

# Ontario Psychological Association

## *Changing the Landscape by 2017*

*The 2015-16 Annual Report of the Board of Directors*

*November, 2016*



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## Message from the President and Chief Executive Officer



**What an honour to be at the helm  
of this dynamic and vitally  
important organization!**



As we look forward to celebrating our 70th Anniversary in the upcoming year, our Annual Report has provide us with an opportunity to review our target accomplishments during the past three years as we attempt to change the landscape for psychology in this province and the people we serve. The past three years we have been exciting, challenging and rewarding for the members of the Board of Directors of the Ontario Psychological Association. The Board members have devoted their time, energy and competencies towards moving the OPA forward on many advocacy initiatives which has increased the level of trust in our Association and recognition of our strengths and contributions to the health and well-being of all Ontarians (and especially, the most vulnerable amongst us) by various associations and organizations and with the Government of Ontario.

The enclosed document entitled *“Target Accomplishments in 2015-16: Changing the Landscape by 2017”* contains an overview of our successes through the eyes of our Dr. Jonathan Douglas, Dr. Jane Storrie and your new President and the Chief Executive Office. The ability to achieve specific target accomplishments under the best of circumstance is difficult. It is virtually unheard of that an organization of our size could achieve our level of success in such a short period of time. We are very proud of our achievements to date and wish to share them with you.

One of the accomplishments is the overwhelming success of the recent Annual Conference. The Conference Committee did an outstanding job this year in developing an extraordinary program. Ms. Carol Todd, the mother of Amanda Todd was our keynote speaker. There was not a dry eye in the place when Ms. Todd spoke of Amanda’s experiences and her own determination to end cyber-bullying. Ms. Todd attended the conference and was impressed by the quality of the sessions which have provided her with insights that she will be able to use as she travels from across Canada and internationally on her quest to continue Amanda’s efforts to inform the world of the detrimental impact of unlimited access to the internet for children and adolescents.

(See Amanda’s original You Tube Video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vOHXGNx-E7E>  
or visit Amanda Todd’s Legacy Website at [www.amandatodddlegacy.org](http://www.amandatodddlegacy.org))

The Committee made a concentrated effort to ensure that the vast majority of speakers and workshop facilitators were “home grown”. The considerable talents in research, education and clinical practice of our Ontario psychologists were highlighted throughout the three day Conference. Feedback from the Conference participants informed us of the world class quality of the presentations. There was also positive feedback regarding the conference logistics that made the experiences of the participants at the King Edward Hotel exceptional. We are grateful to our staff members, especially Ms. Lara Pocock who received the Staff Member of the Year Award for her significant contributions to the operations of the OPA.



We are also proud of the increasing quality and the number of research posters at the conference. Thanks to the work of the Co-Chairs of the Research and Continuing Education Committee Drs. Paulo Pires and Kelly Horner, who worked with many of the University Psychology Departments to bring the best of their research projects to the conference. The posters demonstrated that the future of psychology in Ontario in will be very bright.

During our 69th Annual Conference, we had the honour of listening to the Minister of Health and Long Term Care, the Honourable Dr. Eric Hoskins, speak of his high regard for the contributions of the OPA and its members to the mental health and wellbeing of Ontarians. While the Minister was unable to make any explicit promises, he made it clear that he would support the OPA's major advocacy objectives. In addition, the Minister of Community and Social Services, the Honourable Dr. Helena Jaczek informed us that, after speaking at the 2014 Gala Luncheon when Dr. Jane Storrie was installed as our President, she informed her staff to put our Annual Conference and Gala Luncheon in her calendar each year so that she could attend the installation of each of our Presidents. In addition, we had multiple Ministers, their staff and senior public officials who sent their best wishes to Dr. Roy at his installation as our new President.

It was inspiring to hear about the pride that Members take in belonging to the OPA. We met Members who had recently decided to renew their memberships and others who had been remained Members but, until recently, had not been involved with the OPA in a meaningful way. Between new Members, those renewing their membership, those who now wish to become active in the OPA and those who already are active, the future of the OPA is bright indeed. The Annual General Meeting was held during the Conference at 7:30 am on Saturday October 22, 2016 and it was rewarding for us to see so many Members in attendance. More information about the discussions that took place during the AGM will follow in the weeks to come.

