

12 REASONS WHY SASKATCHEWAN NEEDS AN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SCHOOL

- 1 STOP BEING THE ONLY PROVINCE IN CANADA WITHOUT ONE**
- 2 CREATE SHORTER WAITING LISTS FOR CHILDREN WHO NEED HELP DEVELOPING EVERYDAY SKILLS**
- 3 PROVIDE GREATER ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES BY OTS**
- 4 MAKE BETTER RURAL AND REMOTE HEALTH CARE SERVICES AVAILABLE ACROSS THE PROVINCE**
- 5 PREVENT STUDENTS FROM LEAVING THE PROVINCE TO PURSUE THEIR CAREER PATH IN OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY**
- 6 REDUCE THE HHR CRISIS BY TRAINING, RECRUITING, AND RETAINING OTS TO GROW THE WORKFORCE**
- 7 ASSIST MORE SENIORS WITH AGING IN PLACE AND MODIFYING THEIR HOMES**
- 8 HELP CREATE A BETTER FLOW TO THE HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**
- 9 ALLOW FOR INCREASED ACCESS TO RESEARCH FUNDING**
- 10 CREATE ACCESS TO CLINICAL EXPERTS AT THE UNIVERSITY**
- 11 PROVIDE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR A SECOND CAREER**
- 12 MAKE SURE THAT EDUCATION FUNDING STAYS IN THE PROVINCE, INSTEAD OF GOING TO ALBERTA**

Saskatchewan has university programs in medicine, dentistry, nursing, physical therapy, pharmacy and nutrition and kinesiology, but not occupational therapy. As a result, Saskatchewan is the province with the lowest number of OTs per capita in Canada, according to the Canadian Institute of Health Information.

Saskatchewan students must travel to the University of Alberta to receive training for occupational therapy and there are only 25 seats. In comparison, there are 55 seats for the physical therapy program at the University of Saskatchewan.

As Canadians demand better healthcare services in this province and across the country, providing occupational therapy training in Saskatchewan is key to addressing the Health Human Resource (HHR) crisis with recruitment and retention of clinicians to grow the OT workforce. We need OTs to be trained here so they'll stay here and meet the high demand for their services.

