



The Canadian Association for Marriage and Family Therapy  
L'association Canadienne pour la thérapie conjugale et familiale

**Annual General Meeting Reports**  
**October 19, 2019**  
**University of Winnipeg, Manitoba**

**President's Report**

Submitted by Andrew Sofin, Quebec, RMFT



It is time to celebrate year two of being an independent Canadian association for relationship and family therapy. We did it! And more importantly, we did it together! A group of dedicated volunteers who already have busy lives created this. Thank you, everyone, who has been part of this journey from the old Canadian Registry, that was a subsection of the AAMFT, to our independent CAMFT. It did take a village to make it happen.

These first two years have gone by very fast, and we have accomplished so much. We have a very hard working and brilliant group of board and committee members. The work they are doing is crucial to our association being viable in the long run. I especially want to thank our board: Vicki, Kathryn, Olga, Marjorie, Heather, Glen, Dan and David.

The transition from being owned by AAMFT to independence would not have been possible without our superstar administrator Donna Chamberlain. She has been an incredibly knowledgeable and steady presence throughout these tumultuous past few years. We are all in her debt.

As your current president, I promise you that your board has no intention of letting the CAMFT become top-down hierarchical couple and family association. Our focus will always be on the needs of its members and advancing the profession in Canada. We will stay true to the hard work and passion of those who, over the years, volunteered their precious time to lay the groundwork that enabled us to become 100% independent, autonomous and Canadian! We will always have our systemic/relational core values to guide us and endeavour to be a transparent, honest and collaborative association.

This coming year we will be working at strategic planning to help us focus on the core needs and goals of our members, the profession and the association. We want to be an association that is uniquely Canadian and the professional home of all those who are passionate about relational and systemic work. To that end, we are currently exploring the idea of changing our name to represent who we are more accurately.

I ask that every member be an active participant and ambassador for the CAMFT. Send us your ideas and comments on how we can become an even better association representing you the members. Join one of the committees or help create a new one! If you are interested in marketing, member engagement and creating a newsletter, we want to hear from you. Please reach out to your systemic/relational colleagues and encourage them to join the CAMFT.

## Treasurer Report

Submitted by Heather Robertson, Manitoba, Associate



The CAMFT continues to manage operations as an autonomous association successfully. Member dues remain as our top revenue source, and we anticipate this to be the same for 2020. To date, we are under budget for 2019. However, the upcoming AGM, in-person board meeting, annual conference and the development of CAMFT-specific journal access are still to come.

The following highlights capture some of the changes that have occurred over the past year to support the growth of the association:

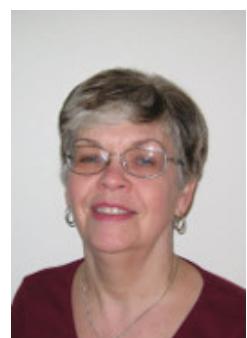
- Application for a credit card for reoccurring expenses to alleviate CAMFT Board Members and staff from having to spend personal funds upfront.
- Move to use Wild Apricot for website, payment and e-blasts.
- Creation of a travel reimbursement policy.

### 2020 Budget Highlights:

We estimate that member dues for 2020 will bring in approximately \$95,000, and administrative services will be the most significant expense. A recommendation of creating a \$25,000 reserve fund has been made to ensure the association can function should there be any cash flow shortages in the future. Money has also been set aside to complete a comprehensive strategic plan to help the development of the association and identify priorities for the next three to five years.

## Administrator Report

Submitted By Donna Chamberlain, Ontario



Another hectic year with CAMFT. It is great to hear from so many members by phone or email. As I have said before, if you have a question that I cannot answer, I will do my best to get the answer for you.

I hope all members are aware that CAMFT has a new website. It took us longer than we expected to create it, but we are happy with the result and hope you are as well. We are still working on the website and plan to do our best to keep the information relevant and up to date. Membership fee invoices are sent automatically now with a link for you to pay online. We listened to what the members wanted and no longer use PayPal for invoice payments.

