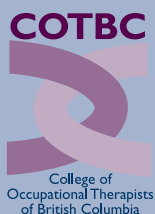


## *Celebrating Five Years of Service*

### *The mission of the COTBC*

*is to protect the public by  
regulating, advocating  
and advancing safe,  
ethical and quality  
occupational therapy  
practice in  
British Columbia.*



## Message from the Chair

Jill Rihela



*On July 1, 2005*, the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia officially began its sixth year of operation. As I sat down to write my message, I could not help but take a brief stroll down memory lane reflecting on occupational therapists' quest for self-regulation in British Columbia. It has been a long but rewarding one.

*continued on page 2...*

### **Fifth Annual General Meeting**

Registrants and members of the public are warmly invited to join the college board and staff at the college's annual general meeting.

#### **Where**

Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel  
7571 Westminster Hwy (across from Richmond Centre)  
Richmond, B.C.

#### **When**

Saturday, November 5, 2005  
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

#### **Information**

Tel: 250-386-6822 or Toll free in B.C.: 866-386-6822  
Email: [info@cotbc.org](mailto:info@cotbc.org)  
Visit our web site at [www.cotbc.org](http://www.cotbc.org) to download the AGM registration form.

COTBC 2000 2005

...continued from page 1

## Message from the Chair *Celebrating Five Years of Service*

### Did you know?

- **The British Columbia Society of Occupational Therapists (BCSOT)** began to lobby the government for legislation to self-regulate in the early 1970s.
- **In the mid 1980s**, BCSOT joined forces with five health professional associations to strengthen our lobbying position with the government. They were the associations for respiratory therapists, dietitians and nutritionists, speech and language pathologists, cardio technologists and public health inspectors. We formed a collaboration called the B.C. Health Professionals Legislative Committee, on which I served as the BCSOT representative.
- **In May 1988**, the government responded to our request with a commitment to draft legislation for self-regulation. In the interim, BCSOT received protection of the title "Occupational Therapist" under the Society Act as well as authority to begin registering therapists. The registrar at this time was Susan Bonnell (now Gmitroski), with our present registrar Kathy Corbett taking over in 1990 and continuing with BCSOT until 1997. Other registrars who followed included Catherine Backman and Yvonne Topf.
- **More than 25 years later, in 1993**, the *Health Professions Act* was proclaimed offering health professionals like occupational therapists the legal means to protect the public by regulating their practice. The first board of the College of Occupational Therapists of B.C. was appointed in December, 1998, chaired by Dawn Daechsel. The inaugural board, consisting of six registrants and three public members, had the mammoth

task of laying the foundation necessary for registering over 1100 occupational therapists by July 1, 2000, and holding the first board election before the end of that year. The foundation building began by developing bylaws and gaining government approval, establishing full financial operations and hiring a registrar, all in a few short months.

From these few historic highlights, you can appreciate that the road to self-regulation has been a long and challenging one. I wish to thank the countless volunteers and staff, both occupational therapists and non-therapists for their vision, dedication and hard work in getting the college to where it is today – a healthy, vibrant organization fulfilling its mandate to protect the public by regulating the practice of occupational therapy in British Columbia.

A milestone provides an opportunity to take stock and celebrate accomplishments. To mark the occasion, the board approved a new design for the 2005-06 validation seal for your registration certificate. Registrants who have been registered for five years have received a new certificate. I encourage you to display your certificate in your workplace. Heighten the awareness among clients and colleagues that occupational therapy is a self-regulated profession.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the November 5th annual general meeting. Mark your calendar, come and meet past board and committee members as well as current ones. I am sure there are more stories to share and accomplishments to acknowledge.

*...let's celebrate!*

### COTBC Update

The COTBC Update is published by the College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia.

### 2005 Board Members

#### Occupational therapists

Jill Rihela, *Chair*  
 Jeff Boniface  
 Jennifer Dickson  
 Caroline Ehmann, *Vice-chair*  
 Jan Gauthier  
 Angenita Gerbracht

#### Public members

Lynda Casey  
 Mary O'Callaghan  
 Nancy Sheehan

#### Registrar

Kathy Corbett

# Message from the Registrar

Kathy Corbett

## Reflecting on Continuing Competence



Competence refers to the capacity of an occupational therapist to integrate and with sound professional judgment apply the essential competencies required for safe, effective and ethical practice in a designated role. The *Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada* describe the knowledge, skills and abilities required for practice. Continuing competence

speaks to occupational therapists actively maintaining and enhancing their competence over the course of their professional life.

