Psychologists' Association of Alberta
Annual General Meeting Minutes
02 October 2026
1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
In Person

Location: Renaissance Airport Hotel**,** Cartier A/B
4236, 36th Street East, Nisku, Alberta

Mission

The mission of the Psychologists' Association of Alberta is to connect and empower psychologists in Alberta.

Vision

One PAA. The trusted home and leading voice of psychologists in Alberta. It is where psychologists belong, network, and shape the future of mental health care.

Board of Directors

President: Stacey Steele, **President-Elect**: Carmen Bellows
Past-President: Dr. Quintina Bearchief-Adolpho
Audit Committee Chair: Chris Pawluk, **Board Custodian**: Rashmani Chakrabarty
Lisa Kaldenbach, Dr. Allison McNeil, Dr. Ruby Sharma, Dr. Julie Curley, and Dr. Denise Mannell
Regrets: Dr. Ruby Sharma

Agenda

1. Opening – Angela Sargent, PAA Operations & Governance Manager
2. Land Acknowledgement – Annika Rorem, PAA Guidance Officer
3. President's Report – Stacey Steele, PAA President
4. Chief Executive Officer Report – Dr. Hanson, PAA CEO
5. Audit Committee Chair Report – Chris Pawluk, PAA Audit Committee Chair
6. Motion: Appointment of Auditor– Chris Pawluk, PAA Audit Committee Chair
7. Member Q & A
8. Closing - Angela Sargent, PAA Operations & Governance Manager

Minutes

The Psychologists' Association of Alberta's (PAA) 2026 Annual General Meeting achieved quorum with 87 attendees and 9 Board members.

Angela Sargent, PAA Operations and Governance Manager, welcomed attendees to the annual general meeting, provided an overview of the meeting agenda, and confirmed quorum in accordance with PAA bylaw **7.2.1.**

7.2.1. A quorum for an Annual or Special General Meeting shall be constituted of at least 50% of the PAA Board members plus those eligible PAA members present.

3.6. "Eligible voting members" are Full, Life, and Early Career Members of the Association.

PAA Professional Guidance Officer Annika Rorem began the meeting in a good way with a Land Acknowledgement, followed by a warm welcome by PAA President, Stacey Steele. Stacey took the opportunity to introduce the remaining board of directors, highlighting their dedication and contributions to the organization.

Presidents Report
Stacey Steele, PAA Board President

Stacey Steele introduced the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan, highlighting the central theme of "One PAA." The plan reflects PAA's rebuilding progress, expanded member services, stronger advocacy, culturally responsive care, and influence nationally.

The plan is structured around five core pillars:

1. **Professional excellence and ethical leadership** –

   •New Board Committee: Emerging & Complex Issues Committee. This committee will identify and prioritize practice issues and developments in healthcare; it will be grounded in research, ethics, and law so that we can bring this guidance back to you.

2. **Member value throughout every career stage** –

   •Supporting student, provisional, early career psychologist, or even somebody who's almost retiring: if a member cannot tell us what PAA does for them, then we have more work to do.

   In addition to the new website, member portal, membership tiers, communities of practice, this conference, the professional guidance program, and expanding

benefits and partnerships, we're continuing to listen so that membership adds meaning to your professional beyond getting a discount on insurance.

3. **Advocacy, public impact, and access to care-**

   •This pillar is focused on increasing PAA presence within government, healthcare, and national organizations at a systems level so that there's a measurable impact on your role in healthcare, regulation, assessment, treatment, and workforce development.

4. **Equity, reconciliation, cultural responsiveness, and decolonization**-

   •Equity is social responsibility. Reconciliation and decolonization have lived in our statements for a very long time, and it is included in our strategic plan for urban reasoning.
   Culture shapes how a person understands their experience, how they label it, who they believe could help them, and where they feel belonging. Culture, identity, and context are not neutral, and it shapes every clinical encounter we have.

   Bill 13 is in a lot of our rooms, given that we're surveying a representative sample of our membership on how the bill is affecting your practice and well-being. That survey, along with input from colleagues and subject matter experts, goes to the Board, where the discussion will continue at our November 6th board meeting.

   What I can tell you today is that culture is central to competent psychological care and the guiding principles of our work. Though our responsibilities do exist outside of legislation, our response to that is important, and our Board is committed to integrating this within all aspects of our decision-making process.

5. **Collective leadership and national collaboration** –

   •Alberta has a very strong seat at the national table through CPAP, as Dr. Hanson is the chair of that National Board. Our association is the largest in North America. For me, that means that what we do as psychologists in Alberta has an impact on the national landscape, and we can be proud of the work that we do here.
   With that, I would like to welcome Carmen Bellows as our President-Elect. Carmen, I am glad you're here to work in working alongside you.

Chief Executive Officer Report
Dr. Hanson, PAA CEO

The organization is committed to making a meaningful, measurable difference for members and the public, with a focus on relationships, collaboration, and continuous improvement.

