Professional Standards &
National Curriculum (PSNC) Committee

Members:

Jessica Eden O'Neill (chair), Helen Prinold (board liaison), Nicole Fenwick (BCSPCA/Animal Kind liaison), Nicole Lapratte (SD Committee Liaison), Andrew Taylor-Baptiste (Vice Chair), Alexis Fluit (humane sub-committee), Laura Jean Wilde (Veterinary Community Coordinator), Sylvia Currie (Legacy Development Lead/IAABC Foundation Liaison, Sylvia Koczerzuk (Humane Community Coordinator/ Membership Committee liaison), Jenn VanderWoude (SCEAP Lead)

Highlights:

National Curriculum Completion

- Finalized the CAPDT National Curriculum as the foundational standard for dog trainer education in Canada
- Established a unified Body of Knowledge across all modules, defining minimum competencies for the RDT designation

School Accreditation Rollout

- Launched the national accreditation process for curriculum-contributing and applicant schools
- Implemented structured review process including:
    - Full application package review
    - Curriculum alignment assessment
    - Instructor and facility evaluation
    - Virtual and/or in-person site visits
- Began onboarding first cohort of CAPDT-accredited programs

National Examination Development

- Established framework for a standardized national examination required for all RDT candidates
- Ensuring alignment with national curriculum and professional competency standards
- Exploring delivery platforms and remote proctoring solutions

Legacy Pathway Implementation

- Developed and launched the Legacy Pathway for experienced trainers
- Defined eligibility criteria and process for accessing the national examination
- Ensured pathway maintains professional integrity while recognizing industry experience

Current Priorities (2026–2027)

- Finalize and launch the national examination

- Continue accreditation and onboarding of educational institutions
- Support accredited schools through program launch and alignment
- Implement and refine the Legacy Pathway process
- Develop and publish a national directory of Registered Dog Trainers (RDTs)

Impact & Strategic Direction

The work of the PSNC Committee establishes the first unified, national standard for dog trainer education and certification in Canada. By aligning curriculum, accreditation, and assessment under one framework, this initiative supports:

- Professional credibility and public trust
- Consistency in education and training outcomes
- Stronger collaboration with veterinary and allied professionals
- A clear, accessible pathway into the profession through the RDT designation

WE ARE CURRENTLY SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR THE FOLLOWING ROLES:

- ❖ Secretary (management role)
- ❖ Testing and Certification Coordinator (management role)
- ❖ SCEAP reviewers for national curriculum alignment
- ❖ Veterinary sub-committee members *(individuals with veterinary professional experience/background)*
- ❖ Legacy portfolio reviewers
- ❖ School Outreach & Accreditation Intake Lead (management role)
- ❖ Political Action Committee Lead (management role)
- ❖ Political Action Committee members *(individuals with experience/background in political or legislative processes)*