



Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists

# Strategic Plan 2016 -2019

[www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca)



"Division" by Sara Caracristi, 2015. This mixed media panel hangs in CAOT's national office.

## Who we are and what we do

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) represents and supports those who work in occupational therapy across Canada. It is a national, not-for-profit professional association that works on behalf of its members to:

- Improve access to, and utilization of, occupational therapy by advocating to government and health care decision-makers for better recognition of the contribution occupational therapy brings to the health of Canadians,
- Advance and enhance career opportunities with professional development and practice resources that are current, relevant and affordable,
- Steward and safeguard the profession by accrediting occupational therapy programs in Canada and administering the National Occupational Therapy Certification Exam (NOTCE),
- Foster a sense of community that encourages pride in, and strengthening of the occupational therapy profession through networking, innovation, knowledge exchange, and caring.

The release of this strategic plan coincides with CAOT's 90th year. We have chosen this occasion to address the years 2016 to 2019, with a document that helps to articulate CAOT ambitions and to guide our actions as we progress towards our centennial.

### Mission

Advance excellence in occupational therapy.

### Vision

Occupational therapy is valued and accessible across Canada.



Preparation of a strategic plan got underway halfway through 2015, with the engagement of a planning consultant to support CAOT in this process. The Board of Directors of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists has now set out four broad strategic priorities and related tactics for the years 2016 to 2019.

## Strategic Priority 1

# Support occupational therapists in the evolution of their practice and the pursuit of excellence.



CAOT believes that excellence in the practice of occupational therapy is directly linked to better value, better health and better care for Canadians. CAOT will support occupational therapists as they strive toward the application of evidence-informed, client-centred best practices among occupational therapists.

### The tactics to implement this strategy are:

- Provide a portfolio of continuing professional development resources and opportunities that are accessible, carefully selected, and financially self-sustaining.
- Foster innovation and support its application in occupational therapy practice.
- Articulate the evolving standards of professional excellence in the practice of occupational therapy in Canada.
- Collaborate with occupational therapy regulators and educators across Canada to develop and implement a sustainable model for standard-setting for the profession.
- Explore CAOT's potential role in improving occupational therapy's responsiveness to the needs of Canada's diverse population.

## Strategic Priority 2

# Advance awareness, understanding, and use of occupational therapy.



Occupational therapy must be seen as critical to the viability and success of the health and social care systems across Canada. CAOT will engage government and funders in meaningful dialogue to influence relevant policies to promote occupational therapy wherever decisions are made. CAOT will also promote occupational therapy among related professionals to ensure it is among the solutions they seek, support, and recommend for their clients.

### The tactics to implement this strategy are:

- Represent occupational therapy as an essential partner within the new Health Accord, and for key government health care innovation priorities (home care, mental health, and primary care).
- Promote occupational therapy among federally funded and administered health services which encompass the military, veterans, Indigenous People, and those in the criminal justice system.



- Collaborate between CAOT national and provincial/territorial occupational therapy chapters and associations to share, remodel, and reuse outputs that increase public understanding of the profession and its value to the health and well-being of Canadians.
- Facilitate referrals from other professionals to position occupational therapy as an integral element of health care and social services delivery and as part of allied health profession teams.
- Build the capacity of CAOT members and staff to advocate for the value of occupational therapy in a variety of settings.
- Influence an increase of entry-level occupational therapy educational opportunities to address workforce demands and diversity issues.

### Strategic Priority 3

## Position CAOT as the knowledge and resource hub for occupational therapy practice in Canada.



Occupational therapy is a highly diverse profession, applied in a wide variety of settings. CAOT will invest in its role as a trusted source, to connect the individuals and organizations who are involved with occupational therapy across Canada with each other, with the resources and information that will help them in their work, and with CAOT itself.

The tactics to implement this strategy involve taking a proactive role in producing and delivering relevant, quality opportunities for networking and knowledge exchange informed by scholarly evidence and sector trends.

### Strategic Priority 4

## Foster a vibrant and sustainable CAOT.



CAOT will ensure it is a thriving organization, driven by member priorities, committed to value, and able to support its strategies both now and into the future.

The tactics to implement this strategy involve actively listening for and responding to member needs to drive a continual cycle of improvement in association operations and governance.

CAOT is proud of our collective accomplishments to date and looks forward to serving our members, and Canadians, for the next 90 years.

## Values

Integrity  
Accountability  
Respect  
Equity  
Innovation  
Transparency  
Diversity  
Collaboration



We are listening. If you have feedback for us regarding this CAOT Strategic Plan or other association work, we would like to hear from you. Contact our Membership Services team with your questions or comments.

Thank you!



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