With the number of OPA members increasing as many more psychologists make the OPA their professional home, a more involved membership and the Ontario Government viewing the Ontario Psychological Association in such a favourable light, we are extremely proud to be at the helm of this growing and dynamic organization.

The OPA will be celebrating our 70th Anniversary with special events throughout 2017. We are in the process of planning a very special Queen's Park Reception, the inaugural meeting of the OPA's Psychology Leadership Council, with Dr. Jane Storrie as the Council's Founding Chair and planning is already occurring to make our 2017 Annual Conference the best yet. We look forward to seeing you next November at our 70th Annual Conference to celebrate our 70th year as an Association - what a special event it will be!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Sylvain Roy, President

M. Janet Kasperski, Chief Executive Officer



## Target Accomplishments in 2015-16: Changing the Landscape by 2017

*“The 2014-15 Report of President and Chief Executive Officer” presented at the Special General Meeting in October of 2015 documented the activities that had occurred in 2014 and 2015 under the leadership of the then President, Dr. Jane Storrie and the Chief Executive Officer, Jan Kasperski. Dr. Jonathan Douglas, as the newly installed President, reviewed the overwhelming amount of work that was anticipated for 2015-16 if we were to meet our target accomplishments and requested the assistance of Dr. Sylvain Roy and Dr. Jane Storrie to handle the Presidential workload. This report has provided our 2015-16 President, President-Elect and Past-President with an opportunity to tell their own story of the OPA’s accomplishments that they oversaw during the past year. It reflects the dedication and hard work of our Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Niki Fitzgerald, the rest of our dedicated and hard working Board members, our Committee Chairs and Committee members and our hard-working staff members.*

### **Dr. Jonathan Douglas, President**

Dr. Douglas reported on his personal activities as he balanced a very active private practice with the demands of the role of President. In his humble and humorous manner, he stated the following:

*“I sent emails and edited documents - that pretty much sums it up...”*

*I'm personally proud that representatives of the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) are taking part in our pre-conference workshop, which will be an opportunity for us to learn from each other.*

*I've focused a great deal on the membership, with visits to universities and a training hospital, so that students will be aware of the importance of OPA. And our membership numbers are better than they've ever been. There have been so few complaints from our members - and each one of them was easily resolved. Instead, we receive messages of support and gratitude from our members.*

*Our Queens Park Reception was the best attended it's been yet, and we've improved our relationship with academic psychology. Our relationship with government has deepened and grown, owing largely to the spectacular efforts of Dr. Sylvain Roy and Jan Kasperski. I was involved in advocating for a stronger role for Psychology in Medical Assistance in Dying. I'm proud of the relationship we've developed with Badge of Life Canada (I'm presenting with them for the second time on Oct 3, 2016).*

*“Our Guidelines continue to be a huge highlight - tip of the hat to Jane, there!! Dr. Roy’s work with the homeless and his engagement with the Ministry of Community and Social Services on behalf of individuals with Intellectual Disability Disorders is commendable. And the proposal for the court pilot project to have psychologists on site in family courts developed by Jan has been incredible, and will pave the way for the development of Psychology Aid Ontario. That we've been able to do such things even during such a challenging year is astounding.*

*There are still areas where we need to improve. We have not had the resources or the time to address the ongoing frustrations with the listserv (I dislike having to defend APA rules that are irrelevant to Canadian tax law. Those “don't do that posts” have become among my most prolific posts and they are hardly the legacy I want to leave). The forums remain on hold. The website has recently been somewhat faster to load, but still, we have yet to maximize its potential. Our focus has been heavily weighted towards government relations, but thanks to the work of members such as the Kaplans we have not lost ground with the private payers that*



*are the major source of income for many psychologists in private practice - but there is always more that needs to be done in this arena. These are things that I will continue to work on as I hand the Presidential mallet over to Dr. Sylvain Roy who, with Jan at his side will be an extraordinary President.*

*And of course, I will continue to send emails. And edit documents. And scold members on the listserv.*

## **Dr. Jonathan Douglas PhD CPsych President 2015-16**

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### **Dr. Sylvain Roy, President-Elect**

Dr. Roy was well-positioned to work with Jan Kasperski on government relations. Between the two of them, they have met with as many individuals at Queen's Park as possible to advocate on behalf of vulnerable Ontarians suffering from a number of psychological disorders. Our passion and dedication to the general wellbeing of Ontarians has been acknowledged by a number of Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament and civil servants.

