

Info-QcABA

The Quebec Association for Behaviour Analysis' Official Newsletter

<http://www.qcaba.org>
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We're back!

*By Myra-Jade Lui, BCBA
President, QcABA*

As some of you may have noticed, the newsletter has been on hiatus for a while. We have since made some changes to the newsletter format for the sake of those working on the committee, as well as for our readers. In this edition we will learn of the recent

activities from the website, conference, and membership committees. Additionally, in an interview with our keynote conference presenter, Dr. Patrick Friman will share his insight on increasing the likelihood that parents will succeed in implementing prescribed behavioral interventions with their children.

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As you will discover from the articles in this issue, the QcABA has been busy over the past year trying to fulfill our primary mission of disseminating applied behaviour analysis in Quebec. One of the ways in which this is being done is developing French training programs for future behaviour analysts in Quebec. Many of you have heard through recent email communications that the course sequence developed by our association has been approved by the Behavior Analysts Certification Board (BACB). Thus, for the first time in Quebec, individuals will be able to access the coursework requirements for board certification, in French,

(note from the president, cont'd)

through the QcABA. The courses are planned to start in September of this year, and we are now accepting applications.

This significant achievement for the association was predominantly, if not entirely, due to the efforts of Marc Lanovaz. The association remains indebted to him for all of his work on this project as well as the others he contributes to and coordinates. We also wish to thank our members and volunteers for supporting our association and enabling the ongoing success of our efforts into 2015. Sylvie Bernard finished her second term as one of the Regular Member representatives and as the head of the conference committee since 2012. Thiago Lopez finished his term as the Student representative and the head of the website committee during this time. We are deeply grateful for the enormous amount of time and energy they committed during their terms, including the successful completion of two large and complex projects. Sylvie Donais finished her productive two-year term as President, and was consequently elected as the next Vice President. Sasha Zalob is welcomed back as a regular board member. Malena Argumedes has been fulfilling the role of the Student representative this year, and has already devoted much hard work and energy as the co-head of the website committee. In order to continue to serve Quebec's growing behavior analytic community we wish to encourage new volunteers to participate as both board members and within committees.

We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter! For any information regarding any of the topics in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@qcaba.org.

2014 Treasury Report and Summary of Membership

***By: Kirsty Robinson, BcABA
QcABA Treasurer***

Treasury Report

The QcABA has two primary activities that contribute to our treasury. These two activities are membership fees and the annual conference. Our balance at the end of 2014 was 8 477.30\$ which represents the largest treasury since our inception. As always, the biggest expense for the association was the cost of holding our annual conference, which last year cost us a total of 2 739.65\$. However, the total revenues from the conference were 3830.00\$ which left us with a gain of 1090.35\$.



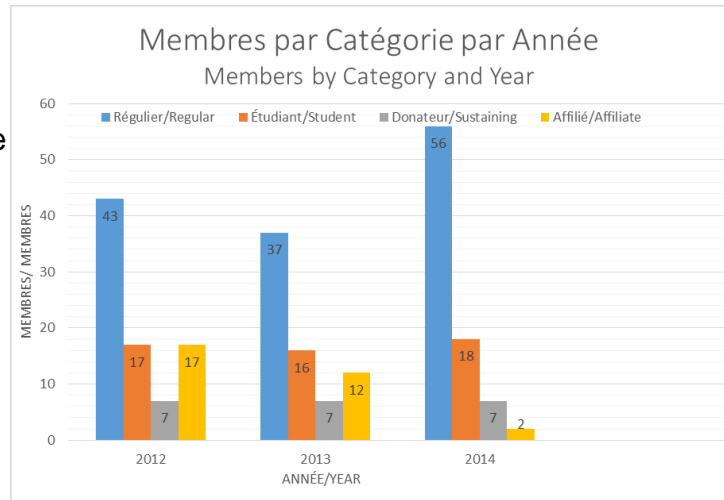
(Treasury Report, cont'd)

The upcoming year will be a busy one for the QcABA: the coursework being offered will be an extra source of revenue, of which any gains can be re-invested into the association. There are several expenses that the treasury responds to for the association: the ongoing maintenance costs of the website, account fees, public relations items, and our subscription to the Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis (JABA). In future years, and if there is a need, we hope to be able to offer a simultaneous translation during the conference to draw in more participants from the Francophone populations.

Year	Balance at Year end	Income	Expenses
2014	8 477.30\$	12 729.59\$	4 252.29\$
2013	6 264.99\$	9 964.06\$	3 699.07\$
2012	4 652.61\$	7 849. 42\$	3 196.81\$
2011	1 598.51\$	4 093.68\$	2 495.11\$

Summary of Membership

One of our goals over the past few years has been to make membership to the QcABA beneficial. Although one of the main advantages to becoming a member is that it offers a reduction in the conference price, over the past years we have been adding to the list of benefits that members can make use of. These include a reduction of fees for membership to ABAI (using Affiliated Chapter status), participation at journal clubs (which also offer free CEU's to certified behaviour analysts), and most recently in 2015 membership now includes online access to the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis.



In 2014, we had a total of 83 members which consisted of 56 regular members, 18 student members, 7 sustaining members and 2 affiliate members. From previous years, we have seen the highest number of regular and student members, the number of sustaining members has remained the same and we have seen a decreasing trend in the number of affiliate members since 2012. Our goal for 2015 is to increase our membership to 100 members total by organizing information sessions and reaching out to community organizations.