If you have not already, I suggest you have a look at the website. Under the "News" tab, you will find professional development events that have we believe will be of interest to our members. There are also job postings and a section for classified ads. Have some space in your office that you want to share with a colleague or looking for space to rent? Send the information you wish to post to [admin@camft.ca](mailto:admin@camft.ca).

For all the RMFTs there is a "find a therapist" section on our site. I cannot share your contact information with the public unless it is in that section. Please take a few minutes and create a listing.

Over the next year, we hope to add more relevant information to the website. If you have an idea of what you would like to see on the site, please let us know.

We try to keep you informed by sending group emails. If you think you are not receiving these, please add [admin@camft.ca](mailto:admin@camft.ca) to your address book so you can see them.

It is a pleasure working with the CAMFT Board of Directors and members. Watching this association grow has made it an exciting year.

## **Publications Committee**

Submitted by Olga Smoliak, Ontario RMFT-S, Dan Wulff, Alberta, RMFT-S



We are in the process of developing a CAMFT publication/journal. We are collecting ideas for the publication title. We are designing it to be an interactive open access peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the publication and public discussion of articles on families (broadly conceived) and family therapy, with an emphasis on examining families and therapeutic work with families within their broader socio-cultural contexts. The journal will be committed to strengthening the quality, relevance, reach, and impact of practice-oriented knowledge and will have various sections (research, practice, features). The journal's website is completed (not published). The next steps are to assemble the editorial board and plan and engage in marketing initiatives (e.g., special issues). Once the journal's marketing and operations/workflow (i.e., how submissions are processed) are finalized, the journal will be published. If any CAMFT member would like to help with the journal as a reviewer, please contact us.

## **Professional Development Committee**

Submitted by Leah MacInnes, British Columbia. RMFT



2019 has been a busy and exciting year! The PDC said goodbye to former chair Paige Gryba and committee member Lawrence Beech, and welcomed Jerdelle Pilger, Marion Gordon and myself. Cathryn Harris and Allan Studd continued on the committee again this year and provided steady guidance and experience.

Our first steps for 2019 were to review the PDC charter and 2018 membership survey and develop a plan for the year. The Policies and Parameters for the Acceptance of Continuing Education Units Required for CAMFT Membership Renewals were submitted to the board for approval. Thanks to Cathryn Harris for her hard work on this document!

The PDC quickly began to develop trainings for the year, starting with a webinar *Working With Difficult Couples* with Dr. Sue Johnson. The webinar was live-streamed as well as recorded for download and was exceptionally well received and well attended. The webinar remains available for viewing through CAMFT.

Our most ambitious task this year has been to host the First National CAMFT Conference in partnership with the University of Winnipeg Masters of Marriage and Family Therapy Program. *Storytelling for Healing: An Indigenous and Narrative Perspective* with plenary speakers Dr. Jann Derrick and Dr. David Paré will bring together presenters from across the country, showcasing the talent of our members. Choosing only four of the eighteen high-calibre proposals for the conference breakout sessions proved a challenge for the committee. The quality of the proposals was such that we are hoping to present several of them as webinars in the future.

As of early October, there are over 100 participants registered for this year's conference, which we are confident will be a great success. The PDC would like to extend a special thanks to all of our volunteers in Winnipeg, particularly Katie East and Terri Johnston. Without their hard work, the conference would not have been possible.

Future plans include another National Conference and webinars for 2020.

## **Credentialing/Membership Committee**

Submitted by Kathryn Guthrie, Ontario, RMFT-SM



This year the Membership and Credentialing Committee has had two primary foci:

Administering our current member credentialing process and Implementing the Supervisors' Guidebook.

I am happy to report that we continue to have a very positive response to our efforts. Our members appreciate the work we are doing to find a way forward which balances accessibility and practicality with a focus on professional excellence.

CAMFT is very grateful to Annette Dekker for her meticulous and thoughtful work in producing the Supervisor's Guidebook (with further able and reflective feedback from Jann Derrick). This work is invaluable to our organization and the training and support of supervisors across Canada.

### **LOOKING AHEAD:**

Having a finger on the pulse of the organization through this year, we can identify two priorities as we look ahead:

Developing and ensuring access to supervision and the training of Supervisors.