A consistent message that was communicated to the Premier, Ministers, Parliamentary Assistants, Deputy Ministers and their staff was the importance of collaboration with the Ontario Psychological Association and its members to improve the well-being of the poor and the disabled. This includes the need to improve access to psychological diagnostic and treatment services in primary care and institutional settings.

We paid attention to the strategies that the government was developing or had announced. If the strategy was aimed at improving the lives of Ontarians, the OPA was given opportunities to present the roles that psychologists should play in order for government to be successful in improving conditions for the most vulnerable amongst us. Dr. Roy has worked with the government on issues relating to the intersection between primary care, disability, homelessness and poverty. A government-funded project he leads in his professional life with the Inner City Family Health Team has been one of the key ways in which government officials have come to fully understand the unique and extremely valuable knowledge and skills of psychologists that complement the skill sets of other disciplines, such as family medicine, psychiatry and neurology.

These are his words as he summarizes the work that he accomplished this year.

*"It is a humbling experience to stand with two such strong and capable Presidents such as Dr. Douglas and Dr. Storrie. Our compatible views on access to care, prescribing privileges and projects such as Psychology Aid Ontario has made the work relatively easy. I take pride in OPA's advocacy initiatives. Drs. Douglas and Storrie and our CEO, Jan Kasperski, have been great mentors and have provided me with strong sources of support.*

*Together, along side a number of wonderful Members, we have raised the profile of the OPA and its members to new heights. We have built deeper relationships with various government Ministries including health, social services, justice, labour, education, housing, indigenous affairs and more. The next two years will be crucial as we aim to increase access to psychologists in the province and ensure that psychologists are included in the decision-making processes that affect the health of millions of Ontarians each year. We are mindful that our connections to the private sector is necessary to achieve our ambitious agenda. It is my hope that we will soon be in a position in which we will need to expand our doctoral programs at the universities to keep up with the demand.*

*I was pleased to have worked collaboratively with Best Doctors, Canada to create an innovative mental health program with psychologists at its core. The program is expanding now into Quebec, Alberta, British Columbia and Australia. The program provides psychologically disabled employees covered by RBC Financial Services with psychological diagnostic assessments and the appropriate number of sessions to address depression and/or anxiety. Employees with symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder will soon be added*





*to the list of psychological disorders that will be provided with psychological interventions anchored in the use of telepsychology to provide timely and convenient access to psychologists with the exact education, training and experience to meet the employee's needs.*

*My advocacy work has been informed by my private practice at the Inner City Family Health Team and at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Thanks to an important grant from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the "Bridges to Housing" project, a collaboration between a number of agencies was born. Our work with the homeless people in Toronto has led to significant improvements in the way that we triage, screen and diagnose homeless persons with Intellectual Developmental Disorders (IDD). It has been an honour to be involved in the Minister of Community and Social Services' Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) Working Group and I was thrilled to hear that those diagnosed with IDD will obtain immediate access to the ODSP.*

*Working with our CEO on the provision of psychological services for Syrian Refugees has been extremely rewarding. Maslow's Hierarchy certainly has played out in the settlement of Syrian Refugees. First and foremost, they needed to find suitable housing, enroll their children in school, learn a second language, find a job and have their primary healthcare needs met - and now, they are starting to identify the need to address PTSD and other psychological disorders. Members of the OPA are well-positioned to meet that need and we are working collaboratively with the Ontario Government to find effective solutions to meet the needs of Refugees.*

*I am very proud of our CEO's involvement with the Minister of Children and Youth Services' Advisory Autism Program Planning Advisory Panel. The Panel was spurred on by changes to the Autism Intensive Behavioral Interventions program. As our CEO, Jan is in a good position to advocate for the role of psychologists in the assessment and treatment of children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental and behavioural disorders.*

*I am grateful to so many colleagues in the province for their support and guidance and look forward to engaging with the key psychologists that will be members of our Psychology Leadership Committee. As I take on the President's role, I know that with assistance of Dr. Douglas, Dr. Diana Velikonja, and our CEO, Jan Kasperski, 2016-17 will be an even more amazing year for the OPA".*

**Dr. Sylvain Roy, Ph.D., C. Psych.  
President-Elect (2015-2016)**

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**Dr. Jane Storrie, Past-President**

Dr. Storrie will be so greatly missed on the Board that we have asked her to remain Co-Chair of our Prescriptive Authority Committee - and we are creating a Council of Psychology Leaders to provide the Board with sage advice with Dr. Storrie as its Founding Chair so that we keep her engaged and actively contributing to the OPA.

