

## **President's Report – Andrea Rounce**

### **CAPPA/ACPAP Board Meeting**

**June 1, 2020**

#### **ACTIVITIES SINCE MAY 2019**

##### ***ACTIVITIES***

##### **Annual Conference**

We all know that the conference we were planning to have this year could not take place in its original format, within the Congress at Western University. We were only two months out when we had to cancel the conference, and a tremendous amount of work had already been completed. I have been providing some support to Joe Lyons, lead organizer, and I know that the decision to cancel – while necessary – was a very difficult one. I want to thank Joe for all of the work that he did to lay the groundwork for a successful conference, as well as Naomi Couto, Isabelle Caron, and others for the work they did in support. I'd also like to thank the CAPPA/ACPAP Board for your willingness to engage with critical issues around the conference and COVID-19, and how quickly you responded to questions about going forward. Last, I'd like to thank Jean-Francois Savard and Isabelle Caron (along with Kathy Brock and Rob Shepherd) for spearheading a one-day e-workshop on teaching public administration online/remotely – this is a great initiative, and one that provides our community an opportunity to get together to discuss important work.

##### **Accreditation**

Accreditation is an important part of CAPPA/ACPAP's work, which enables programs to have independent recognition of their program quality and contributions. Part of the President's job is to liaise with the Chair of the Accreditation Board, while encouraging member schools/ programs/ departments to consider accreditation. The Accreditation Review, undertaken by an external committee, has made some helpful recommendations to make the accreditation process work even more smoothly for members. The Board will have the opportunity to hear from Dr. Kathy Brock, chair of the Accreditation Board about this Report and the Accreditation Board's recommendations at the June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting. The Review Committee is to be thanked for their work on this report, and I'd also like to thank the members of the Accreditation Board for their service: Kathy Brock, Ian Clark, Nancy Olewiler, David Siegel, and Luc Bernier.

##### ***PARTNERSHIPS***

##### **NASPAA**

CAPPA/ACPAP is in year two of a three-year MOU with NASPAA (Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs, and Administration), committing us to work together in areas of common interest. These areas include annual conferences, identifying possible research synergies (and ways to facilitate these), student case study competitions, and sharing case studies used in education and training. Kathy Brock (Accreditation Chair) and I attended NASPAA's annual conference in Los Angeles, gaining a more fulsome understanding of the challenges public administration/management/policy programs are

dealing with in the US and internationally, including those relating to curriculum development. Teaching students to work with/understand/commission big data work; work in an era of digital governance; and maintain neutrality while working in an often chaotic/fast-changing government were common themes. I met with the Executive Director, incoming President, and past President and discussed where we might collaborate this year. We had a productive conversation about how we might approach accreditation for programs with an interest in being accredited by both CAPP and NASPAA. NASPAA's Past President, Palmira Rios-Gonzalez, was committed to coming to our conference this year (pre-COVID). We had a productive conversation about how we might approach accreditation for programs with an interest in being accredited by both CAPP and NASPAA. Our goal is to have a stand-alone or appended MOU that requires any Canadian programs/schools to be accredited in Canada before applying for accreditation with NASPAA.

An additional NASPAA initiative of interest to our members is NASPAA's new focus on case studies for teaching. They are working on a searchable portal that would include content from IPAC's case study program and other case study repositories (perhaps including CAPP's case studies from previous competitions). Access would still be determined by the host of the case studies, but they'd be accessible to people anywhere in the world working through the NASPP portal.

## **IPAC**

IPAC is a valued institutional partner for CAPP/ACPAP. Although CAPP originated as a committee of IPAC, we operate as independent organizations. Through our partnership, we work together to ensure that CAPP has a strong voice for public administration/policy research and education in the practitioner community.

The IPAC National conference was held in Winnipeg, Manitoba in August 2019. With the theme of *Public Sector Transformation*, the conference included practitioners, subject experts from outside government, and academics who explored topics relating to four themes: Innovation and Disruption, -Reconciliation in Action, Digital Government, and Public Sector Transformation. I was part of the organizing committee and worked with the local organizers as well as Andrea Migone (formerly of IPAC) to launch a series of panels highlighting academic and practitioner work of interest to public service employees.

