THE ONTABA ANALYST

Newsletter of the Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis

In this newsletter:

December 11th & 12th

#ONTABACON2020 IS GOING VIRTUAL

Visit **ontaba.org** for more details about the 2020 Annual Conference!

Early bird registration ends **November 13, 2020**

2 Days of CEUs! Join us and learn from our amazing keynote speakers!

@ONTABA1

Dr. Stelios Georgiades
BA, MA, Ph.D

Dr. Marc Lanovaz
Ph.D, BCBA-D

ONTABA
The Ontario Association for Behaviour Analysis, Inc

Dr. Linda LeBlanc
Ph.D, BCBA-D

Dr. Janet Twyman
Ph.D, BCBA-D, LBA

Follow us on:

ONTABA   @ONTABA1   @ontaba1

ONTABA MEMBERS

ONTABA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Kendra Thomson
President-Elect - Nancy Marchese
Treasurer - Raluca Nuta
Treasurer Elect - Dawn Marciello
Secretary - Joan Broto
Graduate Student Representative - Jacqueline Gigan
Undergraduate Student Representative - Taylor Liggett

Directors at Large
Evangelo Boutsis
Carly Eby
Karl Gunnarsson
Aamir Khan
Jaime Santana

ONTABA PROFESSIONAL COMMITTEES CHAIRS

Advocacy & Communications - Aamir Khan & Jaime Santana
Conference & Events - Jacqueline Gigan & Karl Gunnarsson
Education & Advancement - Joan Broto & Evangelo Boutsis
Finance - Raluca Nuta
Governance - Taylor Liggett
Membership & Member Services - Jacqueline Gigan & Taylor Liggett
Organizational Development - Dawn Marciello
Professional Affairs & Practice - Carly Eby & Jaime Santana

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Members,

"Alexa - skip to 2021!"... but not before we have #ONTABAcon2020!!!

We are so pleased to be able to continue with our conference this year (virtually) on **Friday December 11th and Saturday December 12th, 2020.** We have secured an excellent lineup of speakers (Dr. Marc Lanovaz, Dr. Linda Leblanc, Dr. Stelios Georgiades, & Dr. Janet Twyman) and are looking forward to providing an opportunity for our community to present and discuss research. We will be using the Whova online platform, which will provide opportunities for interaction with presenters, networking with colleagues, and tools to help you plan your conference agenda. And you can keep your PJ bottoms on and enjoy from the comfort of your home.

As with many other organizations, the pandemic has caused unforeseen financial strain for ONTABA due to lost deposits and decreased revenue. Although the financial stability of the organization is not at risk, we may lose approximately $30,000 for the deposit for the rental of the conference space (Metro Toronto Convention Centre). That is, if there is no "force majeure" in place to nullify the contract in that no gatherings of *any size* are allowed, we will still have to pay the entire deposit. Other organizations have faced similar barriers. Unfortunately, the future of the California Association for Behavior Analysis (CalABA) is now at risk and they have started a recovery campaign. The struggle that CalABA is facing illustrates how impactful conferences are on the financial health of organizations like ONTABA. Therefore, we are working harder than ever to ensure that the conference will be well attended and we hope that you will help us spread the word among your networks! Registration is now live on the website. A humongous shout out to Jacqueline Gigan and the conference committee for all of the hard work they have been doing to ensure the conference transitions successfully online.

We continue to face uncertainty as we enter the second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. The uncertainty is compounded by pandemic fatigue and winter looming. Now more than ever we need things to look forward to, to spur creativity, and to bring the behaviour analytic community together. We hope that you will join us for this fantastic virtual event!

We are very pleased to see how many members are referencing the key resources for behaviour analysts, consumers and other professionals that are hosted on the website. We are also pleased with the positive responses to these resources. If you haven't checked them out, or shared them, we encourage you to do so! Excellent progress is also being made toward the development of comprehensive, interactive online ethics and jurisprudence modules in both English and French. Please stay tuned for the release of the modules. We are confident these resources will serve as invaluable information for behaviour analysts in Ontario.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy fall and we are looking forward to seeing you at the conference in December!