The college recently completed a pilot study to solicit feedback from registrants on the first component of its continuing competence program. Sixty-three registrants completed a self-assessment tool, and based on this exercise of reflecting on the essential competencies in the context of their practice they developed a professional development plan. Participants were also asked to rate the instruction guide and suggest supports the college might provide to assist registrants with continuing competence activities.

We are certainly encouraged by the initial results of the pilot study. Registrants confirmed that the self-assessment process was helpful in guiding reflection on the essential competencies and useful in identifying areas for growth. They also found the overall process relevant and meaningful to their practice. The Continuing Competence Committee is studying the results in detail, and will use the feedback to refine the tools before recommending the final version to the board for registrant distribution.

*"I found the process incredibly stimulating. The time factor may well be an impediment to universal completion of an accurate self-assessment; however, this becomes an issue of professional responsibility."*

– Pilot study participant

A few participants in the study wondered about the need for such a structured continuing competence approach. They asked: Don't we trust that occupational therapists are responsible for maintaining and enhancing their own competence? Is the time spent on doing such a task worth it? How will this be monitored by the college? Can we be sure that all occupational therapists will have the insight to assess their performance?

These are all important questions. Registrants can be assured that these questions and others will be the subject of our ongoing discussions with you as we move to launch our first component and develop the other elements of the program over the next year.

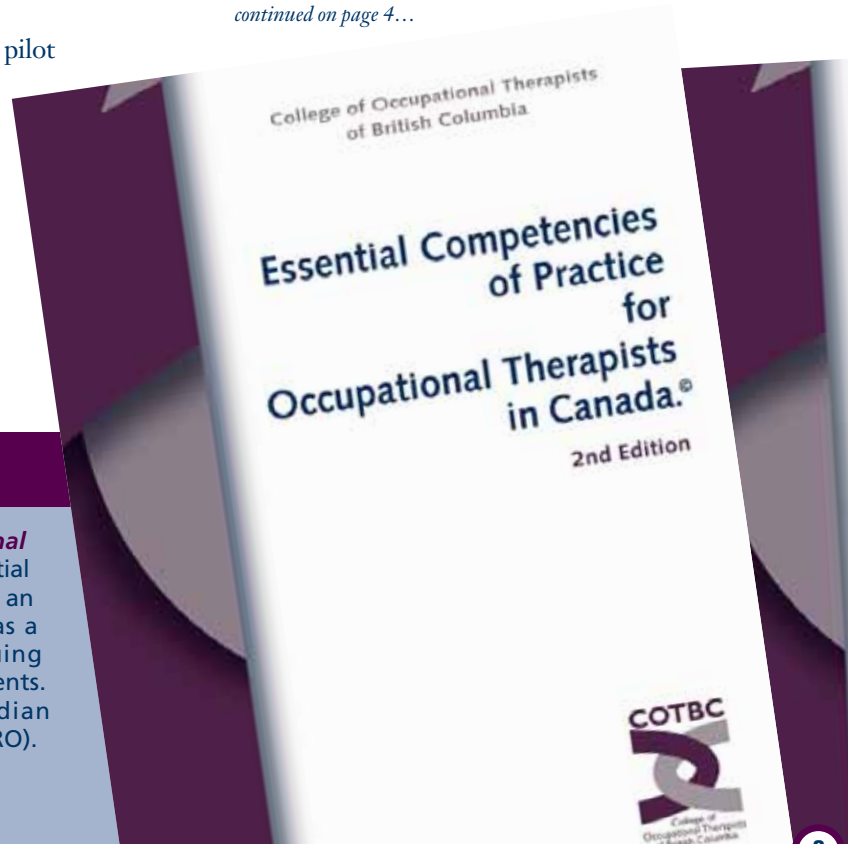
In the meantime, it is important that you understand the context, i.e. why the college is addressing continuing competence.

The public has a right to expect that occupational therapists demonstrate continuing competence throughout their careers. Indeed, the government recently underscored this accountability to the public by requiring self-regulating health professions to "establish and maintain a

continuing competency program to promote high practice standards" [Health Professions Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183, section 16(2) e]. See page 11 for more details.

*continued on page 4...*

***The Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada – 2nd Edition (2003)*** describe the essential competencies and performance indicators required of an occupational therapist to practise in B.C. and serve as a platform for developing programs such as continuing competence, practice guidelines, and advisory statements. They were developed by the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO).



