

Virtual attendees: Agape; Amanda Younka; Ana; Cheryl Cusack; Chris Y; Claire Betker; Clive Wightman; Craig Ross; Deb McPhail; Elder Mary Wilson; Erin Bockstael; Gladys; Hannah Moffatt; Holly Reimer; Jean A Paterson; Jennie MacMillan; Joel Kettner; John Kim; Joshua Aquin; Joss Reimer; Karen Serwonka; Kate Dubberley; Lana Pestaluky; Laura; Lavonne Harms; Lea Mutch; MacKinley; Margaret Friesen; Margaret Haworth-Brockman; Marianne T Cerilli; Mary Anne; Nancy McPherson; Neil Johnston; Pat Martin; Sande Harlos; Sarah Prowse; Sid Frankel; Stephanie Van Haute; Tara Campbell; Vicki Charski

Recorder: Hannah Moffatt

1. Welcome

Stephanie Van Haute, MPHA President, welcomed the group. Stephanie offered appreciation to the Association of Regulated Nurses of Manitoba for offering technological support to connect us all virtually.

Motion: To approve the AGM agenda

Motion moved: Clive Wightman

Seconded: John Kim

All in favour, carried.

Stephanie introduced Board Member, Elder Mary Wilson to open us in a good way.

Elder Mary Wilson is known as the Grandmother of Four Directions and She Who Runs With Wolves. She is a Knowledge Keeper, spiritual teacher, Spirit Walker and healer, and works to help people heal emotionally, physically and spiritually.

Elder Mary Wilson provided a gift of a welcome reflecting on the Seven Sacred Teachings and opportunities for fun, balance, service, connection and kindness. Stephanie thanked Mary for the strong opening and bringing us full circle to the conversations at Board Meetings.

2. Minutes

All AGM materials were circulated in advance by email. Minutes reviewed.

Motion: To approve the October 2, 2019 AGM minutes

Motion moved: Sande Harlos

Seconded: Clive Wightman

All in favour, carried.

3. President's Report

Stephanie Van Haute presented the president's annual report. She started by reviewing our [organization's mission, vision and values](#). Stephanie described the challenges of continuing to revitalize the MPHA during a challenging year of the COVID-19 pandemic. She thanked the members and Board members for their commitment and support. Several activities were completed this year, including more frequent communications to members via email; supporting and participating in the Public Health Association of BC's Summer School; some advocacy initiatives and membership management. MPHA participated in the Canadian Network of Public Health Associations with special support from MPHA Member Amy Foster. MPHA contributed to the CPHA Conference: Public Health 2020 held virtually in October. We held a session with Ka Ni Kanichihk at the conference led by Dana Connolly. Thank you to Board Members Lea Mutch and Pat Martin who sat on the CPHA conference committee.

The Board met most months; held a full planning day in January. The Board focused on 4 main areas:

- Advocacy
- Communications
- Member Engagement
- Ad-hoc project work committees (climate change project proposal, PHABC Summer School, CPHA Conference)

The Advocacy Committee, led by Dr. Sande Harlos, was involved in advocacy work such as:

- Letter of Support for [Motion 46: Guaranteed Livable Basic Income](#), lead by Leah Gazan
- Letter to Manitoba Premiere and Ministers re: Urgent questions regarding the outsourcing of Public Health core services: COVID-19
- Major movements happening in Canada discussed, including the Wet'suwet'en Nation territory rights and the Black Lives Matter movement

The MPHA also submitted a project proposal to the Winnipeg Foundation to explore health impacts of climate change in partnership with CPHA and Creating Health for Sustainable Environments (CHASE). Future activities will be determined once we hear if the funding proposal is successful.

Stephanie presented a proposed Workplan:

1. *To provide the MPHA Board of Directors and its membership some of the foundational knowledge required to apply an anti-racist, anti-colonial lens in order to improve local capacity within the public health community here in Manitoba to effectively support the shared vision of 'Communities Rooted in Equity, Growing in Balance'*
2. *To increase MPHA visibility, membership and member engagement*
3. *To develop the necessary infrastructure required to carry-out the above objectives and grow the MPHA as an organization in future years*

With a draft scope:

- Develop a webinar series with local speakers who can provide expertise on how predominately non-Indigenous, non-Black members of the MPHA can best mitigate the impacts of racism and colonialism on individual and population level health outcomes.
- Develop and deliver content by way of a Seasonal Newsletter, accompanied by Land-Based Teachings that will strengthen MPHA members’ connection to land and food systems and increase understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being.
- Visibly support local advocacy and protests activities as MPHA members
- Ensure information communication technology (ICT) is in-place to support the above activities

Stephanie closed by describing the Board recommendation to host another AGM in the Spring of 2021. This change will allow for better financial end of year reporting. Some Board Members have stepped down; we will elect a new board in the Spring of 2021. Please consider volunteering or suggesting colleagues. Today’s session will focus on member engagement to support flushing out the proposed plans.

