular recognition with deep appreciation goes to Sarah Hawkins who volunteered her time, creativity and skills to create the website. In addition to the website, MPHA also is active on Facebook and Twitter.

The Vision, Mission and Values were developed with determination to utilize both western and Indigenous ways of seeing and thinking. While no statements are perfect, we are very proud how these statements describe our sense of purpose, values and identity. This now provides a foundation for determining our actions as we move forward.

Now that we have a website, we are able to develop the capacity for online memberships sign up (including fee payment) as well as membership management. Membership sign up and renewals will be added to the website shortly.

Additionally, we have re-activated our name and are in the process of reinstating incorporation status. There have been regular e-newsletter communications with members throughout the year.

Having a functional website also provides a focal point for advocacy efforts. The advocacy committee led the creation of web-based provincial election advocacy content. The promotion of CPHA's advocacy content for the federal election is ongoing. The MPHA was also able to support and promote the advocacy efforts of other groups.

Another success this past year was undertaking public health professional development by offering summer school in partnership with the Public Health Association of BC and partners. There were 52 participants- most in Winnipeg, but also some in Brandon and Dauphin. Of the 25 people who completed evaluations, 56% rated their experience as good and 32% as neutral.

As we move forward, there remain challenges to be aware of. The main challenge continues to be capacity limitations of a volunteer only organization. We will need increasing participation from members on committees and in contributing expertise. We will also need paid memberships to sustain the financial viability of our modest operation costs including website support and AGM expenses.

However, there is also tremendous opportunity. We have experienced a groundswell in membership numbers during our fee amnesty year. We have seen passion and commitment in board and general members contributing to MPHA activities. We have also earned credibility and trust with a number of partners. There is much to build on.

A year ago the interim board agreed to take on the responsibility to revive and revitalize the MPHA. I am tremendously proud and extremely grateful for what the group has accomplished and the way it has been done. There is a climate of generosity, humility and service on the board which serves the organization well.

At this time I want to particularly extend my gratitude to the outgoing board members who have completed their commitment to serve for a year and have done a terrific job. The six board members who are stepping off the board for a variety of good reasons such as return to school, travel, other board service and family are Sheryl Bates Dancho, Tyler Hebb, Marion McKay, Craig Ross, Kiri Shafto, and Louis Sorin. Thank you!

We have invested in a year of rebuilding that has us well positioned to be even more active and impactful in the coming year and beyond. There has never been a time when the voice of evidence informed public health, traditional wisdom and lived experience needs to be heard by decision makers and the public. We are now ready. This is a good beginning, but if we all work together- let's see where we can go now.