Sustaining and improving access to Couple and Marriage and Family Therapy (C/MFT) training opportunities within and beyond the existing training programs.

We are currently working hard to identify training opportunities across Canada so that more members can become supervisors and, in turn, help others achieve RMFT status. If you are interested in offering training, we want to hear from you!

I am happy to report a vital initiative which began in September of 2018 and will continue for the next five years: the Accreditation Working Group, which is a collaborative effort by all eight programs across Canada which train C/MFTs, to create as much harmonization as possible between the existing programs, while at the same time respecting the rich diversity of backgrounds and assets which shape each of these programs. The Accreditation Working Group will present the work it has done so far at a Town Hall during our Conference in Winnipeg, just before the Annual General Meeting.

Please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee with questions, comments or suggestions!

Kathryn Guthrie (Chair), Annette Dekker, Jann Derrick, David Fung, Danielle Vriend-Fluit. (Thanks also to Paige Gryba, who left our committee part way through the year, and to Glen Paddock, who occasionally provides consultation.)

## Ethics Committee

Submitted by Carl Heaman-Warne, Manitoba, RMFT



It has been a busy year on the Ethics Committee. This year, building on the exceptional work of the committee who drafted our Code of Ethics, we revised and forwarded the final document for acceptance by the board of directors, who accepted and published them last winter. We have also drafted our Complaints Form, CAMFT/ACTCF Procedures for Handling Ethical Matters and an Information Sheet to give to members in the event of a complaint. The Procedures have been delivered to the board and are awaiting revision and acceptance.

Currently, we have one complaint in front of the Ethics Committee. This year, there have been 19 consultations with the Ethics Committee – seven consultations with CAMFT/ACTCF members around ethical matters, five consultations with members of the public, three consultations with the membership committee around membership applications, three consultations with other associations and one formal complaint received.

Our next steps, once the CAMFT/ACTCF Procedures for Handling Ethical Matters have been finalized, is to launch a review of the Code of Ethics within the association and hold our annual Ethics Committee Review Meeting.

## Elections Committee

Submitted by Vicki Enns, Manitoba, RMFT-S



This year our committee includes Janey Komm (BC) (Chair), Lawrence Beech (ON), Donna Chamberlain, Administrator (ON), and Vicki Enns, Board Liaison (MB).

The positions open for nominations this year included two positions for Directors on the board. The committee successfully secured nominations of one RMFT and two Associate members for the Director positions.

On August 23rd, an email was sent to all RMFT and Associate members (eligible to vote for these positions) announcing nominations for positions on the Board of Directors was open and would close on September 13th. A link to the nomination form was provided. Our Student/ Affiliate position remains filled, so a vote for this role was not needed this year.

On October 1st, an email was sent to all RMFT and Associate members and contained two links. The first allowed the member to read the biographies of the nominated members. The second provided the opportunity for the member to vote. Voting closed on October 15, 2019 at midnight.

We are grateful for all the nominees' interest in helping our National association grow and flourish. We hope that the nominees that are not elected will be willing to join a CAMFT committee.

The Elections Committee will be seeking additional members willing to serve on this committee. Any interested members are welcome to notify us.

## **Accreditation Working Group Committee**

Submitted by Kathryn Guthrie, Ontario, RMFT-SM



The Accreditation Working Group is comprised of representatives from each of the eight institutions across Canada which offer graduate-level programs to train Couple/Marriage and Family Therapists:

McGill (Montreal)  
Saint Paul (Ottawa)  
Tyndale (Toronto)  
University of Guelph

University of Winnipeg  
Briercrest (Caronport, Saskatchewan)  
University of Calgary  
Trinity Western University (Langley, BC)

Representatives from these schools met in Winnipeg in September 2018, and agreed to enter into a collaborative process by which they will collectively create an accreditation standard for graduate training programs, whose graduates can thereby become Registered Marriage and Family Therapists (RMFTs)

This group has been meeting via Zoom video conferencing since last fall. In early May of this year, representatives gathered in Calgary to brainstorm, discuss and identify basic building blocks for this accreditation standard. This information is being shared with the members of CAMFT at a Town Hall during the Conference in Winnipeg (October 19, 2019) for further input, and will be available on request.

