

The Frog Who Would Be as Big as an Ox

Myrella Roy

*A Frog had an Ox in her view;
His bulk, to her, appeared ideal.
She, not even as large, all in all, as an egg hitherto,
Envious, stretched, swelled, strained, in her zeal
To match the beast in overall size,
Saying, "Sister, lend me your eyes.
Is this enough? Am I not yet there, in every feature?"
"Nope." "Then now?" "No way."
"There now, as good as first?"*
— Jean de La Fontaine (1621–1695)

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The Complete Fables of Jean de La Fontaine,
by Norman B Spector, ©1988, Northwestern University Press]

At times, CSHP reminds me of La Fontaine's fable of the frog that would be an ox. The Society has boundless ambitions, and the challenge for its Council and staff is to rein them in within the scale of its resources. This past year in particular, the Society's accomplishments have been as ambitious and challenging, if not more so, than in earlier years.

CSHP Council was thinking big when it drafted and finalized the Society's new strategic business plan (http://www.cshp.ca/aboutUs/strategicPlan_e.asp). Vision 2010 in fact maps out the undertakings of CSHP far beyond year 2010, as it incorporates the more specific 6-year strategic business plan for the *Canadian Journal of Hospital Pharmacy* and the CSHP 2015 project. To determine our baseline standing on the 34 objectives of the latter project and to measure the growth of Canadian hospital pharmacy practice until 2015, the Society is partnering with the Editorial Board of the Hospital Pharmacy in Canada Survey to make CSHP 2015 the topic of the special interest chapter in the next survey.

In accordance with its Vision 2010 strategic objective to "advocate on behalf of hospital pharmacists in a timely manner", CSHP has endeavoured to boost its profile as the influential voice for hospital pharmacy

(http://www.cshp.ca/advocacy/campaigns/index_e.asp). The Society conducted one major advocacy campaign on the shortage of hospital pharmacists and its impact on patient care; responded to resolutions by the Canadian Medical Association denouncing an expanded



role for pharmacists within collaborative care teams and denying pharmacists the authority for independent prescribing; and assisted the CSHP Branch in British Columbia in bringing concerns about the Pharmacists Regulation for the *Health Professions Act* to the attention of the provincial Ministry of Health.

CSHP continues to take the utmost interest in matters that affect the pharmacy profession as a whole. The Society appointed 2 representatives to the Task Force on a Blueprint for Pharmacy, and a hospital pharmacist nominated by CSHP was selected by Health Canada's Health Products and Food Branch to serve on its Expert Advisory Committee on the Vigilance of Health Products. CSHP also participated in several consultations and provided feedback to a variety of stakeholders: the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (for a submission supporting the Common Drug Review filed with the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health), the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (for *National Guidelines for the Disclosure of Adverse Events*), the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (for a discussion paper entitled "Pharmaceutical Bar Coding to Improve Patient Safety—A Canadian Perspective"), and the National Association of Pharmacy Regulatory Authorities (for the draft "Competency Profile for Pharmacy Technicians"), to name a few.

The influence and contributions of the Society extend beyond Canada's borders. In addition to hosting the annual trilateral joint officer meeting with the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists and the Mexican Association of Hospital Pharmacists in Ottawa on June 1, 2007, CSHP collaborated with its American and Mexican counterparts in organizing a conference entitled "Improving the Quality of Pharmaceutical Care in North America". The conference, held last October 4 and 5 in Pachuca, Mexico, particularly emphasized the advancement of Mexico's hospital pharmacy practice (see page 80 for more details).

The Society is progressing toward conducting electronic business on a grand scale. Speaker handouts for conferences are now provided on CD, and CSHP has launched the first of its online education courses. Council approved the addition of a Web Administrator staff position, which allows the head office to assist branches with the management of their websites (some with redesigns, others with maintenance). The Society has also undertaken a major electronic association management project which will lead to broader electronic delivery of membership services such as online payment for membership applications and renewals, conference registrations, and products and publications; management of member profiles; and new discussion boards to replace the Yahoo groups currently used for electronic exchange within the Pharmacy Specialty Networks.

Another major feat has been securing affordable malpractice insurance that now also meets the requirements of the Saskatchewan College of Pharmacists and the Ontario College of Pharmacists. Furthermore CSHP has finally succeeded in getting its

policy coverage extended to all pharmacists, regardless of their practice setting.

The Society is literally growing larger with the establishment of a new branch in Prince Edward Island and with total CSHP membership reaching 2725 members as of December 31, 2007, an all-time high. The Society's finances are sound enough for Council to have approved an investment policy and the purchase of another 100 m² condominium unit adjacent to the original office premises.

All of these accomplishments have been achieved through the work of 11 conscientious employees (including one pharmacist) . . . and countless dedicated volunteer members. This past year, we bade farewell to Katral-Nada Hassan (Publications and Web Administrator), congratulated Laurie Frid (Operations Manager) on the birth of her first-born, and welcomed Denis Boileau (Acting Operations Manager), Sonya Heggart (Publications Administrator), and Kirsty Phillips (Web Administrator) to the CSHP staff.

(Ox) *"You're not anywhere near."
The diminutive creature
Inflated still more, till she burst.
—Jean de La Fontaine*

A continued sound governance will ensure that CSHP's resources remain up to its ambitions and will spare the Society the frog's fate . . .

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