

CASLPA News: Governance

Joanne Charlebois, CASLPA Executive Director

Governance Review

As our President, Judy Meintzer S-LP(C), referred to in her opening message (page 1-3 of this issue), CASLPA is undertaking a governance review process. Essentially, this means that we are reviewing the way that the association is governed; our processes, procedures and our governance structure.

The reason we have decided to undertake this review now is because, in October of 2011, the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act* (NFP Act) came into effect, replacing the previous legislation that governed federal non-profits; and, by November 2014, all federal non-profits must ensure that their by-laws are compliant with the new act.

CASLPA has been around for nearly 50 years and a lot has changed in that time. So, when the NFP Act came into effect, we decided to take the opportunity to do a thorough review of our governance before deciding what by-law changes to consider. We want to get a big-picture view of our current governance model and understand how it compares with those of similar organizations and current best practices. Once we have this thorough understanding, we

will be well-positioned to make informed recommendations to the membership about how the by-laws should be changed to be in compliance with the act and to be as effective as possible in serving and representing our members.

Apart from ensuring compliance with the new act, our aim with this review is to ensure:

- that we are in a position to be responsible and accountable to our members and employees;
- we remain the premier representative and professional body of Canadian speech-language pathologists, audiologists and supportive personnel; and
- that we represent our membership in the most effective way possible.

To this end, we have struck a Governance Review Task Force. Their purpose is to do the research and analysis needed to get to that big-picture view and to then make recommendations to the board and the membership on what changes would help us to be most effective, efficient and be in compliance with the NFP Act.

The most important piece of this process is to ensure that we keep our members informed. As we progress, we will include updates in *Communiqué* and our email communications. If, at any point, you have comments or concerns that you would like to see addressed or if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact committee chair, Gillian Barnes, Past President (pastpres@caslpa.ca) or you can reach me at Joanne@caslpa.ca.

The CASLPA Board of Directors and I sincerely believe that, through this process, we will become an even better association and representative for our members. Stay tuned for updates!

Governance Review Task Force Members:

Gillian Barnes, S-LP(C), Chair

Trish Dillabough, S-LP(C)

Nadine Jacob, Aud(C)

Judy Meintzer, S-LP (C)

Leslie Sarchuk, S-LP(C)

Staff: Joanne Charlebois, Executive Director