

BCPTA ARC ANNUAL REPORT - September 2023- May 2024

- ARC Committee: Crystal James, Kiilea Saunders Mason, Dianne Larsson Nehru, Kaela Blahey
 - Two members of our committee had to step down throughout the year – Thank you to Gurpreet Jhaj and Randal Defant for their contributions!
 - ARC is currently seeking two new BIPOC advisors for our 2024-2025 year- if you would like more information or are interested in applying please email antiracismcommittee@bcplaytherapy.ca
- ARC committee development
 - This was our first year as a committee with ARC advisors so much of our year was devoted to developing the committee and creating some organizational structure
 - In the fall we met with advisors to connect, discuss our work and explore their interest in the role
 - Spent time to identify and clarify roles of ARC advisors
 - ARC devoted time within the committee to ensure safety in ARC. This has included examining our meeting structure and practices, discussing ways to decenter whiteness in our process, and decolonizing our practices (e.g., land acknowledgments in ARC meetings)
- ARC Task work completed:
 - ARC met 7 times throughout the year
 - ARC has attended board meetings and attended workshops
 - BCPTA Mission statement
 - ARC reviewed and provided feedback on BCPTA’s proposed mission statement
 - ARC surveys
 - Last year ARC created surveys for board members to complete to help guide the work of ARC by reviewing past anti-racism efforts and exploring hopes and recommendations for future ARC work. Once completed ARC collected and shared the feedback (anonymously) and worked collaboratively to adapt and develop plans based on this feedback
 - This year we worked extensively on survey for past BIPOC board members with the aim to measuring and learn about BIPOC experiences of racism on the board, in committees, and as members; to assess urgency for change within board; to determine ARC work – value, relevance, feedback; and to determine the interplay between play therapy & antiracism – value, relevance, feedback.
 - the board agreed that the survey should be put out to all board and committee members, past and present, BIPOC and white
 - Work on surveys will be ongoing into next year to best capture the needed data



- Our work on these surveys led to reflection and discussions on how words, actions and use of stories that reinforce racism have shown up in BCPTA event spaces. One of the recommendations from years past was that it would be helpful if all board members were able to address racism as it shows up in our events and not rely on certain board members being present. From this it was identified that the board would likely benefit from training on how to do this
- our advisor recommended a training called Bystander Intervention Training (<https://www.icavictoria.org/community-services/tools-for-equity/bystander-intervention-training/>) offered from the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria
- The board agreed that this would be useful training and we are sorting out the financial budget to hopefully make this happen for next year
- ARC supported board to identify cultural appropriation within play therapy and play therapy workshops
- Land Acknowledgments
 - ARC modelled and supported the board to BCPTA and each of its board members to move towards creating personalized and meaningful land acknowledgments- in accordance with our learnings from Indigenous teachers and our ARC advisors . It is important that each of us is doing our own work to understand our relationship to the land and our responsibility to Indigenous people- through learning our own unique ancestral histories, building our understanding of our unique forms of privilege and finding ways to personally take accountability for decolonization within our lives and our play therapy practices.
 - Recommendation for BCPTA board meetings to also begin with land acknowledgments
- ARC reviewed the presenter contract and provided recommendations
- ARC 2024-2025 goals
 - In initial stages of exploring idea of putting forward an anti-racism presenter for a BCPTA event in the next year or two.
 - Idea is to have a specific and applicable presentation topic to draw in more participants for registration – for example, broaching the topic of race with clients, practical pieces of working with racialized families, etc.
 - ARC is going to be creating an ARC mission statement and developing quarterly goals
 - For example, ARC would like to move forward with creating a board-approved written policy or procedure for addressing issues of racism including cultural appropriation