

Prince Edward Island Counselling Association Press Release
for immediate release - March 8, 2006



At the February 21st evening meeting at Bluefield High School, the Prince Edward Island Counselling Association voted unanimously in favour of the proposed structural changes put forth by the Executive Team and the Structure and Regulation Committee. This endorsement set the stage for the pursuit of the regulation of the profession of counselling within the province. The full PEICA membership was given the opportunity to read the thorough proposal and to prepare to discuss and question it some weeks prior to this important meeting. The PEICA president, Sandi Duffield-King, expressed her appreciation that 26 members from across the Island were able to be present at the meeting for the discussion and to vote on this major initiative. She noted that she had heard from almost the same number of members who sent regrets that they could not attend the meeting that they as well were supportive of this undertaking.

The other Executive and Committee members along with the membership in attendance applauded the hard work and dedication of Sandi in ensuring the comprehensive proposal was drawn up. The steps taken by the PEICA in regulating the profession parallels what other Canadian provinces are striving to achieve as a means of elevating the position of counsellor to ensure public protection. From this point work will begin to identify national core competencies that P.E.I. counsellors already possess or may acquire through further professional development.

Having voted to adopt the proposed structural changes, the members present then passed motions to revise 4 articles in the PEICA constitution and by-laws, to make small changes to the membership form and applicable fees and to allow the Executive to use the necessary funds to become an incorporated body and pursue regulation of the profession of counselling.

Additional motions were passes to form 2 chapters of PEICA: Professional Counsellors Chapter and a School Counsellors Chapter. The PEICA-SCC is of particular significance as it paves the way to become a special association of the P.E.I. Teacher's Federation. The current professional development committees that the PEICA has in place will become part of the most appropriate of these new chapters.

The conclusion of the meeting dealt with reports from the PEICA High School Committee chaired by Daphne Campbell, the Atlantic Chapter of the Canadian Counselling Association representative Daphne Campbell, the Canadian Counselling Association PEI Board of Director Corrine Hendricken-Eldershaw, the Canadian Counselling Pastoral and Spiritual Care Chapter of which Jill MacLeod is an Executive member and the Canadian Counselling School Counsellors Chapter of which Sandi Duffield-King is President. The next meeting of the PEICA, its Annual General Meeting on May 23, 2006, will allow the membership to hear of all the developments that are afoot as a result of the mandates authorized by the membership at this February meeting. 2006 will be an eventful and notable year for the P.E.I. Counselling Association on the Island and within the country as it gains

more official recognition through the Canadian Counselling Association's support of provincial associations pursuing regulation of the profession of counselling.

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