

**CAA** Canadian Academy of Audiology  
**Heard. Understood.**



Académie canadienne d'audiologie  
**Entendus. Compris.** **ACA**

## Annual General Report 2015

[www.canadianaudiology.ca](http://www.canadianaudiology.ca)

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## 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

October 22, 2015

Sheraton on the Falls, Niagara Falls, ON

- |   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1) Call to order  | Gurjit Singh         |
| a) Registration   |                      |
| b) Notice of Meeting  |                      |
| c) Scrutineer's Report  |                      |
| d) Quorum   |                      |
| 2) Approval of the minutes of the 2014 AGM                              | Gurjit Singh         |
| 3) Financial statements & report presented                              | Joy Gauvreau         |
| a) Audited financial statement  |                      |
| b) Appointment of the auditor   |                      |
| 4) Report on the Board 2014-15 Activities                               | Jean Holden          |
| 5) Approval of the Annual Reports                                       | Salima Jiwani        |
| 6) Election of Directors & Report of the Nominating Committee           | Bill Hodgetts        |
| 7) Recognition of Outgoing Board Members                                | Gurjit Singh         |
| 8) Resolution to appoint Bill Hodgetts as president for 2015-16         | Gurjit Singh         |
| 9) Resolution to appoint Marlene Bagatto as president-elect for 2015-16 | Gurjit Singh         |
| 10) Awards Presentation   |                      |
| a) Student Awards   | Steve Aiken          |
| b) CAA University Challenge Cup   | Steve Aiken          |
| c) Paul Kuttner Pioneer Award   | Steve Aiken          |
| d) William Cole Industry Award  | Steve Aiken          |
| e) President's Award  | Gurjit Singh         |
| 11) Recipient of Clinical Research Grant                                | Steve Aiken          |
| 12) Student Bursary Presentation  | Steve Aiken          |
| 13) World Congress of Audiology WCA2016 Update                          | Kathy Pichora-Fuller |
| 14) Other Business  | Gurjit Singh         |
| 15) Call to Adjourn meeting   | Gurjit Singh         |

## 2014 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm  
October 16, 2014  
Fairmont Chateau Whistler, Whistler BC

### 1. Call to Order

#### a. Welcome

The Chair welcomed the members to the 17th annual general meeting of members of Canadian Academy of Audiology (“CAA”). Susan Nelson-Oxford, the President of CAA, acted as Chair of this meeting. In accordance with the General By-laws of CAA, she appointed Kathryn Knight to act as the recording Secretary.

#### Motion 1:

**“RESOLVED that the agenda be approved.”**

#### Moved:

**Carri Johnson**

#### Seconded:

**Anne Griffin**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

#### b. Registration

Every member has registered with the Secretary.

#### c. Notice of Meeting

The notice calling this meeting of members was emailed to all the members of record on September 11, 2014.

#### d. Scrutineer’s Report

73 members were present and 2 member represented by proxy making a total of 75 voting members.

#### e. Quorum

Notice having been served in accordance with by-laws, and a quorum being present, the meeting was declared duly constituted for the transaction of business

### 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The copies of the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Canadian Academy of Audiology held on October 17, 2013 were made available to each member in the Annual General Report. No member requested a reading of these minutes.

#### Motion 2:

**“RESOLVED that the minutes of the previous meeting of members held on October 17, 2013 be taken as circulated.”**

#### Moved:

**Joy Gauvreau**

#### Seconded:

**Bill Hodgetts**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

- 3. Annual Financial Report
  - a. Audited Financial Statement

The first item of business tabled was the financial statements of CAA for the year ended May 31, 2014 (including the balance sheet and accompanying statements, together with the auditors' report thereon) contained in the Annual General Report distributed to the members.

Joy Gauvreau, Treasurer, presented the financial statements and report.

**Motion 3:**

**“RESOLVED that the audited financial statements for the year ended May 31, 2014 be approved.”**

**Moved:  
Seconded:**

**Joy Gauvreau  
MJ DeSousa**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

- b. Appointment of the Auditors

**Motion 4:**

**“RESOLVED that Dixon Gordon, be appointed as the auditors of CAA to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed, and the board of directors be authorized to fix the auditors' remuneration.”**

**Moved:  
Seconded:**

**Joy Gauvreau  
Gurjit Singh**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

Report on the Board 2013-14 Activities

Jean Holden, Executive Director, gave a brief report on the Board's activities for 2013-14.

