

## President's Report

Well summer is here and this will be the last Monitor issue until the cooler weather arrives or did it ever really leave! First and foremost I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Branch Chairs and our Vice-President Kimberley Ridgers for organizing numerous events during Probation Officers week and to all the members and nonmembers who participated in the various PO week activities. More detailed information regarding PO week can be found within this issue of the Monitor.

The Central Branch Symposium Planning Committee has been hard at work organizing and shaping Symposium 2009. This year we are very excited to present an on-line registration system, which allows for delegates to streamline their registration process through the ease of this new system. Thank you to Kim and the Planning Committee for creating and operating this system. The POAO website will soon display the Symposium booklet highlight the keynote speakers, workshops and timetables so stay tuned to [www.poao.org](http://www.poao.org) for more information regarding Symposium.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services for funding 100 POAO members to attend Symposium 2009 and the Ministry of Children and Youth Services for funding 50 POAO members to attend Symposium 2009. POAO does recognize in this financial climate governmental organizations must make appropriate choices to help reduce costs and POAO is pleased MCSCS and MCYS continued to offer support towards Symposium and to support this wonderful educational venue. I was able to confirm with each ADM that non-Ministry funded members who may be attending Symposium are free, as in years past, to room with funded members and can travel in Ministry vehicles when operationally available. This can help offsetting costs for non-funded members to attend Symposium 2009. Further, the Executive Board has committed funds towards Symposium 2009 to help fund non-Ministry members to attend Symposium so please contact your Branch Chairs directly regarding funding options. Finally, Branch Chairs will also be providing their own financial support to help non-funded members to attend Symposium so please take full advantage of this available POAO-generated funding.

This past June I had the opportunity to speak with our Vice President and the MCSCS Domestic Violence Lead Tracey Foreman at the Canadian Domestic Violence Conference held in Toronto, On. It was an opportunity for individuals from across Canada to learn about the POAO Research Project and how POAO has been working in partnership with MCSCS to address some of the research findings. The response was very positive and complimentary about the work POAO is doing. Thank you to both Kim and Tracey for their fine work in relation to this speaking engagement.

I have been invited as President to speak in the fall of 2009 at the Northern Regional Conference and am excited about the opportunity to address the conference delegates. Thank you to the Northern Regional Conference Planning Committee for this invitation.

As always, POAO continues to meet with ADM Cowie of MCSCS and ADM Tayles of MCYS regarding concerns, questions and issues brought forth from members and should any member have feedback please do not hesitate to contact myself and/or your Branch Chairs so this feedback can be brought before the ADMs.

Attached to this Monitor report you will find a copy of our draft strategic plan. I would ask you take some time to review this draft plan and please send any feedback to me for implementation by August 14, 2009. This plan will help shape the future direction of POAO and where we are headed as an Association.

I would like to extend everyone warm wishes for their summer months and to have a happy and safe holiday period. Looking forward to seeing everyone at Symposium!

Best Regards,

Erin Olesen-Schinke  
President POAO