Acknowledgement and Reflection on the Occupational Therapy Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) Task Force

The Occupational Therapy Statement of Commitment to Indigenous Peoples in Canada is reflective of the ongoing relationship building represented by all signatories at the time of publication and the collective will to meaningfully advance the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada Calls to Action, the Final Report on the National Inquiry into the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Calls to Justice, and in implementing the United Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) within the profession of occupational therapy.

As we close out our time as Co-Chairs of the Occupational Therapy TRC Task Force, it is our hope that the signatory organizations will use this Commitment Statement as a catalyst for continued, creative collaborations. We recommend annual reviews and updates of this document through Occupational Therapy Canada's (OTC) meetings and acknowledging transparency and accountability to occupational therapists, occupational therapist assistants, and Indigenous Peoples by collectively sharing updates at the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists' (CAOT) annual conference. It will be the responsibility of each organization to decide on a collective way forward – respecting each other's unique mandate and considering the shared responsibility and accountability towards truth, reconciliation, and justice for Indigenous Peoples.

To all occupational therapists, occupational therapist assistants, students, and other readers of this statement, please take responsibility and action to support the respective leadership organizations to fulfill their commitment and seek ways to advance reconciliation and justice in your own spheres of influence.

Maarsii (Thank you) to all OT TRC Task Force members, past and present, and we wish you all well on the journey forward.

Kaarina Valavaara and Angie Phenix