



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

Association
canadienne de
physiothérapie

National Support Worker Assembly
Assemblée des travailleurs de soutien

NSWA News

A newsletter for members of the CPA's
National Support Worker Assembly

Volume 3 No. 1, January 2006

Congratulations to new National Support Worker Assembly Regional Representatives

The election process for the National Support Worker Assembly concluded on August 31, 2005 with the acclamation of three Regional Representatives. While we were disappointed that more of the available positions were not filled, we are very pleased to introduce our three enthusiastic volunteers. These individuals are your representatives for the NSWA, and at Canadian Physiotherapy Association tables nationally and provincially. You should feel free to contact them with questions or ideas.

Fred Gaby, Ontario Region – fred.gaby@sympatico.ca

Fred is a PTA/OTA Humber College graduate with experience as an assistant in psychogeriatric and acute medicine settings. He has been involved for 20 years with teaching alpine skiing to kids and adults with physical disabilities, including three terms as president of Adult Disabled Downhill Skiing. Fred looks forward to the role he can play as an NSWA Council member in promoting the role of support personnel and effective working relationships with PTs. Fred has taken on the role of Communications Officer for the Assembly.

Sandra Lamb, British Columbia & Yukon Region – sandra.lamb@vch.ca

Sandra is a Rehabilitation Assistant graduate of the West Coast College of Health Care, and is currently employed as a RA at the Vancouver General Hospital on the acute spine and acute medical units. She has volunteered as a PT Aide in a Tibetan refugee hospital in India (1992), and as a RA in a spinal cord hospital in Bangladesh (1992). Sandra has also been an active volunteer in the formative stages of the National Support Worker Assembly, having chaired the NSWA Constitution Task Force, which developed a governance model for the Assembly. She has been a leading force in recruiting NSWA members in BC. The additional committees she has volunteered on include the Support Worker Task Force, College of Physical Therapy of BC, and the Rehabilitation Assistant Advisory Committee for Capilano College. Notes Sandra, "I feel dedicated to the valued role that support workers play within the physiotherapy team, and I am motivated to illustrate to employers how we can be beneficial to patients by offering additional treatments, and [by being] cost effective to the healthcare system." Sandra is the Vice-President of the Assembly

Bev Woodman, Ontario Region – BWoodman@mtsina.on.ca

Bev is a PTA/OTA Humber College graduate, currently working at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. Bev has extensive volunteer experience as a member of the Humber College OTA/PTA Program Advisory Committee, Co-Chair of the PTA Steering Committee of Ontario, member of the NSWA Constitution Task Force, and member of the Support Worker Committee of the National Physiotherapy Advisory Group. As a newly elected President of the NSWA Council, Bev looks forward to furthering the development and recognition of PTAs within the Physiotherapy profession.

NSWA Leadership Opportunities Still Exist!

The National Support Worker Assembly needs leaders! While the formal nominations and elections process was completed with Bev, Fred and Sandra's acclamations, we would warmly welcome volunteers to fill the remaining Regional Representative positions. *No prior experience is required*, and this is a great opportunity to get involved with your professional association, and to develop new skills in governance, communications, member services, and more.

The NSWA constitution provides for a seven-member council, with geographic representation across Canada as follows:

There shall be 7 Representatives on the Administrative Council of the NSWA, who shall be Representatives elected from six geographic regions, defined as

*British Columbia & Yukon [filled – Sandra Lamb]
Alberta & NWT [vacant]
Saskatchewan, Manitoba & Nunavut [vacant]
Ontario (2 representatives) [filled – Fred Gaby & Bev Woodman]
Quebec [vacant]
Atlantic Provinces [vacant]*

If you are interested in volunteering as a Regional Representative, please contact Christine James, Director, Membership Services & Component Relations, at cjames@physiotherapy.ca or 1-800-387-8679 ext 216.

NSWA Web site

For those of you who are new to the Assembly – and a reminder to those who have been members for a while – the CPA web site has pages relevant for Support Personnel on both the public and the members-only sides of the CPA web site at www.physiotherapy.ca. The public pages are under About CPA / Organization / Support Personnel. The members only pages are under Inside CPA / National Support Worker Assembly. To log in to the members' site, use the membership number on your red and white CPA membership card, and follow the instructions at the Member Login page to set your password and log on to the site. On the members' site. You will find back-issues of the NSWA Newsletter, information on the malpractice insurance program for support personnel, elections, and more.