4. Annual General Report

The Annual General Report also contained all the committee reports, the Executive Director's report, and the President's report.

**Motion 5:**

**“RESOLVED that the Annual General Report be approved as circulated.”**

**Moved:  
Seconded:**

**Steve Aiken  
Rex Banks**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

5. Election of Directors  
a. Nominations

One position was open on the board. In accordance with the By-laws a call for nominations was sent to all CAA members by email on August 7, 2014. At close of nominations on September 5, 2014 there were 3 nominees for the opening. Due to the unexpected resignation of President-elect Petra Smith, for personal reasons, an additional spot on the Board was opened..

b. Slate of Directors

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Joy Gauvreau proposed the following nominations:

- For the first year of their first term:
  1. Barb Bentley
  2. Bonnie Cooke
  
- Returning for the 1st year of their second term:
  1. Joy Gauvreau

The balance of the Board is made up of returning directors.

- Returning for the 2nd year of their first term:
  1. Bill Hodgetts
  2. Angela Weaver
  
- Returning for the 3rd year of their first term:
  1. Maxine Armstrong
  2. MJ DeSousa
  3. Salima Jiwani
  4. Gurgit Singh
  
- Returning for the 2nd year of their second term:
  1. Steve Aiken
  2. Glynnis Tidball
  
- Returning for the 3rd year of their second term:
  1. Victoria Lee
  
- By special vote of the Board, Susan Nelson-Oxford will remain a Board Member for one additional year to fulfill her duties as Past-President.

Susan Nelson-Oxford recognized the contributions of outgoing directors Rex Banks and Petra Smith.

**Motion 6:**

**“RESOLVED that the proposed Slate, be confirmed to hold office until the next annual meeting or until their successors are duly appointed.”**

**Moved:**  
**Seconded:**

**Steve Aiken**  
**Rex Banks**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

3. Resolution to appoint Gurjit Singh as President 2014-15

Appointment of the CAA President for 2013-14

**Motion 7:**

**“RESOLVED that Gurjit Singh, be appointed as the President of CAA to hold office until the next annual meeting or until her successor is duly appointed.”**

**Moved:  
Seconded:**

**Glynnis Tidball  
Steve Aiken**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

Gurjit Singh was appointed President of CAA in 2014-15.  
Gurjit Singh addressed the Membership.

4. Resolution to appoint Bill Hodgetts as President-Elect 2014 - 15

Appointment of the CAA President-Elect for 2014 -15.

**Motion 8:**

**“RESOLVED that Bill Hodgetts be appointed as the President-Elect of CAA to hold office until the next annual meeting or until her successor is duly appointed.”**

**Moved:  
Seconded:**

**Carri Johnson  
Barb Bentley**

**There was no discussion on the motion.  
Carried unanimously.**

Bill Hodgetts was appointed President-Elect of CAA in 2014-15.

5. Award Presentations:  
a. Student Awards

Steve Aiken was called upon to recognize the winners of the Student Awards:

- i. Michael Vekasi – Western University – not in attendance
- ii. Julie Roy – Université de Montréal – not in attendance
- iii. Erin Carter – Dalhousie – not in attendance
- iv. Camille Lacasse – U of Ottawa – present
- v. Gillian Taylor – UBC – present

- b. Jean Kienapple:

Steve Aiken presented the Jean Kienapple Award to Debbie Ross. Dave Gordey accepted on Debbie’s behalf

c. Monica Price Award:	Steve Aiken presented the Moneca Price Humanitarian Award to Katie de Champlain.
d. Richard Seewald Award	Steve Aiken presented the Richard Seewald Award to Anne Marie Newroth. Dave Gordey accepted on Anne Marie's behalf
e. President's Award:	Susan Nelson-Oxford presented the President's Award to Steve Aiken
6. Recipient of Clinical Research Grant	Steve Aiken presented the Clinical Research Grant to Caryn Bursch and Li Qi
7. Address to Membership	Myrtle Barrett, President of CHHA addressed the membership
8. Call for Other Business	No further business was discussed.
9. Conclusion:	There was no further business; the chair entertained a motion to conclude.
<b>Motion 9:</b>	<b>"RESOLVED that the 2014 Annual General Meeting is concluded at 2:27 pm.</b>
<b>Moved:</b>	<b>Carri Johnson</b>
<b>Seconded:</b>	<b>Angela Weaver</b>
	<b>There was no discussion on the motion. Carried Unanimously.</b>



