

# Info-QcABA

## The Quebec Association for Behaviour Analysis' Official Newsletter

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## Happy 2016 to all of our members!

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

Dear all,

2015 was another busy year for everyone at the QcABA...

In March we held our annual conference, with our largest turnout ever. Marc Lanovaz presented his most recent work on the treatment of stereotypy in individuals with autism, followed by Patrick Friman who gave our audience a novel way to think about their practice with his talk on behavioural pediatrics, a growing field for behaviour analysts. Our panel discussion on the topic of ethics in intensive behavioural intervention programs revealed many common problems to

practitioners in Quebec, and we ended the day with another engaging presentation by Patrick Friman who offered a behavioural account of anxiety, and his perspective on how behaviour analysts can and do treat this commonly experienced condition in individuals with autism. This day was a great success thanks to all of those who attended and made our speakers feel welcome.

In May several members of the QcABA attended the annual ABAI conference, held in San Antonio, Texas. We took part in the Leadership training offered to affiliate chapters aimed at supporting growing chapters such as ourselves, and also in the evening expo with a poster designed by Malena Argumedes detailing the current activities of the association. We united with some of the other Canadian affiliate chapters for a lunch that allowed us all to sit and discuss the work being done in other parts of Canada by our colleagues. Through these conversations we discussed important events such as the licensure of behaviour analysts in British Columbia through the school of psychologists, the development and growth of the Atlantic Provinces affiliated chapter, and the first collaborative event to be held between ONTABA and QcABA in Ottawa later this year (n.b. Save the date! We are pleased to welcome Dr. Brian Iwata in Ottawa on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016).

Finally, in September the first class for the QcABA approved course sequence was held. The cohort includes almost 20 practitioners from the public and private sectors here in Quebec, and you can read more about their feedback on the class in the following pages. Our thanks

*(Note from the president, cont'd)*

as always to Marc Lanovaz for developing the course sequence and for coordinating this very time consuming project.

In these pages you will also read some updates from the committees and hear from our keynote speaker at this year's conference, Dr. Raymond Miltenberger who seems to have published behaviour analytic research on virtually every topic with over 200 publications to his name. We are so honoured to welcome him this year and hope you will help us show our gratitude with your presence in great numbers at the conference again this year.

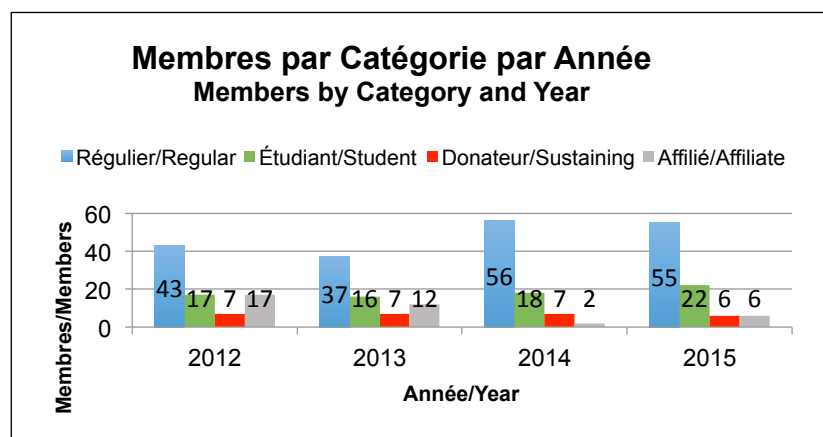
Lastly, a big thank you must go to the new newsletter committee, headed by Kristina Donald, and with the support of Wendy Comba and Hayley Vininsky. There is always a lot going on behind-the-scenes at the association and the newsletter committee has the important job of communicating this to our members and readers. It has been great to see the hard work of this committee come to fruition, and to welcome new faces to our table.

Best wishes for the year to come!

For any information regarding any of the topics in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us at [info@qcaba.org](mailto:info@qcaba.org).