- Key CEO roles include monitoring regulatory developments, promoting psychology, managing risk, and building relationships with national/international bodies. Strategic planning, governance improvement, and organizational transparency have been priorities.
- The organization is the largest of its kind in North America, attracting attention nationally and internationally.
- Focus on listening, learning, and responding to member feedback; changes based on surveys and data.
- Initiatives include a new strategic plan, brand and logo refresh, increased staff capacity, and consideration of new roles (e.g., science and advocacy officer).
- Data reflects that members seek more support for business practices, especially for early-career professionals; a new Director of Career Affairs role was created.
- Professional guidance program recognized as one of the best in North America.
- Transparent acknowledgment of criticisms: advocacy, value perception, support for early-career members, and trust/credibility.
- Enhancements in cybersecurity, Board engagement, and organizational stability.
- Advocacy and collaboration with other associations and government are ongoing, especially regarding regulatory changes.
- Surveys show members' concerns about professional autonomy, client safety, and accountability in light of new legislation.
- Bill 13 Survey

Audit Committee Chair Report
Chris Pawluk, PAA Audit Committee Chair

Chris Pawluk, PAA Audit Committee Chair, provided a detailed financial summary of PAA's financial statements for April 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, as presented in the 2025-2026 Annual Report. To receive the full financial summary, please contact the PAA office.

- PAA's financial statements for April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, reported an intentional deficit, supporting strategic priorities and enhanced member services.
- Net assets remained stable, with revenue showing 80% growth due to an increase in membership.
- Strong financial status, adequate reserves, and predicted non-dues-based revenue growth create a solid foundation to enhance member services, including referral services, professional learning, conferences, and new initiatives.
- New auditors (Rutwind Brar LLP) issued a modified opinion after their first year; thanks were expressed to outgoing auditors and association contributors.
- Audit committee remains committed to ensuring funds are wisely spent to provide services to members.

Special Resolutions

I, Chris Pawluk, Audit Committee Chair of the PAA Board, make a motion to appoint Rutwind Brar LLP to prepare an independent financial report for the upcoming 2026-2027 fiscal year.

CARRIED

Audit of vote:
Total Votes - 59

- Full Members - 42
- Lifetime - 2
- Early Career Psychologists - 10
- Provisional - 5 **Votes were removed (ineligible per PAA Bylaws)**
- **In favour** - 54
- **Against** - 0

Member Question & Answer Session

Angela Sargent read from PAA members who had emailed their questions in advance. The questions were delegated to specific Board Executive members.

Stacey Steele, PAA Board President

1. What do you most want the Board to accomplish during your year as President, and what would success look like when you hand the role to your successor? My focus this year is to continue the important work that Dr. Q began last year. Dr. Q became the first Indigenous president of PAA, and under her leadership, we established meaningful collaborations with CAP and launched the Indigenous Wellness Fund.

   My approach is to remain deliberate and attentive to the issues facing our community today. I believe that intentional, ongoing conversations are essential, and that they must lead to meaningful advocacy for our members.

   Additionally, I am committed to enhancing member value and fostering a true sense of belonging. My hope is that through increased engagement and outreach, by this time next year we will see even greater participation. I want every member to be able to clearly articulate the benefits they receive from PAA, and for our association to become the first place members turn to for support and resources.

1. Does PAA intend to issue a public statement naming the harms Bill 13 poses to culturally responsive practice in Alberta?
   If so, when? Our intention is to keep this momentum going. Our board is scheduled to meet on November 6th, and even before that meeting, many of us have been actively engaging with colleagues—having conversations, listening, and gathering insights during recent sessions and discussions. We plan to bring all this input to our November 6th meeting, and my hope is that shortly afterward, we will be able to report back to members with meaningful updates.

Dr. Hanson, PAA CEO

1. What types of enhanced benefits might members see this year?
   Overall, our goal is to ensure that joining PAA truly benefits you—by saving you money, saving you time, and reducing your professional risk. Over the past 13 months, our top priority has been to secure extended healthcare benefits, including medical coverage, for all members at a highly discounted rate. We recognize that most of our members are in private practice and often do not have access to insurance, so this initiative is especially important. If we are able to achieve this, it will mark a significant accomplishment for our association. Beyond this, you'll notice that our focus is not just on offering more benefits, but on providing better benefits—ones that are more useful and relevant to your work. As a result, you may see some existing services improved or recalibrated to meet your needs more effectively.

2. What are the two or three most important organizational outcomes PAA needs to achieve this year to demonstrate progress on the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan?
   What matters most to us is having strong, transparent processes—because good processes almost always lead to good outcomes. We are working to refine how we do things and ensure our approach is thoughtful and effective. While we do track key performance indicators, such as retention rates and new member rates, our focus is on building a system that consistently delivers results. To increase transparency and keep everyone informed, we are developing a dashboard that will be available on our website, so members can see our progress toward our goals in real time. This reflects our commitment not just to more benefits, but to better, more meaningful benefits and ongoing improvement.

Due to time constraints, the meeting was unable to accommodate questions from the audience. Members were encouraged to visit the PAA booth or submit any additional questions by email. Noting that a PAA Board member or Dr. Hanson will respond to submitted questions within two weeks.

In Closing

Angela Sargent thanked the members and Board for their support and attendance. Reminding everyone that there were still tickets available to attend the upcoming 2026 PAA Gala, celebrating excellence in psychology and welcoming Alberta's newly registered psychologists. The Gala is scheduled for October 3, 2026, in Edmonton, Alberta, at the Renaissance Airport Hotel.

A celebratory video was played showcasing the 2026 award winners.

Meeting minutes will be posted on the PAA website.
A recording of the AGM can be accessed on the PAA website and the PAA YouTube channel.

As of Friday, October 16, 2026, no additional questions for the Board or CEO had been submitted.