...continued from page 3

## Reflecting on Continuing Competence

Given this, continuing competence programs can be viewed as a proactive way to promote the competence of all registrants. Our first component is based on a reflective practice approach: the review of one's own application of the essential competencies in practice to determine learning needs, then developing a plan to address areas needing improvement. Self-determined activities are undertaken to gain new or update existing competencies required for quality occupational therapy practice.

The responsibility for ensuring competent practice rests with the registrant.

The self-assessment and professional development plan is the first component of our program. For other continuing competence program components, we will continue to look to other health regulators' experience and research;

*"I found it an effective tool to organize my thoughts and direct concrete actions."*

– Pilot study participant

collaborate with other occupational therapy regulators in Canada; and, as we have with other initiatives, continue to engage registrants in the process.

I strongly believe that occupational therapists are committed to life-long learning. This involves applying a current evidence-based approach to practice, as well as acquiring new skills when one's practice context changes or trends influence service delivery. Clients trust that we keep our professional skills and

knowledge current – that we know what we are doing!

Credible continuing competence programs are one way we earn the public trust in our ability to self-govern.

## Acknowledging College Staff

If you contact the college, it is very likely you will talk with either Jill Langridge or Darlene Hay. Jill and Darlene provide valued support to the everyday functions that make our college operations smooth and efficient.

Jill, the executive assistant, focuses mainly on the registration process. She looks after everything from helping applicants (or renewing registrants) with their questions, to making sure all the required information is ready for the registration committee, to updating the database.

Darlene is our receptionist and office assistant, helping with such things as directing calls for quick responses, making sure committee materials get to members on time, preparing college mailings, and keeping our filing system up to date.

The quality of their work is outstanding and I know that without their contributions, I would not be as efficient in my role as registrar. I thank them for their tremendous energy, teamwork and dedication to excellence. It is a pleasure working with them.

**Kathy Corbett, Registrar**



Left, Jill Langridge, Executive Assistant to the Registrar and Darlene Hay, Receptionist and Office Assistant.



# Committee Quick Takes

Busy year ahead! A glance at the highlights of the committee activities below will reveal that registrants will likely see the launch of new guidelines and the first component of our continuing competence program over the next twelve months.

## Client Relations Committee

A new practice resource entitled *Drawing the Line: Professional Boundaries to Prevent Misconduct of a Sexual Nature* is currently being written and the first draft will be reviewed by the committee and board later this Fall. Content was developed from a review of other regulatory organizations' approaches and feedback on the registrant survey and interactive workshop conducted at last year's AGM. The document focuses registrants' attention on the nature of a therapeutic professional relationship with respect to trust and the responsibility that comes with being in a position of power due to therapists' professional knowledge and skills. By taking this approach, the committee believes that it will reinforce registrants in understanding how sound, ethical practice builds a platform for prevention of sexual misconduct. This committee is chaired by Jan Gauthier; members include Lynda Casey, Erwin Fung, Tannis Romer, Allyson Muir and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

## Code of Ethics Review Steering Panel

Over the past year, the panel conducted an environmental scan of current practices and issues surrounding professional codes of ethics. An initial draft was prepared and feedback obtained from the board at a facilitated session held during the September 24 board meeting. Results of this meeting were not available prior to press time. The feedback from the board session will result in a revised draft and confirmation of the plan for a wider advisory group consultation process. The steering panel includes members from the Quality Assurance and Client Relations Committee. It is chaired by Cathy Busby and Judi Moscovitch; members include Allyson Muir, Mary O'Callaghan, Susan Rechel and Registrar Kathy Corbett, as well as Dr. Jan Storch, an external ethics advisor and professor from the University of Victoria.

## Standards Committee

Work on the college's second practice guideline – *Managing Client Information* (working title only) is progressing well, with a draft expected to be provided to the board later this Fall. The committee has met face to face but also used peer-to-peer distance technology to discuss evidence relating to documentation and to review drafts in an attempt to reduce the costs associated with face-to-face meetings and more importantly, creates an archive of our process and evidence. This will be evaluated once this project is completed. The committee is chaired by Helen Turner; members include Sarah Bryant, Sandy Daughen, Suzanne Leach, Hilary MacInnis and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

## Continuing Competence Committee

Results of the pilot study are being studied. The committee is very grateful to the 63 registrants (number received at press time) who completed the self-assessment tool and provided feedback regarding its usefulness in identifying areas of future growth. For further details, please read the Registrar's Reflection beginning on page 3. The committee is chaired by Emma Christensen; members include Dawn Daechsel, Isabelle Biosvert, Risa Greenwood, Jennifer Dickson and Registrar Kathy Corbett.