### *Gurjit Singh – President*

The Canadian Academy of Audiology has just completed its 19<sup>th</sup> year, and it is with great pride that I report that CAA continues to be the pre-eminent organization in Canada that advocates for the role of audiologists as primary hearing health care providers through promotion, education, and research activities. This is all made possible by the valuable contributions from the current and past members of the Executive Board, members of the Board of Directors, the Editor-in-Chief of Canadian Audiologist - the official publication of CAA, members of various sub-committees, student volunteers, the incredible efforts of our Executive Director and Administrative Manager, industry sponsors, and most importantly, the membership. Our ability to create meaningful impact is entirely dependent on the involvement of engaged members.

This past year has seen many important activities and strategic developments for the organization. Foremost among them, efforts have focused on continuing to provide a world class annual conference, the primary driver of revenues for the organization. To this end, the conference committee has once again done an outstanding job. Respected researchers and clinical leaders from around the world will share their insights so that attendees can return to clinic and continue to provide optimal hearing health care for our patients.

A critical strategic initiative for the organization was to improve our communication and engagement with the membership, audiology students, and the public at large. It was generally agreed upon that it was time for CAA to update the look, feel, and interaction experience of the CAA website. These efforts were spearheaded by Dr. Steve Aiken in partnership with our technology service provider Plank Design and have resulted in a beautiful and thoroughly modern website. Efforts were also focused on finding more ways to engage students and to improve our social media presence while maintain TV, radio and print media presence. Many individuals contributed but a special thank you should be directed to Dr. Salima Jiwani, Anne Griffin, and the PR and Awareness committee. The third arm of our communication strategy was to raise awareness of hearing loss and to promote the profession and hearing healthcare. This was achieved through the creation of a movie entitled 'Living with Hearing Loss'.

Looking forward, CAA has partnered with the International Society of Audiology and Speech-Language and Audiology Canada to host the World Congress of Audiology from September 18-21, 2016 in Vancouver, British Columbia. The event is a unique opportunity for attendees to experience a more global perspective of the state of hearing healthcare from around the world.

This past year also represented an important period of transition for the academy. It is with mixed emotions that I report that our long-serving administrative assistant Kathryn Knight has completed her Master's degree in Counselling and decided to move on to the next step in her career. Although we will miss her talents and work ethic, we wish her all the best in her future.

Submitted respectfully,  
Gurjit Singh, PhD, Reg. CASLPO  
President, Canadian Academy of Audiology  
Senior Research Audiologist, Phonak Canada  
Adjunct Status, University of Toronto; Ryerson University

*Jean Holden – Executive Director*

CAA has continued to grow and improve its benefits to members. Efforts to educate and support the professional development of audiologists have been strong. Our conference program in Whistler British Columbia was well attended, received strong reviews and was a financial success. CAA is nearing the end of its second year publishing the Canadian Audiologist, an online journal, with a broad distribution across the hearing and health industries. The journal, published 6 times a year, reached 115,000 page views mid-way through its second year and is entirely supported by advertising revenues. Editors Marshall Chasin and Steve Aiken ensure that readers benefit from well written articles by scientists, clinicians and consumers together with regular interesting editorials.

Our website has been completely redesigned to facilitate navigation and ease of building useful information for Audiologists, the public and other professionals. Steve Aiken deserves thanks for his unfailing effort and foresight leading the design team on this project.

Our media exposure also included TV/ radio interviews and print articles on hearing health concerns, advocacy and awareness of Audiology services. Salima Jiwani, Philippe Fournier and other members of the Science and Education team have ensured our presence in social media includes the latest news, science and clinical findings and events around the world. Please see our latest movie contribution to awareness of the impact of hearing loss and awareness of audiology by Clayton Fisher <https://canadianaudiology.ca/what-we-do/audiology-awareness-campaigns/> and share it to spread the word.

We increased our membership and also strengthened revenues from our job board and online ads. Careful management of expenses has allowed us to build a small reserve to help manage anticipated expenses for our World Congress next year.

CAA and SAC continue to work towards the World Congress of Audiology September 18-22, 2016 in Vancouver. We will be bringing the world of Audiology to Canada. Please visit the website [www.wca2016.ca](http://www.wca2016.ca) for continuing updates and a soon to be posted program that you will not believe!