The working group will consider the input from the conference to develop a draft accreditation standard, which will be recommended to the board for distribution to schools.

The next stage of the process will include a period during which each of the schools will consider how their program fits with this emerging design, and what adaptations may be required from schools and/or from the accreditation standards to achieve compliance. This information will be fed back to the Accreditation Working Group for further reflection and fine-tuning.

This iterative process between the Working Group, schools and board will continue over the coming months until a new standard can be formalized.

All participating schools will then have until December 2023 to meet this standard.

Throughout this process, all courses taught by participating schools, which meet the credentialing criteria already in place for CAMFT, will be accepted toward the achievement of the RMFT credential.

## **Regional/National Relationship Working Group**

Submitted by: David Fung, British Columbia, RMFT, Andrew Sofin, Quebec, RMFT



It has been two years since the creation of an independent CAMFT.

With this in mind, a few of the significant initiatives are being created from the ground up. The Regional/National Relationship Working Group is one of these projects. This group is attempting to bring together former Canadian AAMFT division board members as well as interested others from across the country to join us in developing a new regional/national relationship and supporting policies that will be of benefit to MFTs both at the regional and national level.

The working group members making contributions over the last year have been Colleen Ellis representing Atlantic Canada, Eric Bailey representing the prairies, Andrew Sofin representing Central Canada, both Roger Wells and David Fung from Pacific Canada and Donna Chamberlain representing National. We do have interest from two or three others in Alberta and anticipate Deb Deeter's involvement with us as the president-elect from the BCAMFT. Also, we have recently extended the invitation for Bertholde Carter from Ontario and Kelly Brushett from Atlantic Canada to join our committee.

We meet by zoom every first Wednesday of the month.

In general terms, we have been working on ways for there to be sub-units within the national association, which, among other things, can sit at various tables across the country. People who are local and who are in tune with the local context, nuances and issues within that particular jurisdiction can be at the table with their government and have the kind of discussions that are productive in advancing the profession.

Additionally, there is strong committee recognition that grassroots entities best form the regional bonds and relationships and the organic networking that results, that a national organization alone cannot do.

Our mandate exists because CAMFT needs to be able to work at the local/regional level but presently there is no home for that under the current bylaws. In recognizing this need our goal this past year has been to work on a “tweak” of the bylaws so as to have a somewhat more graded or graduated administrative structure.

It is important to acknowledge the additional heavy lifting on our committee by Roger Wells who has been the “boots on the ground” doer of much of what we needed done to move processes along.

Specific deliverables this year have been:

1. the submission of a report based on a review of bylaws from associations with substantial overlap with MFT in their scope of practice, all of which provide some variant of administrative structure regarding how “regionality” can be accommodated.
2. Developed and distributed a RNWG letter to invite all the regional/provincial C/MFT associations and groups to join us in an exploration of what a Canadian regional/national relationship could look like.

3. Developed DRAFT RNWG Suggested bylaw changes to create a branch structure.\*
4. Developed DRAFT RNWG Policies and procedures for Branches.\*
5. Developed DRAFT RNWG application to create a CAMFT Branch.\*
6. Submitted a motion to the CAMFT board for adoption of the BCAMFT proposal regarding affirmation of process for formalizing relationship.

To facilitate our mandate, the committee has been developing a relationship with the BCAMFT as a model or a pilot for how to advance this initiative. As an organization that is already sitting at the FACT-BC table and looking to establish a formal bond with an entity capable of providing an enforceable code of ethics and complaint procedure in order to protect the public, they are a great fit for us in working the kinks out in developing a model for other branches.

Subsequent to this AGM we are ready to move forward with a legal review of the draft bylaw revisions to assess if they accomplish for us what we hope it does. The other details are to walk it through in terms of administrative transitions and impact. This is where we are at currently. This working group is always open to, and continues to solicit, ideas from you, the members regarding how best to create a truly effective and collaborative regional/national structure.

**\*Copies of these draft documents are available for our members to read and give feedback on.**