

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004 SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY COMMITTEE**

The APNS School Psychology Committee has had an exciting and productive year. One of our highlights for this year was the planning and preparation of the WISC IV workshop which was held on November 10, 2003. The workshop was a collaborative effort involving our committee, the APNS Executive, and the Psychological Corporation. We were honoured to have Ms. Jacinthe Bourassa, M.Ps. (Clinical Measurement Consultant) present an overview of this updated assessment tool as well as provide information on new assessment measures. Due to the overwhelming success of the workshop, a "WISC IV: Part 2" workshop is being planned for October 2004 which will provide further information on the clinical interpretation of this assessment tool.

The committee has been working diligently towards obtaining special association status within the Nova Scotia Teacher's Union (NSTU). Having special association status is vital as it would allow psychologists who work in schools to have a formal voice in NSTU matters. Special association status is enjoyed by a number of specialized groups within the NSTU such as speech-language pathologists and teachers of exceptional children and we believe that psychologists working in the school system should also have this status. In preparation for this action we increased our committee membership to have representation from all the Boards of Education within the province and have been in contact with a number of school psychologists around the province. With the support of the APNS Executive we are currently preparing our application to the NSTU.

Over the course of the year we have also discussed different ways in which we could increase and facilitate communication amongst school psychologists in the province of Nova Scotia. We have been actively exploring the use of computer technology such as the COMM-Link Listserve currently being used to facilitate communication among APNS executive and committee chairs. Additionally, we are looking into developing a website as well as a pamphlet about the delivery of school psychological services in Nova Scotia. Stay tuned for updates regarding these exciting projects...

In January 2004, Dr. Penny Corkum, Chair of the APNS School Psychology Committee, became our representative member of the Department of Education - School Psychology Working Group. This group is comprised of ten members with representation from all the Boards of Education, as well as different specialities (e.g., school psychology, student services and specialized teachers). The APNS School Psychology Committee was asked to send a representative in response to our letter to the Minister of Education in regard to our concerns with non-psychologists delivering psychological services in the school environment. The purpose of this working group is to develop a document related to school psychology in the "Supporting Student Success" series. This document will eventually be available online and at each school in Nova Scotia. The final document will consist of information about the practice of school psychology in Nova Scotia as well as practice guidelines for school psychologists.

The 2003 – 2004 APNS School Psychology Committee included the following members: Chair: Penny Corkum; Treasurer: Stacey Young; Secretaries: Peyton Harris and Jennifer Mullane; Members: Patricia Rutherford, Dan Stephenson, Brenda Chandler, Heidi Varner, Kelly Woodford, Crystal Sampson, Natasha Corbin, Lauren Claire, Margaret Cowan, Nancy Wilson, Constance l'Écuyer; MASP Members: Elizabeth Church and Fred French; and Student Members: Rachel Panton, Katie Smith, and Caitlin McCleave. We wish to thank all the committee members for their dedication and hard work over the last year!!!