I also had the privilege of being part of the judging panel for the National Student Thought Leadership Award, which reviewed five outstanding student presentations (nominated by member programs across the country) (see awards).

Because of IPAC and CAPP's close relationship, the CAPP President also sits on the IPAC National Board of Directors and the Research and Professional Practices Committee.

IPAC National has offered to provide member schools/programs/departments with free one-year memberships for all registered students. This will allow our students to have access to regional events, information on jobs/events/conferences, reduced registration rates for conferences and events, and to the Canadian Public Administration (CPA) journal – a great benefit while introducing potential IPAC members to the range of services provided by IPAC. The implementation of this free membership has been a bit bumpy, but we are hopeful to have a process in place that will allow member programs/schools to take advantage of this offer for their students starting in September. Thank you to IPAC for making this a reality for our students!

### **Canada School of Public Service (CSPS)**

The Canada School of Public Service, under President Taki Sarantakis, has indicated its interest in working with CAPP/ACPAP and strengthening links between academia and government to facilitate curriculum development for the Canada School (particularly around public policy development), create a better understanding of the research and practice around innovation, and to create a new program (similar in purpose to the Study Teams under CCMD) that would bring together academics, practitioners, and other researchers/thinkers to address key challenges facing federal public administration. Along with other Executive members and Evert Lindquist (who is CAPP's liaison for the Study Teams Initiative), I have been part of conversations with federal officials working on these issues and am committed to creating and strengthening links between the public administration educators/researchers and the Canada School. Again, the pre-COVID world looks quite different than the world we now occupy, and CAPP remains committed to working with CSPS on initiatives of mutual interest as governments and citizens wrestle with how to move forward during/after a pandemic. Public administration/policy researchers and educators have much to share (and to learn).

### **African Leaders of Tomorrow Program (ALT)**

This program, established in honour of Nelson Mandela, sponsors African public servants in order to attend Canadian public administration/management/policy programs. CAPP sits on the Steering Committee and the Adjudication Committee, along with IPAC, CBIE, GAC, and APPAM. This past year was the last covered under the initial funding, and an evaluation of the program is under way. I was able to speak to this year's graduating class and pass on our congratulations and best wishes, and the CBIE is making short video presentations of the students' work available online if you're interested in seeing the range of work undertaken by these talented students. It seems very likely that this is the last year of the program (there looks to be no interest in continuing the financial support from Mastercard Foundation and Global Affairs Canada).

### **Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA)**

CAPP has an MOU with CPSA designed to facilitate greater participation of public administration scholars at the annual meetings of CPSA. Last year's session, organized by Jean-François Savard, was a great success at UBC. Jean-François Savard was again organizing the public administration stream of presentations on behalf of CAPP/ACPAP to take place during Congress. A huge thank you to JF for all of the work that he undertook on this stream for 2020, which was fully organized before being cancelled by the CPSA.

As part of CAPP's discussion about the future of the CAPP Research Conference (ie where it will be held; when; whether it will continue to move or have a fixed location; etc.), it will be vital to consider our MOU with CPSA to ensure that it continues to meet our needs.

### **CPPN**

The Canadian Public Policy Network, a newly-created network designed to bring public policy researchers together, had its inaugural conference/meeting in Ottawa in September 2019. I attended, on behalf of CAPP, and was part of the discussion about the network's purpose and future structure, goals, etc. In previous conversations with co-founders Mike Howlett and Luc Bernier, we determined that there were a number of ways that CAPP and CPPN might cooperate. It is clear that the network is

focused on individual researchers and is not (at this time) interested in creating a formalized organizational structure, while CAPPa is a membership-based organization whose members are programs/departments/schools of public administration, public management, and public policy. At the CPPN business meeting, the consensus was that the two organizations ought to continue to operate independently, but that there are certainly areas of common interest.

## **AWARDS**

### **National Student Thought Leadership Award**

CAPPa/ACPAP works with IPAC to award the National Student Thought Leadership Award. It provides a great opportunity to recognize students who have made important contributions to research and scholarship and community leadership. The top three student submissions were highlighted at the IPAC National conference, held August 18-21 in Winnipeg Manitoba. I was part of the jury recognizing these outstanding students and their work.