In the words of Dr. Storrie, the following represents the OPA accomplishments that she oversaw during the last year:

*My year as OPA Past-President has largely focused on continuing our work with first responders. We were excited to work with the Ministry of Labour on their PTSD initiative, and witness Bill 163 become law in April. "The Supporting Ontario First Responders Act" directs the WSIB to presume that PTSD is a work-related injury, ensuring timely claim approvals and access to assessment, diagnosis and treatment. We were gratified to be included, along with psychiatrists, as the two healthcare providers able to provide a diagnosis and support PTSD claims.*

*I have been working with a number of police services in the province to help develop mental health and wellness programming. In April, I was pleased to accept a position with Halton Regional Police Service, and*



*am proud to announce that we launched our stand-alone Wellness Unit in early September. As OPA's reputation grows in this arena, we are being contacted by other police services, as well as fire and paramedic services, to assist with their initiatives, as well. There is an increasing need for psychologists and psychological associates with specific training in providing clinical services to first responders. Dr. Lori Gray and I will be announcing some exciting training opportunities for the OPA members in early 2017.*

*Dr. Diana Velikonja and I are continuing to Chair the Prescriptive Authority Committee. Dr. Eric Hoskins, Minister of Health, has tasked his Parliamentary Assistant, John Fraser, to review scopes of practice. We have met with Mr. Fraser, the Minister, the Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Minister, and all have reviewed our submission requesting an expansion of our scope of practice to include the prescribing of psychotropic medication. We're hoping to have some good news to report to you over the next few months. I'd like to also congratulate Diana on completing her post-doctoral Masters Degree in Psychopharmacology. She'll be ready to start prescribing when we finally get the go-ahead from government. Well done, Diana!*

*The OPA recently released Guidelines for Best Practices in the Assessment of Concussion and Related Symptoms and, in conjunction with CAPDA, "Guidelines for Best Practices in Psychological Insurer Examinations". These documents can be accessed on the OPA website under "Resources", along with our other Guidelines including those for best practices in electronic communications, the provision of telepsychology, the use of social media, and a series devoted to supervision. I would like to again thank the many members who served on our Working Groups to develop each of these Guidelines. For those of you who have not seen it yet, check out our expanded and updated "Guide to Fees and Billing Practices".*

*At the AGM, I will be concluding my tenure as Past-President and leaving the OPA Board of Directors. The last four years have been busy, at times stressful, but always fulfilling. I have had the pleasure of working alongside dedicated Board members, an amazing office staff, and one of the finest CEOs I have ever known. OPA was very lucky to have Jan Kasperski take the helm. I am so very proud of what OPA has become...truly a force to be reckoned with, and respected.*

*Best wishes to Jonathan as he hands the Presidential mallet to Sylvain Roy. With Sylvain as President and Diana Velikonja as President-Elect, I am confident that the OPA will continue to be a dynamic voice for the profession and the people we serve.*

**Dr. Jane Storrie, Ph.D., C. Psych.**  
**Past-President**

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**Ms. M. Janet Kasperski, RN, MHSc, CHE**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

With three Officers taking on various aspects of the Presidential role and a number of Committee Chairs to support, my role has been described as the "Chief Cat Herder". It is an honour and a pleasure to work with each one of them - and the members of the OPA who provide us with guidance, advice and support. The high level of member engagement with the OPA is at its highest and a personal source of pride. Drs. Douglas, Roy and Storrie have provided an overview of many of the OPA's external activities during the past year. I would like to provide an overview of the internal activities of the OPA that make being a member so important to the profession.

#### **Board Committee Reports:**

At each Board meeting, the issues related to the Committees of the Board are discussed and priorities established to ensure that the Strategic Directions for the timeframe 2014 to 2017 are on track. While the OPA has an **Executive Committee**, as per our By-Laws, it has never met as a formal Committee. If an issue arises that requires a definitive decision, the Officers resolve it via email or teleconference. If the issue is a major concern to the OPA, the small and nimble Board meets by teleconference.