Events Committee Update

Committee co-heads: Myra-Jade Lui & Sylvie Donais

After a motivating presentation by Dr. William Heward in 2013, the conference committee had a tough act to follow the following year. As always, the QcABA is on the lookout for presenters who can offer information about the diverse applications of behaviour analysis, and so Dr. Glen Dunlap was a perfect match with his presentation about the newest model of positive behaviour support, Prevent-Teach-Reinforce, which is currently underway in many schools across the states. We were also fortunate enough to hear from local presenters on a variety of relevant topics such as terminology practices (Jacques Forget), the treatment of feeding disorders (Michelle Lyon), and Melina Rivard's students from UQAM presented their ongoing research. Thanks to all who participated and helped out, especially Sylvie Bernard who coordinated the entire day for us.

This year we hope to have at least 100 attendees for the annual conference. We will be welcoming the ex-President of ABAI, Dr. Patrick Friman, who will be presenting on two important topics to behaviour analysts today: Behavioural Paediatrics and Anxiety (and ASD). We will also hear from Marc Lanovaz, PhD, who will present his latest research on vocal stereotypy. Finally, a discussion panel will be held that will present various ethical case studies within the field of IBI and autism, and our guest panel speakers will offer responses to these dilemmas from the perspective of their own regulating boards/orders.

In order to prepare for this panel discussion, we are asking our readers and members to send us their case studies. The information shared will remain anonymous and the details of the stories may be changed to protect the identities of the individuals involved. To send us a dilemma for review, please go to: <http://www.qcaba.org/ethical-dilemma.html>



Web Committee News

By: Malena Argumedes

QcABA Student Representative

2014 was a busy year for QcABA's Web Committee. Malena Argumedes, student representative to the Board, succeeded to Thiago Lopez as the chair of the committee. Our first priority was to update the association's website, to make it more user friendly. We were very proud to launch its new version in August 2014. A lot of integration work has also been done to facilitate the mailing list management and the various forms on the website. We managed the changes regarding the new Canadian anti-spam legislation.

(website committee cont...)

Finally, we have created a Facebook page for the association followed by over a hundred individuals! Our plans for the upcoming year are among others to continue the development of the Facebook page and then integrate the Paypal payment system to our subscription forms.



Interview with Dr. Patrick Friman, Vice President of Behavioral Health, Boys Town By: Myra-Jade Lui, BCBA

Myra-Jade Lui: *Your practice seems to predominantly involve working with the parents of children with challenging behaviors. What, in your experience, are the most important messages to impart on the parents of these children early on in your relationship with them, in order to motivate them to make the necessary changes?*

Dr. Patrick Friman: The single most important message that I attempt to impart to the parents of children brought to my practice is the role that

environmental circumstances play in the onset and maintenance of their child's behavior problems. This Skinnerian notion is relatively new in the history of ideas. It competes with some other popular ways to explain behavior — the constructs of character, morality, and the psyche are particularly popular — and it is vastly more powerful, less blame-oriented, and more helpful in treatment planning.

ML: *Has your experience demonstrated that behavioral interventions, when systematically applied with an expert team, invariably leads to the desired outcomes? Have you ever been unable to reach the outcomes you set out to achieve, and if so, where and to whom do you turn to for the answers?*

PF: When an appropriate behavior application has been identified for a particular behavior problem, it is always effective if it is accurately applied. By appropriately identified, I mean that it is linked to the function of the problem behavior, supplies a way to make the problem produce more cost than benefit, and supplies a way for the function to be satisfied in a more acceptable fashion. Treatments that fit those criteria always work if they are implemented well. From that perspective, virtually all treatment failures are a function of noncompliance rather than ineffectiveness. To address this problem I make adjustments to increase the probability of compliance. These adjustments are based on the steps I take to increase social validity. Social validity has

(Interview with Dr. Patrick Friman, cont'd)

three primary dimensions: 1) the target of the intervention; 2) the intervention itself; and 3) what outcomes will constitute a success. I negotiate these dimensions with all my clients until we reach full agreement on each. If noncompliance occurs it almost always involves the emergence of non-acceptance of at least one of the dimensions at which point I renegotiate the dimension(s) that concerns the client until full agreement is again reached. If those fail, I either recommend other therapists or wait for the tincture of time to increase motivation to comply.

ML: *Your biography details the areas that you have explored so far in your career. These include behavioral pediatrics, adolescence, and behavior analysis in the mainstream, amongst many others. Are there any specific topics in behavior analysis that you wish to investigate in the future?*

PF: The area pertaining to behavior analysis that I would most like to investigate in the future involves expanding its dissemination. At its core is one of the most powerful ideas ever invented by mankind. This idea is that behavior is largely a function of environmental circumstances, past, present, and future. Everything that this idea has touched has improved. Examples range from autism spectrum disorders to the various problems associated with geriatrics. What interests me most at this phase of my career is disseminating the idea further and wider out into the culture. Said differently, the idea has flourished under one tail of the normal distribution (e.g., developmental disabilities); I am directing my efforts to see it expand under the dome of that distribution.

Sustaining Members 2014 - QcABA Thanks you for your support!

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