This year's call for submissions will be sent out shortly.

### **DeCelles Award**

A joint initiative with IPAC, the Pierre DeCelles Award recognizes the outstanding skill, accomplishment and commitment of an exceptionally dedicated, creative, versatile and effective university teacher. This year we received no new nominations, and it is clear that we either must: 1) encourage member schools/departments/programs to nominate their talented colleagues; or 2) revisit the goals of this award in the context of CAPPa's commitments going forward. (Or perhaps both?) 2018's winner, Dr. Jenny Baechler of Dalhousie University, has been invited to participate in the 2020 annual research conference. While the 2020 conference will not take place, perhaps a virtual event could be planned or Dr. Baechler could be invited to be part of the next conference.

For 2020, we're proposing to focus the award on outstanding teaching in the online/remote environment, with a call for condensed nominations from directors/heads: a paragraph or two outlining the strengths of nominees that will then be considered by the awards committee. This year's call for nominations will be sent out shortly.

## **GOVERNANCE**

CAPPa/ACPAP's activities, programs, and partnerships have grown and developed over the past decade. Last year, the Board of Directors voted to pursue incorporation for the organization, recognizing that incorporation as a non-profit organization (with charitable status) would allow us to manage our revenues independently and provide more flexibility in planning for the organization's future. In thinking strategically about the great successes of CAPPa/ACPAP's work over the past decade, opportunities that are arising, and key partnerships, it has become clear that it's time for us as an association to take a step back and examine how we want to organize CAPPa/ACPAP in order to fulfill our collective goals. This will help to establish the foundation for incorporation and for a strategic discussion about the organization's work (and how best to achieve it) in the next five years. This focused work will also tie in nicely with the communications planning and with the process assessment for Accreditation and help us to ask and answer key questions about the organization moving forward! At its December 2019 meeting, CAPPa/ACPAP's Board of Directors approved Terms of Reference for a

Governance Review, which would address key questions around the mandate, vision, activities, and purposes of CAPP. The Review Committee (comprising Isabelle Caron, Mathieu Ouimet, Katherine Graham, Evert Lindquist, Ian Roberge, David Zussman, Ken Rasmussen, Zac Spicer (IPAC), and co-chaired by Brooke Jeffrey and myself) met and discussed how to proceed as well as key timelines for the Review. As CAPP's members are institutions (programs/departments/schools of public administration, public policy, and public management), the Governance Review Committee will be talking with directors, chairs, and heads as well as other key stakeholders. Thank you to the Governance Review committee members, as well as the Subcommittee folks (Evert, Isabelle, David, Mathieu) who have been working to put together a strategy for undertaking this work on CAPP's behalf. This is critical work for the organization, and will lay the groundwork for the next round of planning and activities.

### **Final Thoughts...**

It has been an honour to serve as President for the past two years. I am proud of the work that we have done on behalf of and with our members. I look forward to and am excited for the new initiatives, continuing successes, challenges, and questions to come.

We have made progress on communications, started an important governance review process, completed a crucial Accreditation Review, held a successful case competition, and worked closely with partner organizations on issues of shared importance. As an organization going forward, there are many opportunities for new collaborations, and learning from each other, to continue to facilitate research and communication, and to celebrate and support student successes.

I look forward to continuing to support this work as Past-President with our new and returning Executive members, expanded Board membership, and our new President Dr. Brooke Jeffrey. As a volunteer-run organization, CAPP/ACPAP relies on the contributions of its members, and particularly on the hours of time given by all of you and the new members stepping up to help lead and grow the capacity of Public Administration in Canada.

Finally, thank you. I have been overwhelmed by the support, ideas and and I wish to thank Rob Shepherd, Isabelle Fortier, and Naomi Couto for their work, their great ideas, their patience, and their dedication to public administration, policy, and management education in Canada. Our community is better because of their contributions.

Andrea Rounce  
Outgoing President, CAPP/ACPAP  
University of Manitoba  
June 1, 2020