## Interested in committee work?

Please complete the committee expression-of-interest form which can be downloaded from the COTBC web site. Be sure to indicate your area of interest.

## 2005 Board Election Ballots Enclosed with this Issue

*Please read the materials carefully.* All ballots must be returned in the prescribed form and no later than **4:00 p.m. on November 23, 2005**. Those received after this date will not be counted under any circumstance. **The ballots will be counted by November 25 and the**

**candidates informed on November 28.** Election results will be posted on the COTBC web site the first week of December. The new board takes office on February 1, 2006. If you have any questions, please direct these to the COTBC office at: **866-386-6822**.

Many thanks to the Nominations Panel who work hard to ensure that registrants are aware of opportunities for participation in college activities, both at the board and committee level.

# Fostering a Public Interest Perspective – How are We Doing?

Occupational therapy is a self-regulating profession. Our enabling legislation, the *Health Professions Act*, entrusts the profession to regulate itself by fulfilling its responsibilities to “serve and protect the public”. This means we must assure the public of safe, competent and ethical occupational therapy, but also recognize our ultimate accountability to the public.

## Public Member Profiles



### Nancy Sheehan

If we are lucky, retirement offers us the power to do only that which we truly wish to do. Given this, the college is very fortunate that Nancy Sheehan chooses to stand as one of our public board members. Nancy retired in 2001 after 13 years as Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of B.C. In addition to her COTBC work, she takes on special projects such as a recent accreditation review for the Ontario College of Teachers of the teacher education program at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto. Appointed by the B.C. government in 2001, Nancy began her third term this past January, marking four plus years with COTBC.

Nancy is not new to the workings of professional self-regulatory organizations. She spent 10 years on the board of the B.C. College of Teachers, appointed by the government as the academic representative. This college has 64,000 registrants compared to COTBC's 1450 but, according to Nancy, the smaller number can have its advantages:

“I’ve enjoyed the smaller board and it’s been easy to work with the occupational therapists who are organized and very process oriented; I think it’s part of their training—their goal is to find solutions and help people. With a small group which welcomed their establishment as a college the registrants looked to the work of the new college with interest and support.”

Nancy has noted other differences as well. For instance, many complaints investigated by the College of Teachers were of a sexual nature whereas no such complaints have been reported at COTBC. Nevertheless Nancy’s previous experience has been instrumental in helping to develop the

college’s financial, organizational and inquiry policies and procedures.

“The college is very welcoming and has included me in all sorts of activities,” explained Nancy. As a result, Nancy feels that the college embraces the public members’ opinions and understands that the public plays a key role in the organization.

“When I first came onto the board, I knew very little about occupational therapy. I knew it was associated with physiotherapy due to the School of Rehabilitation Sciences at UBC,” she said. Nancy feels that the college has done an excellent job in its first five years, and now that the registration

and other processes are in place it’s time to increase awareness of its public role. “One of the challenges the college faces now is to develop literature that will help the public to understand what occupational therapy does and how to access it. This is a long term but very important role for a regulatory body.”

In addition to her board responsibilities, Nancy sits on both the Inquiry and Registration Committees. She was also vice-chair of the board from February 1, 2003 to January 31, 2004.

The College of Registered Nurses of BC (former RNABC) frames the privilege of self-regulation and accountability to the public this way:

Self-regulation does not assume exclusive control by the profession. Legislation that incorporates appropriate principles for regulation, including meaningful and effective public participation in the process, is an important component of effective self-regulation. Government oversight of the profession's regulatory functions and public representation in the decision-making process are key mechanisms to ensure that the profession remains accountable to society at large. (RNABC, 2000)

COTBC actively fosters a public interest culture in our organization. We start with a board and committee orientation focused on our public mandate. At meetings we model it by decisions based on furthering the public interest, and we reinforce it in our publications and presentations.

The public perspective is reflected in both our board and committee structure. Three public members, appointed by government, serve on the board thereby actively participating in the decisions that guide the work of the college. A public member also serves on five of our seven committees – providing another level of public participation and direction for college activities. Their important role assists us to consider viewpoints other than that of the profession itself.

Our public members kindly agreed to provide their perspective on the college's progress in our first five years and what may lie ahead.