## Summary of Membership

The QcABA had the highest membership of any year in 2015. With our total members at 89, we are hoping for continued growth in the upcoming years. Our efforts to increase membership have also expanded in the past years, with benefits ranging from savings on our annual conference, the ABAI conference (as an affiliate chapter member), the ongoing journal clubs, and access to the Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis. In 2016 members will enjoy even more benefits through savings on a conference done in collaboration with ONTABA, with special rates for members of either association.



## Events Committee Update

As hard as it may be to compete with the presentations from our keynote speaker last year, we think that Dr. Raymond Miltenberger may be the one who can do it. He is currently the director of the applied behaviour analysis program at South Florida University, and received the Outstanding Scientific Contributions to the Field of Behavior Analysis Award from the Florida Association for Behavior Analysis in 2015. He brings to us his decades of research

*(Events committee update, cont'd)*

and clinical experience in his two presentations on teaching safety skills to children, and monitoring staff performance, both highly important topics in clinical practice.

Another big event on the horizon is the first conference in collaboration with our sister chapter, ONTABA, that will take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, 2016, at Carleton University, Ottawa. This two day event welcomes Dr. Brian Iwata as our keynote speaker, who will also offer a 3 hour workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day. Save the date, more details to come!

## Treasury Report

*By Malena Argumedes*  
QcABA Treasurer

Last year, 2015, was a busy year for the QcABA treasury committee. Consistent with previous years, the association's primary sources of revenue were derived from annual membership fees and registration for the annual conference. The total balance at the end of the year was 10,516.50\$, making it our most profitable year yet. The annual conference remains the most substantial means of revenue for the association, this year 5,855\$, with expenses of 3,744.12\$. The membership revenue for 2015 was 2,680\$.

The establishment of the BACB approved course sequence was also a significant milestone for the association, totalling expenses of about 12,000\$, covering teacher salaries and administrative costs.

Other expenses for the association include costs related to insurances, maintaining the website, banking fees, public relations, and subscription fees to the Journal of Applied Behavior Analysis (JABA).

Finally, the association has obtained a paypal account, which has greatly facilitated the management of payments for annual memberships and conference registration.



## Interview with Dr. Raymond Miltenberger,

Director of the Applied Behaviour Analysis program  
at the University of South Florida

*By Wendy Comba, BCBA*

**Wendy Comba:** *One of the topics that you'll be presenting at our upcoming conference in March is staff management. Can you tell me a little bit about how you became interested in this subject?*

*(Interview with Dr. Miltenberger, cont'd)*

**Dr. Miltenberger:** Sure, when I was a graduate student I did work in group home settings so I was a direct care staff myself. Then as I got into my professional teaching career at North Dakota State, I also did consulting. I did consulting around the state with agencies that serve folks with developmental disabilities so I saw the importance of staff and of staff carrying out their duties [and] following behaviour plans with fidelity. Over the years I had a number of students interested in that topic as well. [Behavioural procedures] really only work if people carry them out the way they're supposed to be carried out.

**WC:** *True, the fidelity is extremely important. Did you ever come across any resistance from staff when you were implementing performance management protocols?*

**Dr. M:** Yes, there are sometimes staff who resist the notion of supervision or an outsider giving them feedback or instructions for how they ought to do their job. Some staff believe they know it all or they have more experience with the client and therefore they know more than you. I would say that's not most [staff] that's just some. I guess you find that in every field.

**WC:** *Right, that makes sense. So then the second topic you'll be covering at the conference is about safety skills training, and again how did you get involved in this area of research?*

**Dr. M:** Well it started back in the '80s when I was at graduate school at Western Michigan. There was a professor there, Cheryl Poche, who was interested in doing research on abduction prevention. We [published a study] in '89 regarding abduction prevention, [which] was my first entrée into it. Then when I took my position at North Dakota State I became involved with the local rape and abuse crisis centre. So in addition to research on abduction prevention I also did a number of studies on sexual abuse prevention. Then in the early 2000s, I just happened to see a TV show in which they had a hidden camera where kids found guns and played with them. The people on the show said, "well it looks like the allure is so strong that kids just can't learn not to touch guns". I thought to myself at that time, "well that's not true, I can teach kids to do the right thing". I really embarked on that line of research in the early 2000s along with a student, Mike Henley.