Best,

Kendra Thomson

Kendra Thomson, PhD, BCBA-D
President, ONTABA Board of Directors

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Advocacy & Communications Committee

The Advocacy and Communications Committee has been busy on social media! Our Instagram page has been growing steadily and we hope to be even more active across this and other platforms in the near future. Our Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Colour (BIPOC) working group has also started to take shape, with one meeting having already occurred and other initiatives/projects beginning. We will be excited to share more details in the coming months. Finally, we are excited to announce the date for Evening for Behaviour Analysis which will take place on **Friday, November 13th 2020.** Stay tuned for the final date!

Organizational Development Committee

The Organizational Development Committee continues to work on the development of internal systems to assist with capacity building within our organization. Currently we have been overseeing the development of a training manual for new board members as well as procedures for further board education. We have also been working alongside the Advocacy and Communications Committee to assist with the development of the BIPOC working group. We have also collected and organized survey data from committee chairs and will be reaching out to collect info from volunteers to assist identifying further areas of development within the organization.

Conference & Events Committee

The Conference Committee is busy planning for our upcoming 2020 Annual Conference which will be held virtually on **Friday December 11th and Saturday December 12th.** Be sure to reserve the date and come join us for 2 days full of CEUs from our amazing guest speakers! Ticket registration is now open. Check out our Instagram post for a task analysis and video model for how to sign up! If you are a member, make sure to sign up with your membership email to access special pricing! Also, check out pages 9-11 of the newsletter for more details about the conference. Awards nominations are now open as well! If you know someone in the field who you think should be recognized for their outstanding work, head to ontaba.org to fill out a ballot. Stay up to date with ONTABA's weekly emails to receive more information about the conference including details about Whova, CEU Helper, and much more!

Governance Committee

The Governance Committee is currently compiling all of the nominations that came in this year for the 2021 ONTABA Board. Thank you to all who submitted nominations. Voting will open in November, keep an eye on membership emails and social media communications for more information and how to vote!

Education & Advancement Committee

The Education & Advancement Committee has produced some short infomercials, such as the Evidence Based Interventions and the Group Contingencies short videos, based on the recent publication of the ABA Applications in Schools White Paper. The committee is also working on producing professional development materials and will soon have a webinar ready to share with school boards and other agencies. Stay tuned for further updates.

Membership & Member Services Committee

The Membership Committee is currently accepting nominations for our annual awards including the Teaching Award, Student Award, Research Award, Clinical Excellence Award, and Behaviour Analytic Ally Award. Please visit ontaba.org and find the 'Conference 2020' tab to download the awards information and ballot documentation. Each nomination form should include a brief bio of the nominee outlining why the nominee should win the award. Once a ballot has been filled out, please send it by e-mail to contact@ontaba.org. We are also currently in the process of updating the content and organization of our reading list, keep an eye out for these changes on your ONTABA account under resources. Finally, we are in the process of organizing a hournal club in collaboration with our friends at MABA, on **Tuesday, November 24th from 7:00-8:00PM.** More information to come!