## Reference

Registered Nurses Association of B.C. (2000). *The Regulation of Nursing: Statement of Principles*. Vancouver, BC: Author. (Note the RNABC is now the College of Registered Nurses of B.C.)



## Lynda Casey

If B.C. citizens have a right to safe, competent and ethical occupational therapy care, having a lawyer on the board is one way of ensuring that the public's rights are not overlooked when developing processes for self-regulation. Lynda Casey has been a member of the Law Society of British Columbia for 24 years, and joined the board in the Fall of 2002. She is a sole practitioner, concentrating her practice in the areas of wills and estates, corporate-commercial and real estate. She does not act as legal counsel for COTBC but offers perspectives that are helpful to other board members, particularly in the area of legal process.

"I believe that self-regulation is important to a profession and that retaining that right should be taken seriously. I'm impressed with how the college has taken an active role in developing self-governing processes and resources. It's a good position to be in, and they are not likely to lose the right to self-govern," she noted.

Lynda also feels the college has found innovative ways in which to fulfill its mandate in a financially responsible way. "Sharing office space and staff with the College of Dental Hygienists, and collaborating with other occupational therapy regulatory bodies across Canada have saved costs for registrants," she explained.

Lynda, like Nancy, has also found occupational therapists to be process-

oriented. She describes the occupational therapists she has met through the college as "very nice people, not emotional, resolving issues through process. It speaks well for the profession." Lynda, however, would like to see them actively promoting their profession and raising their profile.

"Health care is becoming more and more important but I don't think there is a high profile regarding what OT is all about," suggested Lynda. She also would like to see the profession adopt national standards and access so that Canadians can receive the same level of care regardless of where they live.

For the college, Lynda believes it's important that the inquiry processes are in place but sees the educational component as equally important.

"We need to support registrants as the environment changes. We have to give them the tools they need to deal with the changes and be forward-thinking so we fulfill our mandate of protecting the public." This belief serves her and the college well as she sits on the Client Relations Committee which is working on the professional boundaries document that will help prevent misconduct of a sexual nature.

Lynda says she enjoys her participation in the college, meeting lots of people with different expertise and therefore differing points of view.

"It's a good group to work with, and the active participation speaks well for the organization," she concluded.

*continued on page 8...*

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## Public Profiles



### Mary O'Callaghan

**I**n a climate of increasing public accountability, risk management becomes extremely important so having a COTBC board member with this expertise is very advantageous. Mary O'Callaghan is a Senior Principal with KPMG Advisory Services in Vancouver, and joined the college board in 2002. Her day-to-day work involves advising companies on how to manage their business risks, for example by identifying their core business competencies and improving their effectiveness and efficiency. This has also involved strategic planning, and when the college requested a public member with experience in this area, Mary was appointed by the government.

"The college already had a strategic plan. I just helped them to nail it down a bit more, enhance it and make sure it was comfortable for everyone," said Mary. The risk management piece was extensive and included several parts of the college's operations. Mary explained:

"One of the biggest risks for any regulatory body is litigation which can be extremely costly. Financial considerations aside, there is also the risk to the reputation of the organization and its survival as a self-regulating body, not to mention the risk to individual registrants who may lose their livelihood."

Mary is relieved that those actively involved in the college take their roles very seriously and have established a number of strategies that will minimize the possibility of losing the privilege to self-regulate.

"The committees are representative – a good cross section of registrants from across the province and with diverse backgrounds; they develop regulations that they can enforce and programs that help registrants mitigate potential areas of incompetence."

She sees the key issue facing the college now is one of continuing the right balance between adequate financial resources and not overextending the registrants.

"Both the board and the registrar are very aware of this. They are prudent and work diligently to maintain the college's integrity."

Mary also wonders how the college will do when times are not so good. She feels that the key is to maintain a strong board and the trust of the registrants so they will support the college if tough times come.

"I understand the role of occupational therapy now as an integral part of the health-care team. It is a privilege to work with a motivated and smart board and registrar. The profession promotes itself by doing, and doing with integrity. They could be the 'poster child' for how a regulatory organization should be run," concluded Mary.

Although due to other commitments Mary has to resign from the board effective January 31, 2006, she will continue to participate on the Quality Assurance Committee's Code of Ethics Review Steering Panel.

## How Far We've Come!

# COTBC

# 2000 2005

Building a new occupational therapy organization in B.C. cannot be done without dedicated board and committee members. Within the first five years, several enthusiastic occupational therapists representing all parts of B.C. worked with the public members to make COTBC a college to be proud of, and occupational therapy a profession to count on.