The activities of the **Planning and Policy Development Committee** has benefitted greatly from the work of Dr. Roy and Jan Kasperski. They oversaw most of the work related to review of legislative and





regulatory changes, government relations and the development of proposals to government. Each proposal has emphasized the current and potentially future roles for psychologists in Ontario. A key measure of the success of our media and government relations activities is the dramatic increase in the number of job postings in both public sector arenas and private clinics.

The Planning and Policy Development Committee has a number of sub-committees that report on their activities to the Board. In addition, the Board actively supports OPA members who are engaged in Committees and Advisory Panels with government and other organizations. The work of the **Auto Insurance Sub-Committee**, under the leadership of the Faith and Ron Kaplan, remains one of the Committee's most important sub-committees. The relationships that the Kaplans have built over the years with members of the Ministry of Finance and the Financial Services Commission of Ontario allows the OPA to provide the government with advice on how to develop policy changes. That relationship is anchored in identifying potential solutions to the problems facing government that do not impact negatively on the victims of car collisions - or on the practitioners that try to provide exceptional care for their patients.

The Board also managed the affairs of the **Audit and Finance Committee** (Chair, Dr. Niki Fitzgerald) and the **Governance Committee** (Chair, Dr. Jane Storrie) to ensure that every Board member was actively involved with and fully appraised of our financial and governance issues. **The Communication and Membership Committee's** activities were highlighted in the report of Dr. Jonathan Douglas who functioned as its Chair. The Board is justifiably proud of the work of our **Continuing Education and Research Committee**. Under the leadership of Drs. Paulo Pires and Kelly Horner and ably supported by Ms. Lara Pocock, Director of Corporate Affairs, the Committee has overseen the highly successful Summit on Innovation in Psychology, a number of workshops and the 2016 Conference. The Conference was anchored in showcasing the clinical, teaching and research activities of Ontario's psychologists and was described by one and all as the best conference of its kind in Canada.

The OPA remains very proud of the work of the **Section of Psychology in Education**. In the words of its Chair, Dr. Debra Lean, the following represents the main accomplishments of SecPE during the past year:

*The Section on Psychology in Education (SecPE) has a long history of advocating for students in Ontario schools. SecPE continues to work towards informing child and youth stakeholders that school-based school psychology staff are the school's mental health experts and have the most training, knowledge and skills for diagnosing, and when feasible, providing intervention for mental health disorders. School psychology practitioners also are involved in consultation, crisis intervention, parent education, prevention and early intervention activities, professional and program development, program evaluation and research. These roles are in addition to our work assessing, diagnosing and providing intervention for learning and developmental issues in students. School psychology practitioners work in Psychology Departments in the majority of school boards in Ontario, and include Psychologists, Psychological Associates and supervised non-registered psychology practitioners. School psychology practitioners also work in private practice. SecPE continues its cordial and supportive relationship with the Ontario Association of Psychological Associates. This connection benefits both groups and allows us to speak with a united voice on behalf of the students of Ontario, and our own profession of school psychology.*

*The Dorothy Hill Memorial Symposium was held on November 24, 2015 at the Columbus Centre in midtown Toronto. Dr. Howie Knoff presented on "Disobedient, Disruptive, Defiant and Disturbed Students: Behavioural Interventions for Challenging Students". We had full attendance including educators as well as Ministry of Education representatives. The Symposium was dedicated to the memory of a cherished school psychology colleague, Dr. Schrine Persad. The 2015 SecPE Award of Merit was presented at the OPA 2015 convention to Mr. Barry Finlay for his ongoing support for school psychology. Mr. Finlay is the recently retired Director of the Special Education Policy and Program Branch of the Ministry of Education. Drs. Kokai and Lennox represented SecPE at the OPA's third Queen's Park Reception at the Ontario Legislature. SecPE continues to be represented at The Ministry of Education Liaison Committee. This activity involves ongoing meetings with the Ministry regarding current issues in School Psychology in Ontario. As well, SecPE continues to provide input to MACSE, the Minister's (of Education) Advisory Council on Special Education. SecPE also*



corresponded regularly throughout the year with the OPA’s CEO (Jan Kasperski) and President (Jonathan Douglas).