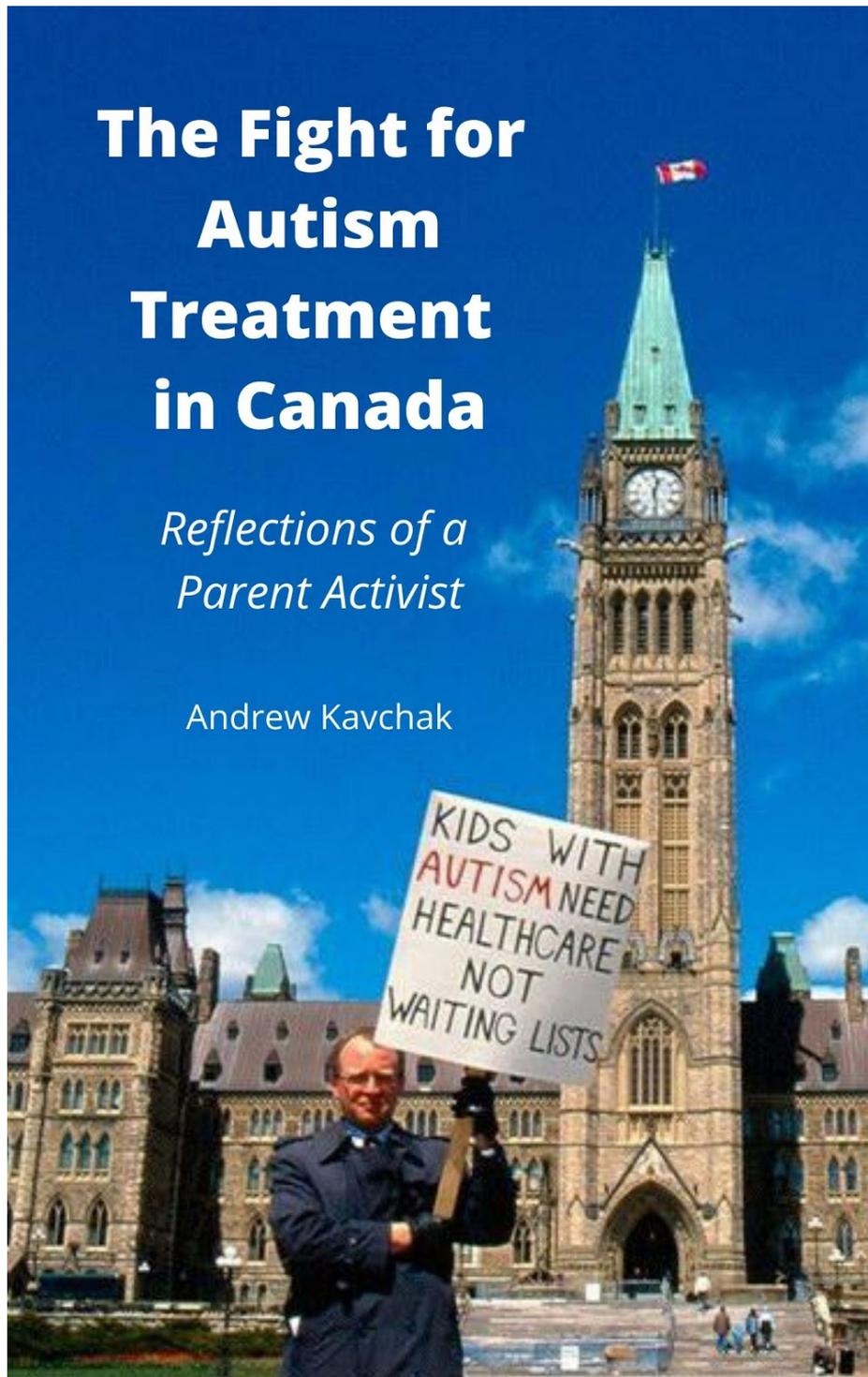# Professional Affairs/ Practice Committee

The Professional Affairs and Practice Committee is hard at work researching and devising methods to provide practical support to our members who are diligently working during COVID-19. We are working on creating resources to be distributed to the membership by December. Please keep an eye on ONTABA communications for more information!

The Fight For Autism Treatment in Canada: Reflections of a Parent Activist

Reviewed by Jaime Santana, Director at Large at ONTABA

Andrew Kavchak's book *The Fight for Autism Treatment in Canada: Reflections of a Parent Activist* does an amazing job painting the picture of what funding for autism spectrum disorder (ASD) interventions have looked like over the last couple of decades. The book is filled with a perfect balance of personal anecdotes, giving it an intimate feel, and a historical recollection of changes in funding and programming. This makes the book a perfect starting point for those who may be forced to undertake advocacy and those that are new to the ASD community. Andrew is very objective in the way he tells the history of promises, both kept and broken, by government officials and policy developers, providing this information in chronological order, displaying his methodological and meticulous record keeping. The story and evolution of different programs in Ontario, and other provinces, aimed to fund and assist families and individuals in the ASD community is told through Andrew's personal recollections. Anything from newspaper clippings to Hansard excerpts and public interviews are perfectly laid out in order to cover changes in policy. From the benchmarks (needing to meet specific requirements in order to continue receiving funding), to the age cutoffs, and even income testing, Andrew covers every change that has happened in the last two decades, providing insight to current and future advocates for what has worked and failed with these policies. Andrew also does a great job explaining the involvement of different individuals and groups in policy development, from government officials, like Senator Muson and Lisa MacLeod, to parent-lead groups, like the Ontario Autism Coalition, a clear outline of their impact on policies is provided. Whether they are positive or negative, Andrew outlines their involvement in changes clearly.