We have continued to work together with Speech and Audiology Canada (SAC) and our Federal Health Partners to enhance the processing and guidelines related to third party funding. We work with the Canadian Council of University Programs to find ways to support education for students of Audiology programs.

Once again we have a strong speaker program for our conference in Niagara Fall, thanks to the hard work of Gurjit Singh, Bill Hodgetts and Steve Aiken. Our conference management team, Meeting Management Services, have provided strong support this year. Our conference committee has developed a solid program of education, networking, exhibit hall and social activities. We provide 35 students with free registration for our conference in return for some volunteer contributions. As usual we are raising funds for our student bursary and our clinical science grant.

I encourage you to read the reports on the activities of the committees and interest groups to gain more insight into how much a team of volunteers can accomplish to provide education, advocacy, research and support for Audiologists in Canada. This organization would not be successful without the contributions of a long list of volunteer committee members and our hard working board of directors. I am thankful for contributions by Kathryn Knight, our administrative assistant and the creative dedication of Erika Henry our

Production Coordinator. We acknowledge the continued support and services from Plank Design, our technology service provider, and Dixon Gordon & Co. LLB our accounting firm.

Jean Holden MSc, MBA

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

#### *Gurjit Singh & Barbara Bentley – Co-Chairs*

The Conference Committee has invited 34 different speakers for the entire conference, 17 of which are Canadian. There are a wide range of topics being addressed over the four day conference from our two Pre-conference workshops (Music and Hearing aids and Cochlear Implants), to our keynote address and two plenary sessions (one on each Friday and Saturday) and 25 concurrent sessions. We have shortened the length of presentations and brought a wider range of speakers to this year's conference. There should be topics of interest for everyone whether you are a clinician working in a private practice or in a hospital, whether you are an educator or researcher.

The committee selected a social event to allow all conference participants a chance to socialize and network with their peers. We will be having a gala dinner at the Table Rock Centre – Elements on the Falls Restaurant, a venue that overlooks the Horseshoe Falls. We will be entertained by D.J. Demers, a stand-up comedian who wears hearing aids and has appeared on the Conan O'Brien Show. It will be a night to remember.

The task of managing the volunteer pool was handled by Angela Weaver and Jenn Vosper. They have done an outstanding job. Student volunteers provide support during the conference in exchange for a waived registration fee.

The tasks of managing fund raising were handled by Barb Bentley and Jennifer Saunders. We will be having a silent basket auction in order to raise funds for the Clinical Science Award. In order to raise funds for the Student Bursary we will be holding a raffle during the Opening Reception.

Following our move away from paper copies of the program last year, we will continue to provide an electronic version of the conference program again this year. Philipp and Kathryn did a great job of developing content to post to various social media regarding the conference. Thank you Philippe Fournier and Kathryn Knight.

We are grateful for the contributions from David, Stephanie and Marianne from Meeting Management Services and from our hard working Administrative Assistant Kathryn Knight and Executive Director Jean Holden.

Please enjoy this year's conference.

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

### *Marshall Chasin – Editor in Chief*

We are now completing the organization of the second year of the Canadian Audiologist. As this is being written in the summer of 2015 (holding a glass a red wine in my right hand, and a glass of white wine in my left) only issues 1-4 have come out. Issue # 5 which came out in September 2015 and will be available during the CAA annual convention in Niagara Falls will have a Université de Montréal focus with an overview of the research being performed at that institution.

Like previous issues and last year, there is a nice assortment of regular columns running the full gamut of the field of audiology. Our columnists are all well respected and accomplished people who have the rare ability to convey, sometimes complex information, in clear and often humorous fashion. In addition to the columns, we have Feature sections with original articles and on occasion, some reprinted articles from other publications that were felt would benefit from a larger readership. And like previous years, we continue to have excellent reciprocity agreements with other publications such as Hearing Review and many international publications.

Canadian Audiologist has a News Section with links to breaking news, events and innovations from around the world. This is constantly being updated by our production coordinator, Erika Henry, who is a great asset to this publications. This could not have been done without her on-the-ball attitude.

We are always grateful to our supportive sponsors, without whose support Canadian Audiologist would not be a reality.

