



CANADIAN FEDERATION OF MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATIONS
FÉDÉRATION CANADIENNE DES ASSOCIATIONS DE PROFESSEURS DE MUSIQUE

Officer's Annual Reports

2014 – 2015

Vancouver, BC



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President's Report

Our year began right after the July 2014 meetings with a transition to a new Secretary/Treasurer, Natasha Frid Finlay, who replaced Bernadette Bullock. During this process, the Officers discovered first-hand that this position is, indeed, a very unique and all-encompassing set of tasks. With a very short transition period, there were many immediate changes requiring paperwork, phone calls and meetings with BMO, RBC, Christene Scrimgeour, and phone calls and emails among the Officers.

The transition to our new Webmaster, Patrick Brown, was a smoother one. There was a learning curve for him adjusting to our website updates simply because our platform and software belongs to a small company and is not one of the frequently and universally used programs. After a very short time, Patrick was able to acquaint himself with Media Smart and has been prompt with requested updates.

Vice President Cindy Taylor and I spent many hours with Bernadette Bullock immediately after our July 2014 meetings preparing and proofing our minutes in a new format. We hope that our Executive Committee members are more satisfied with both the new template and the attention to further detail.

Much of August was spent with the Officers and the Finance Committee coaching our new Secretary/Treasurer and trying to compose a schedule to accompany her job description. The challenges of the Equity Statement will be dealt with by the Finance Chair.

An Ad Hoc Committee also worked through the month of August discussing how CFMTA might assist Manitoba, and other provinces, when challenges arise. The results of these discussions will be presented in a separate report.

The MRMTA kindly invited me to their AGM and Young Artist Concert in September in Winnipeg. It was very reassuring to see how MRMTA President Tiffany Wilson has resolved challenges in her Provincial Association. The incoming MRMTA Provincial Executive are eager and hard-working, and I thank MRMTA for their warm welcome and generous hospitality.

Natasha and I attended a meeting in Toronto in October with Courtney White and her colleague, both from The Personal. We were given an update of increases in policies sold to CFMTA members. While the number of policies grows slowly, the Personal is aware that it usually takes five years to build a viable group insurance plan. We will be kept informed as numbers increase.

ARMTA included me in their AGM and in Conference Alberta at the end of October. It is good to know that the provinces that I visited in the past year are doing well and supporting their members admirably.

During the fall of 2014, the motion to accept the updated Policies and Procedures was passed, an Annual Equity Statement was produced, and the motion to accept the annual CFMTA/FCAPM Audit was passed.

Our Secretary/Treasurer, Natasha Frid Finlay, was asked to research possible platforms to use for our pilot project electronic meeting. She also produced an online document allowing members of the Executive Committee to record the times they would be available. The meeting was held on January 16, 2015. While there were some initial glitches in our Skype communications, once these were dealt with, the meeting was quite successful. Many thanks to



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the delegates for their patience and their understanding while we worked out the communication problems.

There is no question that having an electronic meeting with a group the size of our Executive Committee presents challenges, and ideally short meetings with few discussion items will be accomplished. The Officers manage easily with monthly Skype meetings because the number of participants is much more manageable.

Much of the winter was spent working with our accountant and lawyer trying to retrieve our Charitable Status from CRA. This appears to have been a glitch on the part of CRA, most likely transferring new information from our application to have our Bylaws registered under the new Not-For Profit Corporations Act. Our Charitable number was never lost, but somehow misfiled. Once our lawyer had all of our background information, his letter to CRA produced results fairly quickly. This area of law is Mr. Wood's specialty, and the Officers feel that this process was handled extremely well by Officers, our Accountant and Mr. Wood.

At the same time that this matter was being resolved, it became increasingly apparent that the skill set presented by our Secretary/Treasurer was not specialized enough to handle the complicated bookkeeping required by our status as both non-profit and charitable. The Officers, particularly the Finance Chair and her Committee, worked many hours weekly in an effort to achieve correct financial reports. Our Secretary realized that our financial bookkeeping surpassed her skill set, and that her time available for CFMTA/FCAPM matters was limited. On February 15th, the Officers received her resignation, effective March 15.

Most of the winter and spring were spent searching for someone who could assume the position of Secretary/Treasurer on short notice. At the same time Christene Scrimgeour expressed her concern about our financial records being prepared for our audit. Our Vice President was able to find our Secretary, Cathleen Gingrich, through a personal music connection. It has become evident to the Officers that we have a very capable administrator now in place. The search for a Treasurer proved to be more difficult. Christene Scrimgeour advised us that it would be very difficult to find an employee willing to be a Treasurer and a bookkeeper. We were able to acquire a bookkeeper who works for Scrimgeour and Company, and within a short time, our financial records were corrected and ready for the audit. Our new Treasurer, Lynda Baechler, stepped in at a very difficult and busy time, and was able to take over the duties of that job with little difficulty.

In March, Vice President Cynthia Taylor and I attended the MTNA Conference in Las Vegas. We attended a meeting with the MTNA President, the incoming President, and CEO Gary Ingle, along with Patricia Frehlich, CFMTA Advertising and Marketing Chair, to discuss ideas and plans for the Commemorative Conference in Baltimore in 2017. Another meeting will be held immediately following the AGM on Thursday, July 9th.

The Vice President and I also were fortunate to meet William Cunningham at the MTNA Trade Show, who was there representing the Banff Centre for the Arts. The three of us had a lengthy meeting at that Conference, and I have since had both telephone and email discussions with William. He expressed a keen interest in our organization, and expressed a desire for his organization and ours to work together. We hope he will receive a warm welcome at our meeting on Wednesday, July 8th.



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The Officers believe that we now have excellent people in place to carry on the work of CFMTA/FCAPM for the foreseeable future. As Officers, we have always been aware that all decisions on policy and programmes are made very capably by the delegates. As Officers, we also believe that our intimate knowledge of the day to day business of our organization qualifies us to recommend to you, the delegates, the best course of action on matters that must be resolved on a timely basis.

During this last year, decisions have had to be made quickly in order to move forward. The Officers are all very grateful for the support of the Executive Committee members, and of the many offers to help if needed. With your support, we were able to ensure that the projects we are committed to providing for our members were carried out smoothly, and the financial obligations that we have were continued in a timely and professional manner.

The BC Conference Committee has kept us informed of all decisions and plans that have been made for the 2015 Conference. We thank them for their hard work, for their organization of workshops and events, and for their warm hospitality as we begin our National Conference.

Submitted by

Charline Farrell

President

CFMTA/FCAPM