Through his decades of advocacy, Andrew has always sought to ensure that autistic individuals, like his son, have the resources that they require in order to live independent lives. Because of this, Andrew was a driving force in the formation of the Medicare for Autism Now movement, which aimed to make therapies accessible through healthcare funding and reduce waiting lists. Andrew's plight is ongoing, and although he no longer protests at parliament hill every day during his lunch break, his advocacy does not go unnoticed.

The Fight for Autism Treatment in Canada: Reflections of a Parent Activist is a must read for new and seasoned professionals working within the ASD community, as well as for autistic people and their families, who are often forced to become advocates in order to ensure that their rights are respected and upheld. If you want to be an informed advocate in order to prevent history from repeating itself when it comes to funding programs, pick up Andrew's book. One thing is for sure though, this page turner may sometimes have you shaking your head in disbelief, especially when reading the names, and actions, of some of the characters involved. I guarantee you will not regret reading this book. Happy reading!

MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

The global pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on every corner of society.

We want to hear from you regarding the impact on the behavioural service sector to help inform how we can best support our members.

Please complete this very brief survey:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MJLBS7W

AWARDS

BEHAVIOUR ANALYTIC ALLY AWARD

This award is intended to recognize an individual that has gone above and beyond to advocate for the implementation of, and access to, ABA services in Ontario. For this award, peer nominations are acceptable.

RESEARCH AWARD

This award is intended to recognize an individual who is currently conducting research in the field of ABA, at any level, with the aim of contributing meaningfully to the ABA literature, and the clinical applications of ABA to a diversity of situations. For this award, professor, peer, and colleague nomination is acceptable.

CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD

This award is to recognize diverse and innovative clinical work in any area or application of applied behaviour analysis. For this award, peer and colleague nomination is acceptable.

STUDENT AWARD

This award is intended to recognize current students and recent graduates (within one year) who have demonstrated excellence in multiple areas of study. This includes clinical placement ratings, leadership qualities, and grade point average. For this award, professor and peer nomination is acceptable.

TEACHING AWARD

This award is intended to recognize a current or past instructor that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to teach ABA principles and applications and to inspire an appreciation for ABA in his/her students. For this award, student, peer, and colleague nominations are acceptable.

Stelios Georgiades, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Psychiatry & Behavioural Neurosciences

Is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences and a Scientist at the Offord Centre for Child Studies at McMaster University. His program of research investigates the factors influencing developmental trajectories of children and youth on the autism spectrum. The overarching objective of this research is to generate new knowledge that will lead to more precise, evidence-based diagnostics and interventions for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Dr. Georgiades is the Founder and Co-Director of the McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART), an interdisciplinary collaborative aiming to advance autism care through meaningful research. This includes the Pediatric Autism Research Cohort (PARC) Project, which is bridging the research-to-practice gap by embedding a research protocol within the ASD services clinic at McMaster Children's Hospital. Dr Georgiades is Co-lead for the McMaster site for the Pathways in ASD study, a Canada-wide longitudinal study of children and youth with ASD – the largest of its kind, and the largest longitudinal ASD study to date. He is also a Co-Principal Investigator for the Province of Ontario Neurodevelopmental (POND) Network, a provincial research program working on improving outcomes for children with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Marc Lanovaz, Ph. D., BCBA-D

Dr. Lanovaz's laboratory work involves the use of machine learning to improve clinical decision-making as well as the development of mobile and web applications to facilitate the delivery of health and education services. Currently, his main research interests are: (a) Develop and evaluate machine learning models to improve clinical decision making; (b) Develop and evaluate web and mobile applications to facilitate the implementation of assessments and treatments by parents as well as health and education professionals; (c) Detect and measure verbal and non-verbal behaviours in the context of practice using artificial intelligence; (d) Use data mining to analyze the behaviour of patients, parents and professionals.

