

Manitoba Public Health Association (MPHA) Annual General Meeting

June 1, 2022

Virtual attendees:

Julianne Sanguins; Agape Karagi; Sarah Lesperance; Joel Kettner; Cathy Mackereth; Zeeshan Qadar; Karen Serwonka; Alycia Murdock; Sid Frankel; Aynslie Hinds; Craig Ross; Geoffrey Thompson; Joanna Thich; Marg Friesen; Margaret Haworth-Brockman; Adrienne Morrow; Amanda Younka; Nicole Herpai; Jocelyn Kingshott; Dupuis Georgette; Marion McKay; Grace Simene; Sande Harlos; Lea Mutch; Hannah Moffatt; Deborah McPhail; Clive Wightman; Tara Campbell

Recorder: Hannah Moffatt

Welcome

Hannah Moffatt, MPHA Secretary, welcomed attendees to the 2022 AGM and began the meeting with acknowledgement of our connection to the land and opening the space for thoughtful reflection. By offering a land acknowledgement, we affirm tribal sovereignty and hold ourselves, the Manitoba Public Health Association (MPHA), accountable to Indigenous Peoples and Nations.

Hannah thanked the Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba for offering technological support to connect us all virtually.

Key Note Speakers

The MPHA was honored to have guest speaker Leah Gazan, Member of Parliament for Winnipeg Centre join us. Board Member Deborah McPhail introduced Leah. Leah provided a presentation titled "It's Time for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income!"

1. Agenda

All AGM materials were circulated in advance by email.

Hannah clarified that MPHA Members are welcome to vote during the business part of the AGM using raised hands and the poll feature. MPHA Members are those who have registered with the MPHA in one of three ways, either by having (1) purchased an online membership from our MPHA website; (2) purchased a conjoint MPHA-CPHA membership from the Canadian Public Health Association website; or (3) outreached and let us know that a paid membership is not possible and a membership has been confirmed.

Motion: To approve the AGM agenda.

Clive Wightman approved the motion. Seconded, Agape Karagi.

All in favour, carried.

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2. Minutes

Minutes reviewed.

Motion: To approve the May 2021 AGM minutes.

Deborah McPhail approved the motion. Seconded, Tara Campbell.

All in favour, carried.

3. President's Report

Dr. Sande Harlos presented the president's annual report. Sande reviewed our organization's Mission, Vision, and Values ([posted on the website](#)) and confirmed the organization is working to fulfill these goals. These goal and approach set the tone for our focus on reconciliation and equity and affirm our main task is advocacy to influence policy and decision making. Three priorities for action have been identified (1) anti-racism; (2) poverty reduction; (3) climate crisis. The efforts over the past year have been to concurrently consider what are the most important health threats in these areas, what are the policy opportunities available to engage with, and what other advocates are doing that we may be able to contribute value. The approach has been fluid, including both longer term planning and sometimes very rapid response to an emerged policy or partner opportunity.

Given we are a volunteer group with no paid staff to carry out actions we plan, we are increasing our capacity to be lean and efficient to get do-able actions completed. We have been learning by doing, while trying to be nimble and act quickly when necessary. Over the past year we have:

- Written a letter in support of City of Winnipeg's Poverty Reduction Strategy
- Signed onto a Sustainable Building MB's letter to City of Winnipeg to strengthen its climate change action
- Supported the action of environmental advocates opposing Bill 22 - reversing ban on cosmetic pesticides
- Participated with Manitoba Eco-Network on Healthy Environment, Healthy Neighbourhood project

We have expanded our social media presence, adding an Instagram account alongside our Facebook and Twitter. And posted a series of online posts topics on priority areas and in support of public health.

MPHA continues to work in collaboration with the Canadian Public Health Association and the Canadian Network of Public Health Associations. In April we hosted a learning event during first ever Canadian Public Health Week, titled "Advocacy for income as a social determinant of health: Lessons learned from the Basic Income and Decent Work movements."

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MPHA, along with University of Manitoba College of Nursing and the National Collaborating Centre for Determinants of Health (NCCDH), supported the nomination of Dr. Benita Cohen for the CPHA's most prestigious award which she received (posthumously) at CPHA's AGM May 11. Benita was a member of the MPHA and the president of the CPHA at the time of her untimely passing in November 2021. Benita educated and inspired a generation of nursing and other students, as well as leading research and contributing to many collaborative efforts on health equity action. Her gentle demeanour yet undeterrable strength of resolve will continue to inspire our efforts.

Sande identified ongoing challenges for the MPHA:

- **More tangible truth and reconciliation actions:** We have much more work to do to action our commitment to truth, starting with further and ongoing reflection on how systemic racism and unchallenged colonial assumptions are still affecting the culture of our organization, the way we think, act, decide and relate to others. Pressing further down that path is necessary to engage as effectively as we intend to in reconciliation action.
- **Increase membership numbers and engagement:** Our paid membership remains relatively low and we need to outreach more to the public health workforce and other likeminded people and groups. We need increased numbers for credibility, stable funding and to channel pooled expertise and perspectives into more advocacy action.
- **Build relationships with partners and increase advocacy action and impact:** We need to strengthen partner relationships and build new collaborations with other advocates in our key priority areas, as well as finding ways to connect with community and public health and government to increase our impact.

Sande emphasized that all this requires volunteer time and contributions from members and board members.