Occupational therapy rose to a higher level of professional delivery through its effective self-regulation. It takes considerable time to build the public's trust and it is important to guard it carefully. Those who worked tirelessly in these formative years took this privilege seriously. Mechanisms were carefully built to assure the residents of B.C. that those who use the title of occupational therapist

and practise occupational therapy are qualified to provide safe, competent and ethical care.

COTBC has strong support from the government, the public and its registrants – an excellent position from which to begin its next five years.



# Cancellations of Registration

Annual registration was completed by the end of August and the college would like to thank all registrants for facilitating a smooth registration process.

The college is legally required to maintain a current public register which provides for specific information about a registrant to be available to the public. This includes registration status, registration number, name and business contact information. Each year, the college responds to an increasing number of requests from employers, clients and other organizations to verify a person is registered and is in good standing with the college. The public has the right to know that

their occupational therapist is registered and legally able to provide occupational therapy services and use title. Public notification of cancellations of registration is provided as a public service.

Please contact the college to confirm a person has been reinstated and is a registrant in good standing with the college. Status may have changed following the date of this publication.

## Cancelled for Failure to Pay Fee for Renewal

In accordance with the HPA [s.21 (3)-b] the following individuals were cancelled from the register as of September 30, 2005 for non-payment of dues:

Tanya Maxwell Morrison	AC1428
Susan Ryan	AE1611
Chris Winkelaar	AB1266

## Cancelled in Good Standing (By request)

In accordance with the HPA [s. 21 (3)-a] the following individuals were cancelled as of September 30, 2005 by request of the registrant to be cancelled from the register:

Jennifer Ansley	AD1524
Sharon Assink	AA0383
Lisa Bava	AA1202
Karen Bock	AD1553
Angele Bonville	AA0976
Leanne Cleland	AD1534
Margaret Cluff	AA0506
Patricia Cryder	AA1039
Manrit Dhillon	AA0335
Donna Dion	AA0240
Margaret Dodson	AD1484
Kate Dorion	AA0647
Moya Doyle	AA0880
Jody Edamura	AA0052
Catherine Ellens	AA0870
Wendy Ferguson	AA0575
Michelle Ferguson	AA0969
Carolina Flores (P)	AE1668
Leanne Honce	AA1088
Anne Kindrachuk	AA0960
Megan Lilley	AA1179
Colleen Little	AC1402
Cindy Liu	AA1015
Lou Mackey	AA0415
Inderneet Mann (P)	AC1458
Karen Martin	AE1597
Gail McGonigal (P)	AE1625
Twila Mills	AA1049
Sheri Murray	AA0702
Virginia Nadalin	AA0504
Carolyn Neil	AA1035

Marie Nelson	AA0123
Jennifer Pon	AE1609
Andrea Prager	AB1283
Paula Purdon	AA0533
Stephanie Ratzlaff	AB1239
Lisa Reade (P)	AE1643
Ruth Reeves	AA1044
Alison Ritchie	AD1538
Charlotte Roughsedge	AA0867
Jan Routledge	AA0772
Paula Rowland	AA1094
Michelle Sherwood	AA0732
Munirah Shivji	AA1102
Paula Simonsen	AD1583
Rachel Slater	AB1309
Corina Stainsby	AA1190
Heather Stone	AE1676
Karen Trenholm	AE1599
Lauraley Tulip	AA1019
Carol Vickery	AD1521
April Watson	AB1360
Radha Wood	AA0076
Lisa Wood	AD1490
Chiyomi Yatsu (P)	AE1674

(P) = provisional registrant

## Non-Practising Registrants

The following individuals currently hold non-practising status for 2005-2006:

Hans Adomeit	AA1086
Lindsay Alford	AA0305
Jacque Allan	AB1264
Kim Belle	AA0744
Sara Bishop	AD1505
Holly Blackwell	AB1330
Melanie Bos	AA1164
Diane Bouchard	AA0827
Teresa Bouchard	AA0295
Donna Bramston	AA0462
Donna Brown	AA0685
Suzanne Bruton-Toombs	AA0752
Robin Burns	AC1417
Patricia Bustamante	AA0389
Karen Choy	AA1209
Darlene Clarke	AA1103
Patricia Conrad	AA1018
Tracy Drews	AA0521
Annette Fieltsch	AA1128
Juliette Freybe	AA0190