Linda A. LeBlanc, Ph.D., BCBA-D, Licensed Psychologist

Is the president of LeBlanc Behavioural Consulting. She previously served as a professor at Claremont MeKenna College, Western Michigan University, and Auburn University and as the executive director of Trumpet Behavioural Health. She has published more than 100 articles and book chapters on topics such as behavioural treatment of autism, technology-based behavioural interventions, behavioural gerontology, and systems development in human services. Dr. LeBlanc is an associate editor of Behaviour Analysis in Practice and the literature review editor of Education and Treatment of Children. She has previously served as an associate editor of The Analysis of Verbal Behaviour and the Journal of Applied Behaviour Analysis. She is the 2016 recipient of the American Psychological Association Nathan H. Azrin Award for Distinguished Contribution in Applied Behavior Analysis.

Janet Twyman, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Janet Twyman received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. She currently holds the positions of Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, and Director of Innovation and Technology for the Center on Innovations in Learning, having served previously as Vice President of Instructional Development, Research, and Implementation for Headsprout. Dr. Twyman is widely recognized as an authority on instructional design, fully informed by behavior analytic research and conceptualization. Her leadership contributions at Headsprout were pivotal in managing a project of more than $6 million, which reached more than a million children with effective reading instruction. Similarly impressive were her contributions and her leadership at the Fred S. Keller School, where she served as executive director for eight years, arranging a behavioral approach to every aspect of the school's functioning and inspiring many students, staff members, and parents in doing so. Dr. Twyman has also provided significant service to the field, with leadership roles within the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Research and for ABAI, where she served as president, Executive Council member, and chair of several important boards and task forces.

WHOVA VIRTUAL EVENTS PLATOFROM

- Access virtual sessions from any device
- Helps attendees make new connections with attendee profiles, match-making, icebreaking, and virtual meet-ups
- Create and set your own agenda
- Access talks and sessions on-demand for up to one year
- Networking opportunities

For more Information go to https://whova.com/ for details

Networking, Continuing Education & Professional Development Opportunities!

The ONTABA 2020 Annual Conference will be held virtually on Friday, December 11th and Saturday, December 12th giving you the ability to learn from our wonderful keynote speakers! Early Bird Registration is Now Available! The early bird deadline is November 13th at 11:59 pm EST! To register, please go to www.ontaba.org → Conferences → 2020 Conference → Signup or click here to purchase your tickets.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ONTABA has chosen a virtual format for the annual conference. We hope to provide a quality experience while maintaining the safety of our members and the community. If you experience any issues when registering or have any questions, please email contact@ontaba.org for assistance. We appreciate your continued support of ONTABA and look forward to you joining us at our 2020 annual conference!

'CEUHelper'

ONTABA has been introducing CEUHelper to our events thus far in 2020. The purpose of introducing CEUHelper is to ensure more efficient and secure collection of CEUs for our members. Moving forward, we are phasing out paper CEU collection and embracing CEUHelper!

We encourage all members to take the following steps to ensure their CEUHelper account is up and running for future events including this year's Annual ONTABA Conference.

Creating your CEUHelper Account

1. Download the CEUHelper app
2. Create your account
3. Input your BACB certification number under "Certifications" -> this will allow CEU helper to correctly create your CEU certificates

Collecting CEUs via CEUHelper

1. Find correct "conference" and click "Join Conference"
2. Tap "Browse & Check In"
3. Find event that you want to check into and click on it
4. Tap "Tap Here to Check In"
5. Tap "QR Code"
6. Scan QR code provided by event organizer **no later than 10 minutes past the start of the event**
7. Scan QR code at the end of the event to check out **no earlier than 5 minutes prior to the end of the event** *Please note: any check out scans done earlier than the 5-minute mark will unfortunately not result in CEUs*
8. Repeats steps 6-10 for all events that you will be attending for that conference
9. Tap "Leave Conference", confirm that you are done collecting CEUs, then tap "Tap to Finish". *Please ensure you are done collecting CEUs for the conference before going through this last step, as this will check you out of the entire conference*

We encourage members to retain these instructions for future ONTABA events including the annual ONTABA Conference.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Dr. Rosemary Condillac, C. Psych, BCBA-D
Associate Professor, Applied Disability Studies, Brock University

Welcome to the "What Would You Do?" column on ethical and professional dilemmas in ABA. Please submit your questions, issues, dilemmas or tricky situations to contact@ontaba.org. My responses are my own, and are not intended to represent the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB ®), ONTABA, or any other organization with whom I am affiliated. Responses should not be taken as specific legal or professional advice as it is not possible to have or provide enough information in a column of this nature.