**WC:** *Right. So have you noticed an increased interest in the use of behaviour analysis to teach safety skills?*

**Dr. M:** You know, I have. Early on there really weren't any other folks doing things in that area. There had been some pedestrian safety and some others but I think the work in abduction prevention and other safety skills really has expanded beyond my research group to others.

**WC:** *Yes, that's great. Also as you mentioned earlier regarding the gun safety; have you noticed any effects from your gun safety segment on Dateline?*

*(Interview with Dr. Miltenberger, cont'd)*

**Dr. M:** Other than people commenting on it to me, I don't know what impact it's had because there's really no way to measure that. I'm hoping that millions of people saw it and I think that they did a good job with it. You know sometimes when you do taping for TV shows and they do the editing you never know what's going to end up, but I think [they] portrayed my message pretty well, that behavioural skills training, active learning, rehearsal, and feedback are really what's important. I think that came across.

**WC:** Sure. So can you tell me what it's like to be the director of the Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) program at the University of South Florida and what's involved in your day-to-day?

**Dr. M:** Sure. I came to the University of South Florida in 2006 when they were starting a new Master's program in ABA. What it involves is making sure that there's a good process for selecting students who have some behaviour analysis background and a good process for evaluating candidates so you're making offers to the top-notch folks. The management of a program involves making sure that you hire good people so that you've got good behaviour analysts who can teach your courses and do the research, and to make sure that they're happy in their positions so they want to stay in your program. Then there's the management of a curriculum so that it meets the BACB requirements. We're also an accredited program by ABAI and so making sure that we have the aspects of our program that meet accreditation is important as well. Finally is managing your place within the university. You want to make sure that you work with administrators so you get the resources that you need to run the program effectively.

**WC:** Is there something you wish you could spend more time on?

**Dr. M:** If there were more hours in the day I'd probably get more writing done. It's important for students who conduct research with you to get their papers published. That really benefits the student and benefits the field.

**WC:** Great, those are all the questions I have. Is there anything you'd like to add?

**Dr. M:** I definitely appreciate the opportunity to speak with you and the opportunity to speak at your conference. One thing that I really enjoy is being invited to state or provincial conferences or regional conferences and sharing my work.

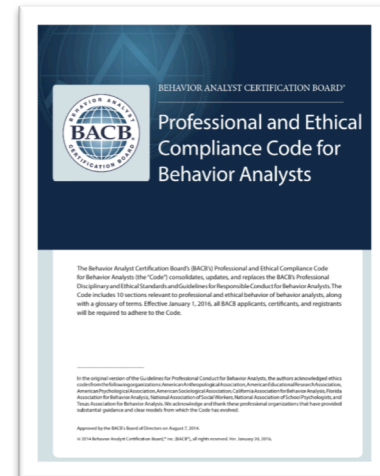
**WC:** Great, thank you. We're really looking forward to hearing you speak at the conference.

## New BACB Ethics Code

### The Code and Its Impact on BCBA Supervisors

*By Hayley Vininsky, BCBA*

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, the BACB ushered in a new era: an era of updated professional and ethical compliance. The new compliance code includes 72 items divided into 10 sections, merging the Conduct Guidelines and Disciplinary Standards to function as one enforceable document. The code outlines elements specific to Registered Behaviour Technicians (RBTs), the latest credential to join the behaviour analyst team. In addition, changes were made to certain areas, such as Multiple Relationships and Conflicts of Interest (1.06), Exploitative Relationships (1.07), and Testimonials and Advertising (8.05).



One area in particular speaks to supervisor responsibilities. Element 5.02, Supervisory Volume, dictates that supervisors must ensure that the number of individuals they supervise is in line with their capacity to be effective. The BACB, however, does not specify a number of supervisees for which a supervisor can be effective. In this way, it is up to each supervisor to manage his or her own supervisee caseload, and to determine what is acceptable and effective.

Element 5.07 requires behaviour analysts to evaluate the effects of supervision. As is the case when implementing behaviour change programs with clients, supervisors will be responsible for designing systems to monitor and evaluate the outcomes of their supervision activities. This new guideline can help to ensure the supervisor will engage in quality supervision, thus adding another degree of accountability to the field of behaviour analysis.

