

Public Health Association of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island

Board Report 2016-2018



The Public Health Association of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island (PHA NBPEI) is a volunteer-run organization of professionals working in various fields related to public health and population health. Our organization aims to improve the health of NB and PEI populations through advocacy, education, and leadership in the areas of population health and public health.

During the past 2 years, the Board has worked to rebuild membership, try to make membership meaningful and initiate new projects. The Board has met 17 times since the last Biennial Meeting on April 23, 2016. Many of the meetings were by Teleconference and a few were face to face in Fredericton.

Board Membership Update – There have been a few changes in the compilation of the Board membership in the past 2 years. After the Biennial Meeting in April 2016, there were 7 Board members and the President's position was vacant. At the May 2016 Meeting, Sheila Marchant-Short from PEI accepted the role of President and remained in that role until May 13, 2017 when she resigned for personal health reasons. Doug Chapman volunteered to assume the role of President which he did for 1 month before resigning due to work and family commitments. Since that time, the remaining Board members have rotated the Chairperson role. Three Board members resigned for various reasons. Lona Taylor joined the Board on October 31, 2017. At present there are 6 Board members and 3 vacancies. The Board has discussed the need to have more than 9 Board members as this is where the planning work of the Association is being done. The Board plans to review the Association Bylaws and recommend changes at the Next Biennial Meeting in 2020.

Engagement Plan for the PHA of NB and PEI was developed in 2016 focusing on Member Recruitment and Member Engagement. A major goal that was proposed:

Increase and expand the membership of the PHA by:

- Making membership more accessible
- Recruiting student and early career members
- Creating opportunities for member involvement
- Increasing networking and professional development opportunities

Some actions that have been implemented:

- Created a website
- Established a social media presence thanks to Board member Emily Leeman for working on this.
 - Website (www.nbpeipublichealth.ca) was launched on September 2, 2016.
 - Online Newsletter
 - Twitter (@pha_nbpei)
 - Facebook (Facebook.com/CPHA.NBPEI)
- Communicated the value of membership

- Implemented Online and Renewal Direct Membership with PHA NBPEI in addition to conjoint CPHA membership. The Direct PHA NBPEI membership fee was determined to be \$25.
- Sent renewal email reminders to members
- Increased on-campus awareness of PHA NBPEI and recruitment to Association
- Created Working Groups for Communications, Outreach, Event Planning and Advocacy. Board members volunteered as chairpersons of the Groups and Association members select a Working Group to join when they became a member of the PHA.

The Association Logo was updated with the official name and it was placed on the PHA social media platforms and website.

Policies and Procedures of the Association were reviewed. It was recommended that we revise the Reimbursement for Travel Policy to reimburse Board Members for the actual cost of the gas and bridge tolls when applicable. It was also recommended that the Wording for Secretary/Treasurer be changed as they are now 2 distinct roles.

Memorial for Ann Harling was prepared by Cristin Muecke and Marjorie Allison-Ross. Ann was a Life Member of NBPEI and a CPHA Defries Award Recipient in 1995 when the CPHA Conference was held in Charlottetown. She was a long standing Board member and Secretary/Treasurer for many years. She died in January 2016.

PHANS Teleconference – Board members June Kerry and Tracey Rickards participated in a Teleconference in April 2017 to discuss the possibility of a merger. It was decided that each organization will remain as a separate entity. PHANS was interested in collaboration and not amalgamation. PHANS has both conjoint and direct membership.

CPHA Conferences –

- The 2017 Conference was held in Halifax and the Board supported 3 members to attend, Allison Holland, Emily Leeman and June Kerry.
- In 2018, the Conference was held in Montreal last week, May 28-31, and 1 Board member was supported to attend. Allison Holland also represents our PHA at a meeting of the Canadian Network of PHAs on an ongoing basis.

Community Health Needs Assessments in Horizon Health Network - Allison Holland shared with the Board that several communities in Horizon Health Network have been involved in community health needs assessments over the past few years. Horizon Communications created a document to report on the Community Assessments called: “**Broadening Our Focus: Identifying regional priorities from the needs of our communities**” (April 2017). Allison provided a copy of this new document to each Board member. She has worked on this project for the past 3 years and is very excited that the organization is making it a priority for Horizon Health Network. She has made presentations to Horizon Senior Management and the Board of Directors.

Working Group Updates:

Advocacy Working Group:

- NB-PEI Position on Cannabis: Emily Leeman prepared a power point presentation for the Board. Board discussed the CPHA recommendations and expressed concern about the age being 19. The Board agreed that we can generally endorse the CPHA recommendations but would prefer the age to be 21.

- Legislation and Regulation of Cannabis in Canada – The NB CMOH advised that the Legislative Assembly of NB created a Select Committee on Cannabis and it held public consultations in the summer of 2017. The Board identified this as an advocacy issue and decided to make a presentation to the Select Committee. Emily Leeman and Tracy Rickards took the lead in preparing the PHA response.
- Food Policy Survey: The Board informed PHA NBPEI membership about this Survey and encourage members to participate. Some of the themes of the Survey were to buy local, sustainability, and enabling good food choices.
- Through Canadian Federation of Medical Students, Emily spoke to politicians about Naloxone.

Communications Working Group:

- Promoted student membership at UNB, UPEI and NB Medical students.
- Created the PHA NBPEI online presence on various platforms and an online Newsletter.

Outreach Working Group:

- **UPEI event** – PHA NBPEI collaborated with UPEI students to plan an educational event in January 2017. The President at the time, Sheila Marchant-Short, assisted with the planning of the event and was a speaker on the topic, “Global Health and Public Health Associations.” PHA NBPEI sponsored a Refreshment Break for the event.

Event Planning Working Group:

- The Board is planning an event to be held in 2019 titled “Let’s Chat! Facilitating a Conversation on Basic Income.” Beginning in the Spring of 2018, PHA NBPEI is going to connect with partners who wish to be involved in this discussion; share material relevant to the conversation on our social media platforms; host a Basic Income 101 webinar; host an event where experts share their knowledge on basic income and participants can discuss the pros and cons of basic income in NB and PEI; share the outcome of the conversation with national partners.

Canadian Network of Public Health Associations – Meetings are held 4 times each year (3 teleconferences and 1 face-to-face meeting at the CPHA Conference). Sheila Marchant-Short participated during the first year and Allison Holland for the past year.

Audit- In January 2017, the Board discussed whether an annual audit needed to be conducted as these can be costly. It was decided that since we receive a detailed Treasurer’s Report at each meeting, we won’t seek an Audit at this time.

Prepared by,

Marjorie Allison-Ross

Secretary, PHA NBPEI