Since my last column I have received several questions pertaining to changes in consent processes during COVID-19, so I have answered them here.

The BACB requires written consent, but we are not meeting face-to-face with clients so this is difficult to orchestrate. What should I do?
It is important that the consent process be followed whether you are obtaining through virtual means or in person. To learn more about what constitutes valid consent, see the Jurisprudence And Ethics Knowledge And Competency Standards For Ontario Behaviour Analysts. There is also a guide for obtaining valid consent available at https://training.ontaba.org/, which includes a checklist to ensure that all steps in the consent process are completed and documented. The last step in the process is to obtain written consent as required by the BACB. There are many different possibilities for obtaining written consent when you aren't meeting in person. If you are meeting via videoconference or telephone, you could mail or email the consent form to your client and have them sign it at the end of the consent process and mail it back to you. Many organizations have created secure portals for clients to upload forms directly (with a personalized link). Provisions exist in law (e.g. PIPEDA) for the use of electronic signatures in Canada. There are paid cloud-based services that can be used to generate electronic signatures and transmit them securely. Another option is to have clients sign their consent form electronically and return the form using strong password protection and end-to-end encryption (see the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario's website www.ipc.on.ca for more information). Emailing photos of consent forms or signed PDFs without encryptions should be discouraged if the pages being returned contain private information.

During my virtual meetings with my client, other family members sometimes enter the space scantily dressed (e.g. pyjama's, underwear) and they appear to be unaware of the camera. What should I do?

This sometimes happens during in person visits, but may be happening more frequently these days with many people working or attending school remotely due to COVID-19 precautions. It is important to set up some rules to safeguard client privacy and the privacy of others who live in their space during virtual service provision. Having a set of rules including wearing appropriate attire, sitting in a private area (when possible), alerting others that a meeting is in progress, turning off camera if another person appears in view, can make these situations less awkward, and reminds clients that the virtual service environment is professional. Using virtual backgrounds can sometimes help with this, however many of these do not mask the entry of another person in close proximity of the camera. Protecting the privacy of all members of your client's household is consistent with the BACB Code. Protecting your own privacy is also consistent with the BACB Code as it helps to maintain professional boundaries and avoid dual/multiple relationships.

If you have questions relating to this topic or any other issues that you would like to see addressed in this column, please send your questions to
contact@ontaba.org

Data collection, which was difficult for my clients before COVID-19 has been next to impossible to collect behaviour change data for some clients. What should I do?

The BACB Code and best practices requires us to make decisions based on data. It might be necessary to simplify your data collection system to meet the needs of the environment during this busy and stressful time. Consider minimizing data collection to particular high-risk situations, rather than requiring all instances of behavior to be recorded. Consider having the client leave an email message, mark an X on a calendar, send text to a business phone, or any other lower response effort approach to monitoring the situation. If you are trying to complete an assessment, you may need to take the data yourself using live video or recorded video. Make sure that recorded video is shared using proper safeguards (see www.ipc.on.ca). Remote service delivery does not negate the need for data-based decision making.

**Have a Question
or Topic for
What Would You Do?**

Send it to Us!
contact@ontaba.org

References

Behavior Analyst Certification Board (2016). Professional and Ethical Compliance Code for Behavior Analysts. Littleton, CO: Author. https://www.bacb.com/wp-content/uploads/170706r_compliance_code_english.pdfONTABA (2020).

Jurisprudence And Ethics Knowledge And Competency Standards For Ontario Behaviour Analysts. Toronto, ON: Author. https://ontaba.org/pdf/JP-Standards-Competencies%20Aug%202020.pdf