Lauralynn Fulton	AA0851
Peter Furminger	AA0248
Monica Gemmell	AA0555
Nancy Green	AA0379
Julie Higham	AA0943
Kimberly Hsu	AC1404
Marion Hutton	AA0440
Natasha Kerr	AA1228
Charla Kinasewich	AB1329
Mary Konklin	AB1250
Julienne Li	AA0246
Lisa Ludwig	AA0213
Allison Malcolm	AA1170
Theresa McElroy	AA1079
Martha McHardy	AA1099
Alison Mayan	AA0907
Karim Merali	AA1023
Melanie Miller	AB1260
Krista Nakatsuka	AA0898
Joy Parsons	AA0927
Andrea Petryk	AA0722
Anchala Prasad	AA0354
Jennifer Raabe	AA0300
Limor Rosenbloom Holla	AD1499
Susan Schellinck	AA0577
Judita Scott	AA0101
Kelly Sharp	AA0957
Betty Sherwood	AA0718
Emily Sinclair Mark	AA0835
Jacqueline Soll	AA0787
Barbara Steele	AA0384
Sandy Steinwender	AA1205
Lisa Stewart	AA0509
Gunda Stewart	AA0081
Caroline Tourigny	AA0767
Jean Turner	AA0475
Carla Unger	AA1136
Michaela Van Vugt	AA1120
Meike Vareschi-Singh	AC1408
Rosalie Wang	AA0958
Sara Westgate	AA0351
Anne Wilson	AC1412

Individuals named must apply and have their registration reinstated by the college before resuming use of title *occupational therapist* and resuming practice in B.C.

# Update on ACOTRO

## – Our National Connection

### On the Making of a National OT Supply-Based Database

Presently, the profession does not have the ability to tabulate the number of occupational therapists eligible to work in Canada.

Late last Fall, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), which had previously developed national databases for physicians and regulated nursing professions, announced that they had received funding from Health Canada for a Health Human Resource Database Development Project to address information gaps by developing national, supply-based reporting systems for five health professions. Occupational therapy was identified along with pharmacology, physiotherapy, medical radiation technology and medical laboratory technology. The project for occupational therapy includes phased development over a thirty-four month period, from the initial meeting

held in January 2005 to October 2007, when the first report will be published.

CIHI will be developing and maintaining the new national health human resource database; however CIHI's function as a data custodian ensures that ownership of the collected data always remains with the original data provider. COTBC will be one of the data providers.

CIHI is a recognized leader in the collection and dissemination of health information, and a large part of its success is the ability to effectively address issues around privacy, confidentiality and data quality.

The Health Human Resources Databases Development Project will result in the creation of a national occupational therapy database that will support health human resource monitoring and evaluation, planning, research and policy activities, by

provision a new source of timely, quality information in a very important part of the health care system: occupational therapists.

*Excerpt from Barb Worth, registrar, College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) published in On the Record Winter 2005, COTO.*

*COTBC Registrar's Note:* The COTBC is collaborating on this project with all the other provincial OT regulators along with CAOT to agree on "harmonizing" the data we will collect and report to CIHI. The work is in the early stages and this phase is focused on reaching agreement on the data elements we will collect and report on. This may ultimately change the manner in which we currently collect information.

### Collaborating on a National Database of Education Resources

In the Spring of 2004, ACOTRO joined with other national organizations<sup>1</sup> to develop a national database of continuing professional education resources. This database, OT Education Finder, is accessible to any occupational therapists seeking resources to update their skills and knowledge. Situated on the CAOT web site at [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca), registrants can search for

resources in several ways such as keyword, location, cost and essential competencies.

Once learners have identified their learning needs, for example by using the college's self-assessment tool currently being pilot tested, they can use OT Education Finder to locate resources ranging from journal articles to doctorate programs.

There is no cost to search for resources. Occupational therapists and occupational therapy organizations are encouraged to post resources. There is also no cost to post free resources, and other posting fees are reasonable and designed to cover the ongoing maintenance of the database. All resources are screened prior to being including in the database.

<sup>1</sup> The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University Programs (ACOTUP), PAC, the Professional Alliance of Canada (made up of the provincial professional associations), the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation (COTF) and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT).

# Legislation Updates

## – Changes to the Health Professions Act

### Quality Assurance Program to be Required

[Health Professions Act – Section 26.1]

Recent amendments to the *Health Professions Act*<sup>1</sup> will require health regulatory colleges to establish a program of quality assurance. While the college already has a Quality Assurance Committee and has articulated a quality assurance program philosophy and principles, the mandate and role of the committee will change.