The Governance Committee is proud to introduce you to the Board of Directors for 2016-17:

### **Board of Directors for 2016-2017**

**Dr. Sylvain Roy** - President

**Dr. Diana Velikonja** - President-Elect

**Dr. Jonathan Douglas** - Past-President

**Dr. Jason Ramsey** - Secretary-Treasurer

**Dr. Paulo Pires** - Co-Chair - Continuing Education and Research Committee

**Dr. Kelly Horner** - Co-Chair - Continuing Education and Research Committee

**Dr. Lori Gray** - Chair - Disaster Response Committee

**Dr. Lisa Couperthwaite** - Co-Chair - Membership Committee

**Dr. Jen Boyd** - Director of Early Career Psychologists

**Dr. Catherine Horvath** - Director of Supervised Practice Affairs

**Ms. Aranda Wingsiong** - Director of Student Affairs

**Ms. M. Janet Kasperski** - CEO & Non-Voting Member of the Board



#### **Introducing the President - Dr. Sylvain Roy**

Dr. Roy is a bilingual Rehabilitation Neuropsychologist holding positions at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) and the Inner City Family Health Team in Toronto. He received his Ph.D. in neuropsychology from the Université de Montréal and also holds degrees from York and McGill Universities. Dr. Roy completed his clinical training in various neuro-rehabilitation centers in the United States and Canada. In 2011, after spending a year writing his dissertation on facial expressions in sunny California, Dr. Roy decided to return to Toronto, where he accepted a neuropsychology post-doctoral fellowship at Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS). Dr.

Roy works exclusively with homeless men at the Inner City Family Health Team and at Seaton House. He acts as a neuropsychological consultant to a team of physicians, physician assistants, psychiatrists, nurses, nurse practitioners, a health promoter, and social workers. Roles include the assessment of patients’ neuropsychological functioning, provision of treatment recommendations, supervision of graduate and postgraduate students, participation in research, and conducting program evaluations. The Inner City Family Health Team recently received a \$1,000,000.00 from the Ministry of Community and Social Services to support this work. At CAMH, Dr. Roy is the lead clinician in a service that provides neuropsychological, psychological, and functional (OT) assessments and cognitive rehabilitation services to patients with complex mental illnesses such as schizophrenia. The service also provides advanced clinical training to neuropsychology interns and postdoctoral fellows wishing to develop expertise in the assessment and treatment of people with severe mental illness.



#### **Introducing the President-Elect - Dr. Diana Velikonja**

Dr. Velikonja is a Clinical Neuropsychologist who completed her graduate studies in the Biological Psychology Program at the University of Waterloo and obtained clinical training in both paediatric and adult populations. Dr. Velikonja completed her internship training at Chedoke-McMaster Hospitals and has been providing clinical services and conducting research in the Acquired Brain Injury Program at the Hamilton Health Sciences since 1996 where she was the Acting Chief of Psychology. Dr. Velikonja has completed her Post-Doctoral Masters Degree in Psychopharmacology and will be ready to prescribe as soon as the Regulated Health Professional Act is changed to expand our scope of practice to include prescribing privileges. Her current research has focused on injury prevention, the efficacy of



neuropharmacology approaches in cognitive recovery and the evaluation of affective subtypes and cognitive outcomes following brain injury sequelae and verbal and visual memory disorder in acquired brain injury. Dr. Velikonja is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University and holds an adjunct appointment in the Department of Psychology. She is actively involved in the teaching program as a supervisor for thesis and practicum students, as well as, the adult neuropsychology internship program at the Hamilton Health Sciences. Dr. Velikonja is co-owner of Storrie, Velikonja and Associates, a large clinical practice in Burlington. She is the Past-President of the Hospital Psychological Association, a member of the Board of the Hamilton Brain Injury Association and sits on the advisory board of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. Dr. Velikonja has also been a member of the OPA Board previously. She received an extraordinary number of accolades from the Members when she was asked to return to Board. The Board has every confidence that Dr. Velikonja will serve the OPA in her role as President-Elect and in her future role as our President.