Steve Aiken and I continue to fine tune the publication with the invaluable input from Jean Holden, Scott Bryant (our managing editor) and Erika Henry. One of the subtle changes since volume 1 is an email blast to our readers every two weeks to remind them that the latest issue of CanadianAudiologist.ca is available. This has assisted us in optimizing our Analytics traffic to our publication.

Next year I am hoping to use a new “style manual” that will ensure more consistency between the various contributions. This would include guidelines on how to select keywords, embedding URLs in the text, and ensuring optimal use of the SEO function on WordPress that will allow us to be in Google’s good graces when it comes to searches.

## FINANCE COMMITTEE

### *Joy Gauvreau – Chair*

The Finance Committee was formed in order to oversee financial matters related to CAA and its functioning.

The scope of the committee includes making recommendations to the Executive Committee on ways in which revenues may be increased, efficiencies optimized and financial risks minimized during goal planning. Periodic financial statements are discussed and reports presented at the Executive and Board meetings.

This year the committee provided input to the 2015-16 operating budget which was developed by the Executive Director. The committee recommended Board approval of the budget.

The Finance Committee currently includes The Executive Director, Treasurer, and one additional Board Member.

## NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

*Bill Hodgetts – Chair*

The role of the Nominations Committee is to identify upcoming vacancies on the board, help identify new board members, contact and explain roles and nominate individuals willing to serve as officers.

The board runs with a minimum of 5 up to a maximum 13 volunteer directors. The beginning of the 2014/2015 year saw a full complement of 13 hardworking directors committed to advancing CAA affairs. During the year, Maxine Armstrong and MJ DeSousa resigned their positions due to increasing demands outside CAA. In keeping with CAA bylaws Jodi Haberstock and Marlene Bagatto were elected by the Board of Directors to fill those vacancies in the interim. A formal vote by the membership at the AGM October 2015 will confirm their positions as board members. For the upcoming 2015/2016 year there will be two directors who have completed their terms on the board. Janine Verge has been nominated and recommended by the Board of Directors and will be put to a vote by the members at the October 2015 AGM.

## PAST PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE

*Steve Aiken – Chair*

Two of the principal roles of the Past Presidents' Committee are to support the Board of Directors and to recognize our most deserving fellow colleagues through the selection of winners for our Academy's honours and awards.

The past-presidents' committee developed a new industry award. The award is intended to be given to individuals or groups of individuals working in the hearing industry, not to companies. In honour of the first recipient the award will be called the CAA Bill Cole Industry Award. The text of the award is as follows: CAA Bill Cole Industry is given to an individual or group of individuals working within the industry supporting hearing healthcare and hearing loss management. The award is given in recognition of outstanding achievement or contribution to improved hearing function; education and support of hearing healthcare providers; or outstanding humanitarian action to under-served populations affected by hearing loss. The nominations must come from CAA members but non-CAA members are eligible to receive the award.

With our insider view of the Academy's past, it is with great pleasure that we see its continued growth and success.

## PUBLIC RELATIONS AND AWARENESS COMMITTEE

*Bonnie Cooke – Chair*

The Public Relations and Awareness committee is committed to promoting the benefits of membership in the CAA, and to raising awareness of the role of audiologists as front line hearing healthcare professionals to both the general public and interdisciplinary healthcare providers. Our mandates are as follows:

- to increase student and professional membership
- to promote audiologists as the front line professionals for hearing health care to consumer groups such as CHHA and to the general public
- to improve linkages with other health care professionals

- to improve and promote linkages with each other (other audiologists) to help create a platform for advocacy within our profession

We currently have an eager team of volunteers with several projects on the go, and many great ideas/discussions around many of our long-term goals as a committee! This year we are excited to introduce a new student “CAA University Challenge” not only to increase student and professional membership but also to help promote the field of audiology. To help improve linkages with other healthcare professionals, we are also working on a ways to engage General Practitioners to help promote the profession of audiology. The idea here is to make these presentations available to our members to help promote Audiology in their own community, with several of our volunteers starting the momentum in their own communities. We hope to have this presentation available by early 2016 so please stay tuned! In an attempt to promote audiologists as front line professionals, we have created a short promotional video targeted at people with hearing loss. Other activities have included attendance at the CHHA 2015 conference and a May month competition. In addition, this year at the annual CAA conference, instead of a booth, we have organized to have a group of CAA ambassadors during the breaks for asking questions/giving ideas about CAA.

