



Spokesperson's Annual Report 2015-2016

Executive

Spokesperson and ACOTPA representative- Katie Verhulst
Secretary - Colleen MacPherson
Treasurer - Heather Gauthier
CAOT Board Director for PEI - Marilee Miller
Adhoc CAOT 2017 - Heather Cutcliffe and Manon Gallant

Membership

27 members

- 6 executive members
- 5 life members

Meetings

The PEI OTS executive met four times this past year. Our working groups (union, website, CAOT) worked diligently beyond this and reported back to us with their progress.

OT Month

We hosted our annual OT Month event celebrating all registered OTs on PEI. We had a great turn out at Marc's Studio. A new initiative this year was to personally invite newly registered OTs (i.e. new graduates) to the event and provide them with a welcome package. Another special part of the event was OT trivia hosted by Michelle Higgins. Vendors, Harding Medical Supplies and Lawton's Home Health, provided us with gift cards for trivia and door prizes.

We also saw several members across the province access our banners and posters and utilize funds based on our newly developed *Promotional Activities Policy*.

Awards

We did not receive any applications for our two PEI OTS awards: PEI OTS Life Member Award and Joy Mill Award for Outstanding Contribution to Occupational Therapy. These applications are due in September and awarded in October (OT Month).

At the National level, Lynda Lowry-Rayner was awarded a CAOT Life Membership. Tabatha teRaa was the recipient of a CAOT Fieldwork Educator Award of Excellence.

Website & Social Media

Jolene Coffin has worked behind the scenes to update our website and create a social media presence. Our website is current with our award applications, annual reports, policy documents, practice resources and much more.

COTF

We are proud that PEI is home of the COTF President, Marj Hackett! Last fall our funds were disbursed to Pat and the Elephant. An application form has been developed and was sent out via email for members to submit for the disbursement of funds (not for profit donation or award to a PEI OTS member pursuing education).

Advocacy

Colleen MacPherson and Dawna Woodside have worked with our physiotherapy colleagues on transitioning from IUOE to UPSE Health. This work continues!

We completed research this year into having occupational therapy services included on the PSGIP (Public Sector Group Insurance Plan). Jude Driscoll presented to the retiree group. We have plans to further this work in the fall of 2016.

Promotion

The PEI OTS has lots of ideas for promotion of OT. One of these is to host a CarFIT session here for local drivers, possibly during OT Month.

Newsletter

We started an OT newsletter to be distributed a few times per year about the work of the Society and upcoming events, etc.

ACOTPA

(Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Professional Associations)

We are a member of ACOTPA (formerly PAC). ACOTPA continues to meet once per year in person at the National conference and two teleconferences. PEI OTS did not send a representative to the meeting this year in Banff.

Goals for 2016-2017

- Continue with union advocacy project
- Continue with insurance advocacy project
- Prepare for CAOT conference 2017
- Distribute an OT Newsletter 2-3x per year

Many thanks to the executive committee and members who have contributed to the work of the PEI OT Society this past year. We have an exciting year ahead as we prepare to host the CAOT National Conference in June 2017!

**Respectfully submitted,
Katie Verhulst**