### **Introducing the Secretary-Treasurer: Dr. Jason Ramsay**

**Dr. Ramsay** is an Adult Clinical and Counselling Psychologist who completed his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (Human Development and Applied Psychology). He received clinical training at CAMH, Surrey Place Centre, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and Kaplan and Kaplan Psychologists. Dr. Ramsay was an Ontario HIV Treatment Network Post Doctoral Fellow in Psychiatry and a Canadian Institute of Health Research Post Doctoral fellow at the Centre for Urban Health Solutions (formerly the Centre for Research on Inner City Health) at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. He has published research on psychological theory and assessment, the influence of neighbourhood characteristics on mental health, community-hospital relationships and policy, and homelessness as a pathway to head trauma. He has conducted clinical research and provided psychological treatment to underserved populations at the Regent Park Community Health and the Methadone Works at Toronto Public Health and taught in the Health Studies Program at University of Toronto, Scarborough. Most recently, Dr. Ramsay developed a psychological assessment and treatment program at the Welland McMaster Family Health Team. He is a founding partner of Niagara Psychological Wellness with offices in St. Catharines, Hamilton and Vaughn. He is an Assistant Clinical Professor (adjunct) in the Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences Department, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University. He teaches in the Medical Foundations and Professional Competencies Programs at the Michael G. DeGroot Medical School, Niagara campus. Dr. Ramsay's expertise in teaching and research will support the OPA to increase our interactions with and the levels of supports for psychologists in academic roles throughout the province, including those practicing in primary care settings – pioneers in their own right. Dr. Ramsay will join our incoming President-Elect, Dr. Sylvain Roy, in modelling the many important roles that psychologists play in primary care practices. Dr. Ramsay will be an important voice with government and academia in supporting the further development of the clinical, teaching and research roles of psychologists in primary care.

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The OPA is justly proud of the work that Ms. Kasperski is doing as our representative on **the Council of Psychological Associations of Canada**. The Council consists of the leadership of the Canadian Psychological Association and each of the ten provincial associations. Ms. Kasperski was elected to the **Professional Liability Insurance Steering Committee** to oversee the Professional Liability Program provided to our members by BMS Canada Risk Services. Likewise, the OPA remains extremely pleased that Drs. Ester Cole, Kate Hayes and Richard Amaral are representing us so effectively on **the American Psychological Association's Council of Representatives**.

Ms. Kasperski also represents the OPA on the following committees, councils, expert panels and organization:

- The Council on Regulated Health Care Professional Associations
- Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health
- Partnership for Mental Health



- The OMA's Working Group on Adults with Autism
- The Ontario Autism Program Advisory Committee
- Health Quality Ontario's Review Panel on the Economic Benefits of CBT
- The Law Commission of Ontario's Advisory Panel on the Last Stages of Life
- The Ministry of Education and the Ontario Psychological Association's Liaison Committee
- The Syrian Refugee Resettlement Secretariat's Special Advisory Table on Syrian Refugees
- Osgoode Hall of Law School's Family Justice and Mental Health Social Lab
- Patient-Centred Primary Care Collaborative
- The Governance Committee - Michael Garron Hospital/Toronto East Health Network
- Member of the Canadian Society of Association Executives
- Canadian Institute of Health Research - Peer Reviewer

### **Summary:**

None of this work could have been accomplished without the hard work and dedication of our two staff members: namely, Lara Pocock, Director of Corporate Affairs and Ms. Cathy Hamilton, Director of Financial and Administrative Affairs. While each of them has an impressive title, their job descriptions should read simply as follows: "This role is responsible for everything and anything that Jan does not know how to do - and more." They are simply the backbone of the organization.

We are grateful to each member of the Board who frequently rocked little ones to sleep while engaging in late night Board teleconferences. They freely gave of their wisdom, guidance and advice to ensure that we successfully navigated storm weather and celebrated with us every accomplished that was made during this extraordinary year.





**The Public Service Awards** are issued by the Board to individuals, groups or organizations that have contributed significantly to psychological health and well-being of Ontarians. This year, the Board awarded the following Public Service Awards to:

**Mrs. Carol Todd** is being honoured for the work that she is doing provincially, nationally and internationally to transform the devastating impact of her daughter’s suicide into the prevention of cyber-bullying.

**Minister Helena Jaczek, Minister of Community and Social Services** is receiving the Public Service Award for her efforts to past legislation that permits individuals diagnosed by a psychiatrists or a psychologists with an Intellectual Developmental Disorder to have access immediately to supports from the Ontario Disability Support Program.

**Dr. Alex Abramovich** for his research related to homophobia and transphobia in Toronto’s shelter system that addresses and hopefully ends LGBTQ2S youth homelessness in Canada.