The amendment also provides authority for the assessment of professional performance of registrants using assessors appointed by the quality assurance committee. If following the assessment there is a deficiency identified in the manner in which a registrant's practice is being conducted, the quality assurance committee may recommend practice improvement through training, education, examinations or other remediation activities.

As of now, the government has not proclaimed this section to be in force. This provides time for the COTBC to plan for the change, work with other health regulators and research the best approach for our profession.

Also, in response to this amendment, the Health Regulatory Organizations of B.C. partnered to commission a report on quality assurance in health professions regulation. The 2005 report, *Quality Assurance in the Regulation of Health Professions in British Columbia: Philosophical Approach, Principles and Assumptions*, will be used by B.C. health regulators to guide development of quality assurance programs. The report was also submitted to the Ministry of Health to serve as a potential springboard for discussions on model bylaws and to provide our perspective on the task ahead for regulators.

### Self-Assessment Information to be Protected

[Health Professions Act – Section 26.2]

Amendments in this section will provide protection for registrants around the use and disclosure of information provided or gathered as part of the quality assurance program.

**Confidentiality of self-assessment prepared by a registrant for the purpose of continuing competence program is protected.**

In addition, information or a self-assessment prepared for the purposes of a quality assurance program or continuing competence program may not be received as evidence in a proceeding under the *Health Professions Act* (such as Inquiry or Discipline) or in a civil proceeding.

<sup>1</sup>Health Professions Act, R.S.B.C. 1996, c. 183.

### CAOT Exam Results

If you still hold a provisional practicing registration and have received your exam results from CAOT please be sure to forward the results to the college. Your registration status will be changed to full

registration and the condition requiring that you practise under general supervision removed. A new registration card and your registration wall certificate will also be provided.

In the event that you were unsuccessful in passing the exam, please be sure to notify the college.

## How to reach us

**Kathy Corbett, Registrar**  
**Jill Langridge, Executive Assistant**  
**Darlene Hay, Receptionist and  
Office Assistant**

Telephone 250-386-6822  
Toll Free in B.C. 866-386-6822  
Fax 250-383-4144  
Email [info@cotbc.org](mailto:info@cotbc.org)  
Web [www.cotbc.org](http://www.cotbc.org)

For registration questions:  
[registration@cotbc.org](mailto:registration@cotbc.org)

## Upcoming events

### Annual General Meeting

Saturday, November 5, 2005  
9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.  
Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel  
Richmond, B.C.

### Board Meetings

Friday, November 4, 2005  
1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Richmond, B.C.

### Elections

Completed ballots due at COTBC  
office November 23, 2005, 4:00 p.m.

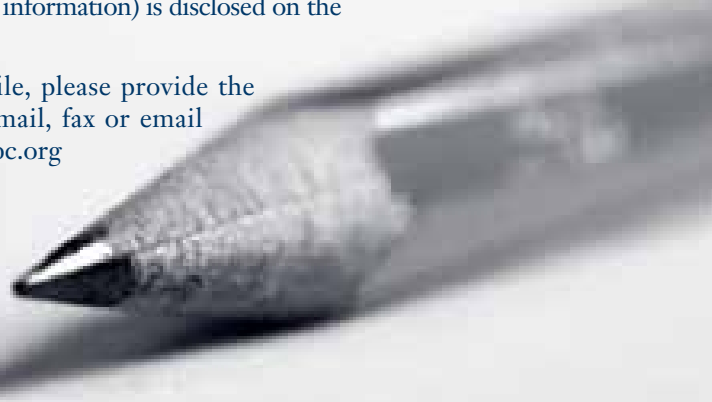
## Address Changes – Let us Know!

Keeping all your contact information up to date is a critical component of registration.

It is your responsibility to ensure your contact information is accurate and current. Up-to-date contact information ensures college mailings are received in a timely manner. Also, COTBC is required under the *Health Professions Act* to maintain a public register. Information on the status of your registration is accessible to the public by contacting the college. The Act mandates that the register include the registrant's name, business address and business telephone number.

The college provides members of the public with your registration status, business address and business telephone number when requests for information are received. If you are self-employed, be advised that business contact information (even if it is the same as your personal contact information) is disclosed on the public register.

To update your registrant file, please provide the information in writing via mail, fax or email message to [registration@cotbc.org](mailto:registration@cotbc.org)



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### COTBC

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