



President's Report

November 20, 2020

Dear CESBC Members,

As you all know, this has been a most unusual year. All aspects of life have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and this is true for us as an organization, as well as for all of our members and others who take part in our events. The CESBC council has worked hard to continue to offer value to our members through this year and into 2021. As President of the Canadian Evaluation Society BC chapter (CESBC), it is an honour to report on the work and achievements of the chapter this year.

Professional Development

Some of our key achievements from the past year include:

- hosting the CESBC conference on January 24, 2020
- hosting several events, including:
 - six professional development webinars
 - monthly Student and Emerging Evaluator's Network (SEEN) meet ups
 - pub nights in both Victoria and Vancouver

Collectively, our events have served close to 900 attendees.

Of note, our 2019 annual conference, which would typically held in November, was moved to January 2020 to allow us to try a new venue (the Vancouver Convention Centre). Thus, our 2019 Annual General Meeting (AGM) was also held in January 2020. Our 2020 conference was cancelled due to the pandemic, and our 2020 AGM was moved to a virtual event, with a keynote presentation by Commissioner Kasari Govender & Executive Director of Research and Policy, Trish Garner from the British Columbia Office of the Human Rights Commissioner.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

The newly formed committee, led by CESBC VP Sheila Matano, consists of four members (Sheila Matano (chair), Connie Berrios, Damien Chen, Beth Snow). They are currently working on:

- Diverse Voices webinar series, which highlights community evaluation projects, programs, and organizations across BC. The idea is that the audience has a chance to hear from different people and organizations that may not traditionally engage with or regularly present at CESBC events, that incorporate DEI practices into their work, and that serve equity-seeking groups, vulnerable populations or other cultural groups that have been traditionally underrepresented at CESBC. We want the audience to learn about what culturally responsive evaluation looks like in the real world. And how we, as evaluators,



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can provide services and support programs or organizations we work with in anti-oppressive ways.

- Develop a community compiled resource list: We are developing a community resources list to provide information that can support equitable evaluation practice.

Membership Numbers

As of October 31, 2020, CESBC has:

- 162 members, 53 of whom as Credentialed Evaluators (CEs)
- Of these members, 107 reside in the Lower Mainland, 36 on Vancouver Island, 16 in the Interior, and 3 in Northern BC
- 903 people on the mailing list

Membership is down compared to last year, which is not unexpected in light of the pandemic, as uncertainty and financial hardship have affected individuals and organizations. This trend has been seen across the country.

Council Membership

There is one position up for re-election this year (Treasurer). All positions other than national representative are two year terms, so next year, the majority of positions will be up for elections. We encourage everyone to considering running for council. Details on the roles and responsibilities of council members is available at: <https://www.cesbcy.ca/Executive-Roles-&-Responsibilities>. Please feel free to reach out to current council members (contact information for council members is available at: <https://www.cesbcy.ca/Executive-Council>).

Thank you to all the council members, past and present, whose hard work makes everything we do at CESBC possible.

CES National

Highlights of interest to CESBC members and friends:

- This year's CES AGM on June 29, 2020 was hosted virtually in response to the national conference having been postponed due to the pandemic. The National Annual Report, Finances, and National AGM minutes are all available online to members at <https://evaluationcanada.ca/annual-reports>.
- Two national awards were won by BC members:
 - Contribution to Evaluation in Canada went to Kylie Hutchison, who was nominated by CESBC.
 - The Best Practice Note in Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation went to Christopher Cook, Carolyn Camman, Andrew Leyland, Suzie O'Shea, and Angela Towie for [Dramatizing Learning, Performing Ourselves: Stories of Theatre-Based Evaluation in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside](#).



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- There are 1462 members nationally (down from the usual ~1750). This decrease was anticipated as a repercussion of the pandemic and its response.
- To support members in the pandemic, CES has offered a one-month extension on annual memberships. After the extension, members may renew their membership for 6 months and pay half the membership cost or continue to pay the annual membership as usual.
- As of end of CES's fiscal year, there are 465 CE; 355 active (23% of Membership)
- There is a new position on the national board: Student and Emerging Evaluator Representative.
- The Canadian Journal of Program Evaluation (CJPE) is free [online](#). This bilingual journal invites CES members to act as peer reviewers, including book reviewers. Interested CES members can reach out via Twitter @cjpe_rcep or email our CESBC Representative to National Lisa O'Reilly and she will put you in touch ces_bc@evaluationcanada.ca.
- CES national is looking at the future of both the Sustainability Working Group (SWG) and the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Working Group. There is reason to expect these groups will continue past their initial mandates.
- Sustainability Working Group offered a webinar on Sustainability-Ready Evaluation - Greening Rubric, available for review here : <https://vimeo.com/416325204> and is working on a Stocktaking for Sustainability-ready Evaluation - expect more on this at c2021

It is with gratitude to our Executive and volunteers that I submit this report to the CESBC membership.

Sincerely,
Beth Snow
President, Canadian Evaluation Society British Columbia