**The Honourable Kevin Flynn and the Honourable Yasir Naqvi** are being recognized on behalf of the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for their efforts to pass the *“Supporting Ontario First Responders Act (2016)”*.

**The Cisco Foundation** is being awarded the Public Service Award for their efforts to connect schools in remote, rural Indigenous Communities to the outside world to improve the quality of learning opportunities and to address psychological disorders amongst teachers and their students.



**The Media Award** was presented to **Ms. Renata D’Allesio** of the Globe and Mail for her articles that exposed the bias amongst the Military towards veterans and active military personnel who takes their own lives after serving bravely in war-torn countries. Her article about the presentation of the Memorial Cross to Mrs. Denise Stark, the mother of Justin Stark of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada who committed suicide in October of 2011 after returning from Afghanistan, touched our hearts and demonstrated the power of the press to uncover injustices in the system.

**The Award of Merit:** The OPA’s highest award honours an individual, group or organization that has made a significant or sustaining contribution to the profession of psychology and the OPA.

Our highest honour is being presented to Dr. Jane Storrie, Past-President of the OPA, for her commitment to the OPA over the years and especially for her major contributions as the OPA during her term of office on the Board as President-Elect, President and Past-President. Her accomplishments in these roles are far too numerous to list here. Dr. Storrie has agreed to be the Founding Chair of the OPA’s Psychology Leadership Council so that the OPA can continue to benefit from her wise counsel, drive and energy.

**The Barbara Wand Award:** Named in honour of Dr. Wand, former Registrar of the Ontario Board of Examiners in Psychology, this award recognizes an individual in the discipline of psychology who has made a significant contribution to excellence in professional ethics and standards.

This award is honouring the work of **Dr. Kenneth Pope**. Thanks to Dr. Kate Hayes, hardly a week goes by that the Listserv is not provided with yet another source of wisdom and guidance from his website *“Articles, Research and Resources in Psychology”* that address questions regarding therapy, ethics, malpractice, forensics and critical thinking to name a few of the topics, as well as his other website *“Accessibility & Disability Information and Resources in Psychological Training & Practice”*.

**The Public Education Award:** This award recognizes an individual, group, department or committee who have undertaken projects or initiatives that reach out to the community, offering information about psychological services and the role psychology can play in everyday life. Consideration will be given to initiatives geared to areas of personal interest, public interest or current policy development by local or provincial governments.

**Dr. Debra Lean**, Chair of the Section on Psychology in Education, is being recognized for her many efforts to education members of government, school board and the public about the key roles that psychologists play in mental health and assessment of learning capabilities of children in our schools and communities.

**The Dr. Ruth Berman Award:** Established to honour Dr. Berman for her years of service to the OPA as its Executive Director, this award will be granted to an Early Career Psychologist who demonstrates an exceptional effort in the promotion and enhancement of the profession and/or the OPA’s activities.

The Dr. Ruth Berman Award is being awarded to **Dr. Pamela Seeds** for her efforts to create a forum for ECPs to meet to share educational opportunities and to support one another during the exciting but stressful first years of practice.





**The Dr. Harvey Brooker Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching:** Named after Dr. Brooker in recognition of his long-standing contributions to education in clinical psychology. This award is presented to a psychologist or psychological associate who exemplifies the highest standards of excellence in the clinical training of psychology students.

The recipient for the Harvey Brooker Award is **Dr. Mary Desrocher**, the Director of Clinical Training at York University for her excellent teaching abilities and her ongoing mentoring of her students and early career psychologists. Dr. Desrocher was described as a wonderful resource for discussing the unique challenges of women in academic and clinical positions.

**The Most Promising Research to Practice Award** were presented to:

**Ms. Erin Orr and Christina Mutschler** from Ryerson University.

**Presentation Title:** The Role of Doctor Trust in the Relationship Between Adverse Childhood Experiences and Non-Adherence to Healthcare Treatment

And

**Mr. Jeffery Esteves, Azin Taheri and Dr. Adrienne Perry** from York University and Dr. Julie Koudys from Brock University

**Presentation Title:** Examining Measures Used for the Diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder

**The President's Award** was presented to **Dr. Jonathan Douglas**, the **Board Recognition Award** was presented to **Dr. Jane Storrie and Dr. Niki Fitzgerald** and the **Staff Member of the Year** was presented to **Ms. Lara Pocock, Director of Corporate Affairs/**