Sande recognized two outgoing board members who stepped down earlier this year due to changing personal circumstances. Sarah Prowse was a member of the board and held the treasurer position on the executive since 2018. Pat Martin was the longest serving board member and the only director to provide continuity between the board revitalized in 2018 and the previous board. She also brought much needed rural perspectives to the MPHA. We miss both and are grateful for their service.

Motion: To accept the President's report

Julianne Sanguins approved the motion. Seconded, Tara Campbell.

All in favour, carried.

4. Financial Report

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Clive Wightman, Treasurer, shared MPHA's Financial and Membership Report. Clive thanked Klinik for their bookkeeping and finances. Klinik Community Health keeps MPHA's funds in trust.

Manitoba Public Health Association (a/c #41369)	Current 15 Month Period				
	12 Months	12 Months	3 Months	12 Months	
	Ending	Ending	Ending	Ending	
	31-Dec-19	31-Dec-20	31-Mar-21	31-Mar-22	Total
Funding:					
Membership fees	530.00	2869.88	351.00	1,601.00	1,952.00
Annual General Meeting	154.00				
Summer School	1,700.00				
	2,384.00	2,869.88	351.00	1,601.00	1,952.00
Funds Disbursed					
Annual General Meeting	2,952.69	200.00		651.40	651.40
Banking Fees		30.10	4.38	47.88	52.26
Insurance	1,424.17	1,424.17		1,566.48	1,566.48
Office	15.77	50.00		50.00	50.00
Incorporation fees	180.00	40.00			-
Web site	148.00			63.29	63.29
Gift for Retreat	125.85				-
Summer School	1,547.81				-
Zoom		224.00			-
	6,394.29	1,968.27	4.38	2,379.05	2,383.43
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	(4,010.29)	901.61	346.62	(778.05)	(431.43)

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Funds held in trust, beginning of year	10,292.83	6,282.54	7184.15	7530.77	6,752.72
Funds held in trust, end of year	6,282.54	7,184.15	7,530.77	6,752.72	6,321.29

Motion: To accept the financial report.

Sande Harlos approved the motion. Seconded, Julianne Sanguins.

All in favour, carried.

Membership Report

Last year we reported 43 MPHA Members and 22 conjoint CPHA-MPHA Members for a total of 65 members. Now – as of April 15 2022 -- we counted 10 MPHA-only members and 9 CPHA-MPHA Members; for a total of 19 members.

This is a decrease likely due to a number of factors, many organizations have observed a decrease in volunteering since COVID. We know we received a few memberships leading up to the AGM and there is a time delay in receiving that information from our website and from CPHA. Membership does give us funds and credibility – so increasing our paid membership will be a focus of the Board over the next term.

Fees for joining as a member via the MPHA website remains \$40 for regular memberships and \$20 for student and retired members. Members can also contact MPHA if fees are a barrier to joining. We do not need to vote on this report but wanted to provide this important update.

4. Board Nominating Committee Recommendations

Tara Campbell provided information from the Board Nomination Committee. The Committee also included Sande Harlos, Hannah Moffatt, and Deborah Chan.

In keeping with our by-laws, the nominating committee was activated to seek new nominees for board members and make recommendations to the board. We first took stock of the strengths of incumbent board members and assessed the attributes and expertise we were seeking. We then undertook a process to invite volunteers to express interest through fan out email messages, social media and personal communication - highlighting the needs we were looking for to round out our board capacity and enhance our diversity.

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We were very pleased to receive more expressions of interest than ever before. The nominating committee reviewed all expressions of interest and recommended the slate of new nominees you see before you to the board. The board concurred with the recommendation and 7 nominees are being put forward to membership vote today. Our bylaws allow up to 15 board members so the 8 incumbent and 7 new positions would bring us up to the maximum.

The 8 incumbent board members are all entering the second year of their two-year term that membership voted on at last year's AGM (2021). We are not voting on those positions today, but they appear on the slide for your background. The only exception is that Clive who was a member-at-large was appointed to the executive position of treasurer by the board after Sarah stepped down during the year. Our by-laws stipulate that board appointments can only last for one year or until the next AGM. As a result, we are also nominating Clive for a new 2-year term in the executive role of treasurer. We are grateful to have a trained CPA with significant financial experience willing to play this role.

In the AGM materials you will have received a package with biographies the 7 nominees, along with the incumbent board members. We trust that you have had the opportunity to review the biographies of those we are nominating today and are prepared to vote.

Executive:

Sande Harlos, President (incumbent)
Hannah Moffatt, Secretary (incumbent)
Clive Wightman, Treasurer (new role)

Members-at-Large:

Deborah McPhail (incumbent)
Lea Mutch (incumbent)
Agape Karagi (incumbent)
Tara Campbell (incumbent)
Deborah Chan (incumbent)
Uyiosa Chukwuka (new)
Nicole Herpai (new)
Alycia Murdock (new)
Zeeshan Qadar (new)
Julianne Sanguin (new)
Joanna Thich (new)
Geoffrey Thompson (new)

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

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Agape Karagi approved the motion. Seconded, Clive Wightman.

All in favour, carried.

5. Closing Reflections

Sande Harlos thanked attendees and reaffirmed how much we appreciate and value participation from the members and board members. Sande invited members to stay in touch and connect with us about the issues and change they are passionate about. Sande thanked Leah Gazan for providing the keynote and encouraging us – even know our organization is small, we have power and responsibility and can contribute to improved population health and reducing health inequities.