Stephanie described deep appreciation for the outgoing board members – Jan Sanderson; Pam Vernaus and Tatenda Bwawa.

Motion: To accept the President’s report

Motion moved: Clive Wightman

Seconded: Vicki Charski

All in favour, carried.

3. Financial and Membership Report

Sarah Prowse, Treasurer, shared MPHA’s Financial and Membership Report. Sarah offered a thank you to Klinik for their bookkeeping and finances. Klinik Community Health keeps MPHA’s funds in trust.

As of December 31, 2019		
ASSETS		
Bank (at Klinik)	7,864.60	
Receivable	0.00	
LIABILITIES		
Account Payable	905.26	

EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	10,209.63	
Net Income (Loss) for the Year	(3,250.29)	
		6,959.34
		7,864.60

Revenue		
Membership Fees	540.00	
Annual General Meeting	154.00	
Summer School	1,700.00	
		2,394.00

Expense		
AGM	1,898.69	
Insurance	1,424.17	
Name Registration/Incorporation Fees	225.00	
Survey Monkey	407.00	
Office	15.77	
Summer School	1,547.81	
Gifts	125.85	
		5,644.29

As of October 2020, the MPHA and 37 paid MPHA members and 30 CPHA-MPHA conjoint members, for a total of 67 members. Last year our memberships were free due to the fee amnesty. This year memberships are lower as paid fees were required. Members can now join on our website or via CPHA.

We had originally planned full membership drive in the Spring of 2019 yet the COVID-19 pandemic altered our plans and instead we shared information on our website and newsletters with our networks. Fees will remain \$40 for memberships and \$20 for student and retired members. Members can also contact MPHA if fees are a barrier to joining.

4. Membership Engagement and Discussion

Hannah Moffatt, Board Secretary, setup the virtual discussion by sharing some background about [public health](#), public health associations in Canada¹ and how MPHA's activities seek to align with our mission, vision and values and take action.

MPHA's advocacy work is member and partnership driven. Our Board is particularly interested in capacity building and working differently. Board Members are all volunteers and are a working board. We will be seeking more working board members to be involved in Spring 2020.

The depth and breadth of public health has resulted in a board ranges of areas for focus – the COVID-19 pandemic; racism as a public health crisis; climate change – among others. In our advocacy work we have been particularly aiming to stand in solidarity and supporting the advocacy others have initiated. For example, recently shared on our MPHA Facebook page it to support signatures and amplify the open letter: Anti-Racism as a sixth pillar of the Canada Health Act.²

Members then engaged in open discussion and shared ideas such as:

- Engage in educating elected officials about determinants of health, social and ecological determinants. Create tools to educate local staff at all levels of government in finance about determinants of health to ensure investment.
- Engage with a new coalition creating a budget check list for local government to use in budget making to ensure public policy for climate action, equity, public transit and mode shift is followed in budgets.
- Support parks and trees in urban areas; safety of parks; particularly in low income neighborhoods.
- Partner with the Manitoba Environmental Health Association to do more in the area of Environmental Sensitivities.
- Include engagement with members of the public and include public as a partner in our public health discussions.
- Introduce a Human Rights approach and have Human Rights as an underlining theme in our MPHA work.
- Have public health members join other community organizations; such as OURS-Winnipeg (Outdoor Urban Recreational Spaces – Winnipeg); to help find common interests and leverage activities.
- Communicate with Municipal City Councils to include a health lens in decision making.

¹¹ The Canadian Network of Public Health Associations. (2019). A collective voice for advancing public health: why public health associations matter today. Canadian Journal of Public Health. volume 110, pg. 335–339.

² For more information visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScROUVbfWdKkDaM39HHLUbytNK-vOsVryuBki6Pn4eUpoUhUA/viewform>

- Bring a Health in All Policies Approach when working with governments; reviewing legislation and providing critics and evidence.
- Advocate for additional services for people who use illegal drugs.
- Become involved in addressing the structural determinants of health such as addressing racism and climate change with a whole of government approach.
- Use a Survey Monkey vote to rank these topics in the order that we each believe are the most important.

The discussion included additional reflections about how to prioritize and focus – including suggestions to consider issues from a provincial perspective. As well as a call on members to bring their engagement to move this work forward collaboratively. Members were encouraged to connect with Stephanie if they had additional ideas or follow up.

5. Closing Reflections

Stephanie Van Haute thanked members for their engagement and encouraged them to become involved in the association. Stephanie invited Elder Mary Wilson to close us off in a good way. Elder Mary Wilson called us on to staying loving and compassionate, encouraged us to stay connected to nature, and thanked Creator for waking us all up and giving us a breath of hope.