These items are ever important to the practice of our field in Quebec. The growing number of BCBAs and BCaBAs on the registry following each testing period suggests that more people are providing supervision to local applicants. As the field grows in our province, it is increasingly important that the foundation upon which future behaviour analysts grow is strong. Thanks to these recent changes, the BACB's new professional and ethical compliance code will help us to encourage best practice in the field of behaviour analysis.

## Review of QcABA's BACB Approved Course Sequence

*By Kristina Donald, BCBA*

*QcABA Regular Member Representative*

True to its mission of disseminating applied behaviour analysis in Quebec, QcABA started a BACB approved course sequence, in French, for students pursuing board certification. The first course, Ethics and Professional Conduct, was initiated in September 2015 and taught by Myra-Jade Lui (BCBA). To inform our readers about the course, a short survey was given to



(QcABA course, cont'd)

all students, seeking information on their education and professional backgrounds, as well as their perceptions of the course content and administration.

As shown in figure 1, most students in the course had completed a DESS, making them potential candidates for BCaBA requirements. Figure 2 informs us that most of the students in the course are currently in careers in or related to the field of behaviour analysis; most students described working as a behaviour therapist or psychoeducator. Students reported to work in the public and private sectors, mainly with individuals with ASD. Finally, about half of the students have already started accumulating supervision hours with local BCBA supervisors.

Student ratings and reviews of the course reveal an overall positive experience. Many described the benefits of having a forum with which to share their clinical experiences, seek advice and counsel from colleagues, and finally to get a better understanding of the theory and research that would directly impact their current practice. True to the science, the course instructor provided multiple opportunities for the students to demonstrate their knowledge and provided feedback accordingly. Contrary to most university level courses, these frequent evaluations (i.e., learning trials) can permit for a greater retention of knowledge. Interestingly, the course was formatted such that students were required to demonstrate their knowledge in several different ways. For example, students showed their understanding of ethics in behaviour analysis through role plays, presentations, and written responses, unlike the standard multiple-choice evaluations common in many online BACB courses.

The next course in the sequence, Concepts and Principles of Behaviour Analysis, commenced in January 2016, and is taught by Dr. Jacques Forget (D.Ps.). For more information on the course sequence, please visit [www.qcaba.org](http://www.qcaba.org)

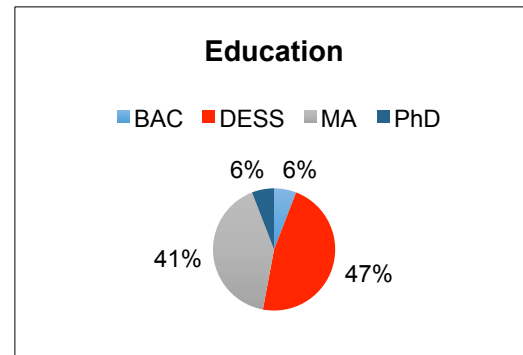


Figure 1. Highest level of education obtained by students in the course.

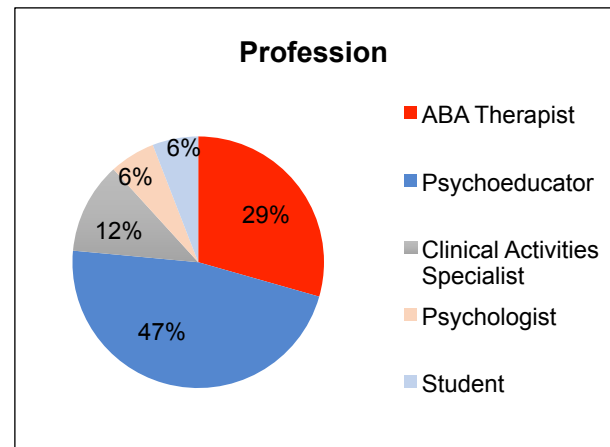


Figure 2. Current profession of students in the course.

## **Sustaining Members 2015/2016 – QcABA Thanks you for your support!**

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