If you have information or suggestions for what you would like to see in this section of the web site, please let us know! Send your ideas to cjames@physiotherapy.ca or fred.gaby@sympatico.ca.

Membership Renewal Results

CPA's membership year runs from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30 each year, and membership renewal for the 2005/06 membership year is now completed. Official statistics are compiled for December 31 of each year. As of this date, the Assembly had 23 full members and 12 student members, for a total of 35 members. While this has dropped compared to the number of members prior to renewal, it's only a slight decline compared to the same time last year. We will be conducting a survey with lapsed members to determine the reason(s) they chose not to renew, but would also like to receive feedback from current members as to the services that they would value the most from CPA, and what current services they value the least. Please contact either your Regional Representative, above, or Christine James at the CPA Office, cjames@physiotherapy.ca.

Benefits of NSWA Membership

Make sure you are getting full value from your NSWA Membership! While some member benefits arrive at your doorstep automatically, such as Contact, others require a separate application (such as Divisions) or some initiative on your part (such as the members-only web pages). Here's a listing of some of the key services that you receive or can access as a member of the NSWA. It's not comprehensive – some services, for example, are only offered through specific provincial branches so are not included – but should give you a good list for how to get the most out of your NSWA membership:

Profession-related benefits

- Membership privileges of the Assembly, including the right to vote and hold office in the Assembly
- Services from your **provincial Branch**, including publications, networking and education. Some Branches offer home and auto insurance and other great tangible benefits – check with your Branch to learn about their full offering of services.
- Eligibility for affiliation with CPA's 13 **practice Divisions**, which provide education and research in specific areas of physiotherapy practice

Insurance and Personal Finance Benefits

- Group **malpractice insurance** specifically for Support Personnel (see below for more information)
- Life, critical illness, and health & dental **insurance programs**
- MBNA **MasterCard**

Communications & Advocacy

- Access to the CPA **Members Only web site** which includes a section specifically for members of the NSWA
- Partnering at a National level on over 20 external partnerships, projects and alliances
- Physiotherapy **Brand** products
- **Consumer brochures** on a variety of topics
- Public information **fact sheets**, available on-line and in print
- **S.M.A.R.T.** approach materials and resources
- **Position Statements** on a range of issues affecting physiotherapy practice within Canada's health care context

Networking, Education & Resources

- **Member rates** for a wide variety of professional development offerings, provided nationally, provincially, locally, and through the Divisions.
- **Contact**, CPA's bi-monthly **newsmagazine**. Each issue includes a column specifically for and about support personnel in physiotherapy.
- **Physiotherapy Canada**, CPA's official scientific journal, published quarterly, which includes scientific and professional articles
- CPA's landmark publication, "Competency Profile: **Essential Competencies** of Physiotherapist Support Workers in Canada" which was included on your New Member CD-ROM from CPA – a \$25 value.
- **Teleconference Education Series** – expanded for 2005/06 due to popular demand!
- **Publications** available through CPA's e-store
- Annual National **Congresses**, where the NSWA hosts its Annual General Meeting

Malpractice Insurance Update

CPA has negotiated a reduced member rate for malpractice insurance designed specifically for support personnel. The coverage is offered through Willis Canada (broker) and ING (underwriter), the same providers as for CPA's professional liability insurance for physiotherapists. The insurance includes \$3,000,000 professional liability per occurrence with a \$3,000,000 limit per year. This also includes \$1,000,000 commercial general liability with a \$1,000,000 limit per year. The annual premium is \$220.

If you would like to apply for this coverage, please visit the members only side of the CPA web site and look under Inside CPA / National Support Worker Assembly / Member Services for an application form.

Upcoming CPA Events

June 30 – July 2, 2006	CPA National Congress Saint John, NB
Various Dates	CPA Teleconference distance education series – see http://www.physiotherapy.ca/pubteleconf.htm for more information
Looking ahead: June 2-6, 2007	World Congress for Physical Therapy Congress Vancouver, BC

CPA Contact:

Please direct any questions, comments or suggestions about the Assembly or your membership to:
Christine James, MA, CAE
Director, Membership Services & Component Relations
Canadian Physiotherapy Association / Association canadienne de physiothérapie
416-932-1888 Ext. 216 Toll free 1-800-387-8679 Fax: 416-932-9708
cjames@physiotherapy.ca www.physiotherapy.ca