



# *PEI College of Occupational Therapists Newsletter*



## News from the Registrar:

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### **AGM**

The College held its AGM on November 4<sup>th</sup> at the Pourhouse in Charlottetown with all members of the Council present as well as 30 registrants for a total of 37 in attendance! The materials for the AGM, including reports can be found on the PEICOT website under the Resources tab.

### **College Council**

The terms of three members of Council expired in November; two have chosen to extend for a second term – Dawna Woodside and Julie Dennis. Jane MacNutt decided not to renew her term; Michael LeBlanc was elected by acclamation and will be appointed to Council at the next Council meeting. Welcome, Michael; thank you, Jane, for your contribution and particularly your ability to provide the perspective of occupational therapists who work in private practice during Council discussions.

### **COVID19**

It was agreed that PEICOT would not develop OT specific guidelines for reinstating/resuming OT services. Registrants or any members of the public with questions will be directed to provincial standards/ guidelines developed by the office of the Chief Public Health Officer. Any OT who is reinstating /resuming services, must complete a COVID 19 Operational Plan and submit it to the Chief Public Health Office. The link for the template is:

<https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/publication/covid-19-operational-plan-template>.)

### **Fees**

**Fees** will not be increased for the fiscal year 2021-2022; fees will be reviewed in May/June 2021 to determine/confirm the fees for 2022-2023.

### **College Policies/Standards**

A “**Requirements for Renewal of Registration Certificate of Registration Policy**” was approved November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Registrants often had questions regarding renewal; this policy is intended to clarify both the requirements for renewal and the possible outcomes of an application for renewal. The new policy can be found on the PEICOT website.

PEICOT has published its first Practice Standard after consultation with other Canadian OT Colleges/Boards, PEICOT council members and ten (10) OTs practicing in a variety of settings on PEI. Feedback was incorporated and the draft document reviewed by our legal counsel. The new “**Practice Standard: Record Keeping**” can be found on the website at <http://www.peiot.org/board/policies-and-documents>

### **Telepractice**

Up until the onset of COVID-19, OTs who carried out telepractice in another jurisdiction were required to be registered in that jurisdiction. In late March, a decision was made by all members of the Association of Canadian OT Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) to waive fees and expedite the process for OTs registering for telepractice. The expedited process includes: submission of an application form and proof of current liability insurance plus proof of good standing in the original jurisdiction (regulatory history form). This process will stay in place until the pandemic is declared to be over or an agreement is reached by all jurisdictions on how to manage general applications for telepractice. As a result, interim guidelines were developed by PEICOT to assist OTs with the use of telepractice for delivering OT services and these can be found on the PEICOT website.

### **PEI Statistics**

As of December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there were 86 registrants with the College. This does not include the four individuals registered for COVID-19 Special Registration for Cross Jurisdictional Telepractice. Just a reminder to update your information on the database as soon as there is a change to either your personal (marital status, contact information, etc.), or employment (title if employer, type of employment, hours of employment, etc.) details.

### **Other News**

#### **a) Renewal Dates**

The time frame to renew your certificate of registration for the 2021-2022 year is: *February 19<sup>th</sup> to March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*. Late fees will be applied to any applications submitted after midnight on *March 12<sup>th</sup>*.

#### **b) Mandatory Education Module**

There is a mandatory education module, “Documenting Your Practice”, to complete before *March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021*. Like the module on Ethics, this one was created through collaboration by the College of OTs of Nova Scotia, the Newfoundland & Labrador OT Board and PEICOT.

You will receive an email with a link to access the module. Proof of completion is uploading of the certificate to the database by midnight on *March 12<sup>th</sup>*.

#### **c) Reserved Activities Regulations**

New regulations were developed for the Regulated Health Professions Act and given assent in the fall of 2020. There is now an exemption that enables health professionals employed or contracted by the Government or Health PEI to carry out nasalpharyngeal swabbing. Your employer is required to provide appropriate training to enable you to carry out this activity. The exemption is specific to COVID-19.

#### **d) Privacy Impact Assessments**

Denise Doiron, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, asked that Colleges/Boards communicate to registrants the obligation to conduct a privacy impact assessment if you have made a significant change to the collection, use or disclosure of personal health information of your clients – including adopting new technology. The assessment (Privacy Impact Assessments for Custodians and Researchers) can be found at [www.oipc.pe.ca](http://www.oipc.pe.ca) and must be submitted to the Commissioner for review and comment.