

Report of the Commission on Accreditation 2015-2016

Peter Donahue, PhD, Anglophone Co-Chair
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The past year for the Commission on Accreditation (COA) has been busy as we continue implementation of the new Standards and Procedures for Accreditation. We have been actively engaged with the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) to develop terms of reference for the review of educational policies and accreditation standards and procedures. Anne-Marie Spera joined the National Office as the COA Support Officer.

The workload for the COA continues to increase as our existing programs continue to expand and new programs emerge across Canada. Currently, there are 40 accredited schools/faculties/modules in existence, with new ones planning to launch programs in the next two years. Of the 40 accredited schools/faculties/modules, 30 offer both the BSW and MSW, 8 offer a BSW only, and 2 offer an MSW only.

With the expansion and development of new programs has come an increase in the number of students. The following is a breakdown of the number of students in accredited social work programs in Canada for 2015-2016.

	BSW	MSW	TOTAL
Full-Time	7,476	2,455	9,931
Part-Time	2,556	1,076	3,632
TOTAL	10,032	3,531	13,563

Between May 2015 and June 2016, a total of 14 schools and 17 programs were reviewed, with the COA having completed the following:

- 5 Site Visits
- 11 Self Study reviews
- 8 Progress Report reviews
- 2 Self Study reviews for Pre-Accreditation Status

The Commission meets twice a year, in January and at the CASWE-ACFTS conference in May/June; its' work is done by a committee of up to 15 members. Present members include: Hélène Albert, Ginette Berteau, Louise Carignan, Peter Donahue, Peter Gabor, Florette Giasson, Alice Home, Ross Klein, Siu Ming Kwok, Patricia MacKenzie, Mary Medcalf, Glen Schmidt, and Raven Sinclair.

Ross Klein completed two 3-year terms as a member of the COA, including one term as Anglophone Co-Chair, at the January 2016 meeting. His contribution to the work of the COA is hugely appreciated. Peter Donahue will be completing his second term as a member of the COA and as the Anglophone Co-Chair of the COA at our meeting this June. COA members are thankful for his contributions and leadership.

We are pleased to announce that Peter Gabor of the University of Calgary shall be taking up the post of Anglophone Co-Chair in July of this year. Patricia MacKenzie and Alice Home are also completing their terms as members of the COA this year. Their work with the COA has been greatly appreciated.

In 2017, there will be an additional five members of the COA completing their terms. We would strongly encourage faculty members of accredited CASWE-ACFTS programs to consider applying to the COA. It is a wonderful learning opportunity and a great way to give back to our profession.

We thank all COA members for their hard work, professionalism, and commitment as well as the schools we accredit for their cooperation and support to the social work profession. We thank Sylvie Renaud, Accreditation Coordinator, Anne-Marie Spera, the COA Support Officer, and Dr. Alex Wright, Executive Director, for their support for and organization of the COA's work.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter and Louise