## SCIENCE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Salima Jiwani and Steve Aiken – Co-Chairs*

The role of the Science and Education Committee (SaEC) within CAA is to: 1) Educate Canadian audiologists, 2) Foster the dissemination of Canadian audiological research, and 3) Support research in audiology.

As in recent years, the SaEC organized and arranged the podium and poster sessions of the conference. These sessions are designed to provide clinical or research audiologists an opportunity to submit original research for presentation at the annual CAA conference. All abstracts submitted for the podium and poster sessions are peer-reviewed by the CAA SaEC, and published in the Canadian Audiologist online journal and the CAA website. Posters presented by students (undergraduate, graduate or doctoral) are eligible for entry into the Outstanding Student Research Poster Competition. Adjudication of this poster competition takes place during the conference by Audiologist-Scientist judges. The winner will be announced at the conference. This year, we received a total of 28 abstracts. Eight submissions were for podium presentations, and 20 for poster presentations – 14 of the posters have been entered into the Student Poster Competition.

The SaEC also organized a Clinical-Research Grant competition. This award is designed to provide support, both financial and practical, to clinical audiologists or research audiologists (i.e., Ph.D. audiology students) wanting to investigate a unique research question. The successful applicant(s) receives support from the CAA SaEC to help coordinate access to proper resources (e.g., equipment, people, processes) to see the project to completion. One award of up to \$5,000 or two awards of up to \$2,500 are awarded. This decision is at the discretion of the CAA SaEC and depends on the number and quality of the submitted application grants. Successful applicants are expected to present findings at a CAA conference (registration fees to be waived for one presenter at this event) within five years from the date of the award, and publish findings within five years from the date of the award. This year, 2 applications were submitted for the Clinical-Research Grant. The award recipient(s) will be announced at the conference.

The SaEC has also taken an active role in communicating with colleagues and the public at large via social media. The CAA Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Canadian-Academy-of-Audiology>), LinkedIn (<http://www.linkedin.com/company/canadian-academy-of-audiology>) and Twitter

(<https://twitter.com/CAAudiology>) pages are being constantly updated by our team and our membership with Audiology news.

This past year, SaEC together with the PR and Awareness committee has also taken a more proactive role in working with Students to develop a CAA Student committee. This committee allows students from each of the 5 audiology schools to have a voice at their individual campuses and to create collaboration amongst different schools. The Student committee is made up of a student representative from each of the 5 audiology schools and is being mentored by Anne Griffin. CAA also organizes a presentation to students in the fall term of each school year to impart the value of participating in their professional association. We provide them with opportunities to get involved with CAA as volunteers, publish their work in our online journal, and encourage them to contribute to CAA's social media outlets.

The SaEC also took an active role in updating and redesigning the CAA website, working closely with Plank Design (<http://www.plankdesign.com>). The new website was designed to enable more frequent and timely updates to improve communication with members and the public, and was reorganized to improve access to information. Website content revision will be an ongoing SaEC project in the coming year.

## THIRD PARTY COMMITTEE

*Carri Johnson – Chair*

The third party committee was developed to provide an efficient and effective working relationship with the Federal Healthcare Provider (FHP) Program Members. The committee's goal is to improve the quality of care to our mutual clients, to guarantee access to services and to ensure fee structures are in place for our members who provide these services.

CAA meets with the FHP twice a year formally and as needed via e-mail and teleconference. The areas of concern do not vary greatly from year to year yet we have made positive progress in our communications and resolved some issues.

Over the last year CAA worked with the Non-Insured Health Benefits, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada (NIHB) to discuss several key issues. We have met twice by teleconference with a director and a senior policy analysts of First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada to discuss the key issues that we would like to see resolved. These meetings are in preparation for the formation of a working group that will be comprised of representative from CAA, SAC, NIHB, AFN (Assembly of First Nations) and TKI (Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami).

We continue to communicate key issues with the members of the FHP with the hope that we will be more involved in the early stages of any decision making process and better meet the needs of all parties involved: our mutual Clients, the FHP and the Service Providers.

The Third Party Committee is looking for input from our members on their experience with all of the FHP groups (DND, NIHB, RCMP and VAC). Please continue to check out the website <http://www.canadianaudiology.ca/advocacy-and-funding/advocacy-news.html> for updates on our progress.

