

CCHA Updates

Thursday, November 2, 2006

Dear members,

The following is a summary of CCHA activities over the past months, including our meeting in Calgary on June 19 & 20, and a teleconference on September 11th.

Council Members:

Amanda Howe	CHAofBC
Gillian Leverkus	CHAofBC
Linda Brosseau	Guilde des herboristes
Capucine Chartrand	Guilde des herboristes
Michael Vertolli	Ontario Herbalists Association
Rick DeSylva	Ontario Herbalists Association
Savayda Jarone	Herbalist Association of Nova Scotia
Terry Willard	Alberta
Annette Bossert	Alberta
Deborah Catton	Alberta (present in Annette's absence)
Flo Lavallie	Saskatchewan Consultant Herbalist Association Inc.
Robin Round	Yukon

The Canadian Council of Herbalist Associations / Conseil Canadien de Associations d'Herboristes was incorporated as a national company in Ottawa on January 16, 2006.

A beautiful logo has been created for the CCHA and is in the final stages of completion. Thank you to Capucine for making this happen.

The CCHA now has representation from the Yukon. We were happy to welcome Robin Round to the council in June. We have a new member from Quebec, Linda Brosseau, who is replacing Valerie Lanctot-Bedard. Danette Steele has taken leave from the council for the time being.

One of the top priorities of the CCHA over the past year has been the compounding and raw materials policy. Starting with a preliminary meeting on the issue with the NHPD last November, and then the subsequent review and careful scrutiny of several versions of the policy by member associations of the CCHA, we saw this policy through to its completion in the Spring. The NHPD accepted our recommendations and we are very pleased with the outcome – herbal practitioners may continue to import tinctures and compound herbal formulas for our clients. We can all take a big collective sigh of relief that something so basic to our practice was not lost. Good work everyone!

Having successfully dealt with the Federal legislation that was threatening our ability to practice, the CCHA is now focusing on creating an understanding of how best to deal with pending legislation of practitioners by the provinces. We have begun by pooling resources and sharing all the member associations Standards of Practice, Codes of Ethics and Educational Standards. The aim is to create a baseline from which each of the associations can respond to provincial legislation as and when it happens rather than each province having to re-create the wheel each time. Any standards that may be created by the Council will be recommendations only. They are not intended to interfere with the ability of member associations to make their own choices.

Several members of the CCHA, other herbal practitioners, pharmacists and members of the research community met, together with the NHPD last winter in Toronto for a focused meeting on research in western herbal medicine. There was a resultant consensus among the council that we share an interest in the exploration of a joint research project among the member associations of the CCHA. It is hoped that we can formulate a proposal of research topics to be disseminated for consideration amongst the provinces in the near future.

We decided to have our next, in person CCHA meeting in Ottawa so that we could schedule a meeting with the NHPD for the same time. They agreed to meet with us on November 14th. We will keep you informed of developments.

Green blessings to all,

Savayda Jarone, on behalf of the CCHA