



*Newfoundland and Labrador  
Association of  
Occupational Therapists*

*Annual General Meeting  
May 12, 2021*

**PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Greetings members - I am writing to provide you with the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final update from NLAOT for the 2020/21 year. Albeit an unusual one, this year has been another great year for Occupational Therapists (OTs) across Canada. Our work continues to be in high demand and [despite the restrictions] our associations and boards have still been able to operate by virtual means. It has had its challenges for sure, but it looks like we've all done a fantastic job in retrospect! I don't think anyone would disagree that the pandemic has helped us all become more comfortable with using technology in the healthcare sector.

Over the next 3 years, we will continue to work in partnership with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and the Alliance of Canadian Occupational

Therapy Professional Associations (ACOTPA) to support the National Public OT Awareness Campaign, raising public knowledge about our wonderful profession. In line with other provinces, the NLAOT executive has agreed to contribute funds to the national project for this upcoming calendar year and on a yearly basis as able. This campaign will be highlighting OT's unique role in mental health, long term care, and return to work planning. Phase 1 of the National Public Awareness Campaign is currently complete and the campaign's website ([www.oteveryday.ca](http://www.oteveryday.ca)) will be updated on a regular basis. Currently the campaign is placing ads on Google, Instagram, the Zoomer newsletter, and working towards coverage through CBC, podcasts, blogs, and the Hill Times. I would encourage all members to check out the website and share it with their friends and family in hopes of helping everyone understand our unique and valuable role in the healthcare system.

Although CAOT has an OT mentorship system for Canada, we decided it would be of benefit to build a central mentorship directory for experienced OTs within the province of NL as well.



Since our province has a unique population and faces its own challenges, we feel this would be helpful from both a networking and province-specific perspective. We are pleased to announce that we now have had volunteers come forward for all OT practice sectors for our volunteer mentorship board. Please see our website for the most up to date list and feel free to reach out with any questions. We would like to send a huge thank you to those who came forward. We wouldn't be able to do it without you!

In the coming years as the NL Health Accord finalizes its plan for improving awareness around the social determinants of health and balancing community-based with hospital services, we anticipate that NLAOT will be involved for further collaborative planning. We were invited earlier this year to briefly share about the general role of OT and some of the current practice issues we face and are thankful for the opportunity to have the OT lens incorporated. On the note of collaboration, we also recently met with the Newfoundland & Labrador Occupational Therapy Board (NLOTB) to look at areas of similar interest and

opportunities for partnership in the coming years. Similarly to other provinces, we are hoping to meet with NLOTB on a yearly basis to discuss educational opportunities, resources, and position statements on any trending topics (e.g., managing conflict of interest, reporting fitness to drive, psychotherapy language use, documentation, consent, & issues around scope of practice), exploring any opportunities for collaboration.

We are also pleased to announce that the first issue of the OT preceptorship member newsletter is now complete and will be uploaded to our website before the AGM. We would like to send a huge thank you to those OTs (and students) who made a submission, sharing their passion for preceptorship. We are also sending our appreciations to Patti Moores for all of her work with making these placements happen in our wonderful province of Newfoundland & Labrador!

Earlier in 2020, we reached out to members with a poll around who we should nominate from NL for the CAOT citation award, which aims to recognize a community organization that has made significant contribution



to rehabilitation, community health, self-help groups, or provincial initiatives in health care. Our members voted for the The Gathering Place in St. John's and we would like to take a moment to congratulate them on being one of the selected recipients for the CAOT Citation Award. Thank you to the wonderful staff and leaders at the Gathering Place for everything you do for the community. You deserve the recognition! Finally, I would like to take a moment to say thank you to all our members for all your hard work and contributions this year. If you are interested in being a volunteer executive member, please come out to our annual general meeting in May. Have a great summer!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kenneth Curtis

### **EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

Our next education grant will be drawn in October 2021 and deadline will be the end of September 2021. A further reminder will be provided closer to the date. The CAOT conference is virtual again this year so we were able to offer 8 grants of \$220 and all 8 were awarded.

As previously announced, we are still hoping to have Heidi Cramm provide the 2-day Trauma workshop and are aiming for the Fall 2021. Due to the uncertainty of the pandemic we are looking into virtual options for this.

If anyone has any ideas for the education committee or would like to join our committee and help with planning, please reach out to me at [education@nlaot.ca](mailto:education@nlaot.ca).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Cooper

### **TREASURER REPORT**

Current account balance (May 5, 2021): \$50,582.83  
GIC total: \$51,018.22

Revenues include:

- Membership fees for 2020-2021: \$26,981 + \$582 (interest)
- Post 2020 renewal(to Feb 28'21): \$ 1525 (awaiting cheque to deposit)
- COTF grant: \$ 449 (deposited April 27, 2021)

Total: \$29,537



Past year expenses include:

Advertising and promotion \$2,310

Amortization \$78

Bank charges \$171

Education \$2,085

Fees and dues \$1,615

Gifts \$1,290

Insurance \$1,162

Office and administration \$1,315

PAC and WFOT \$225

Professional fees \$2,645

Teleconferencing \$481

Total: \$13,377

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jennifer Fahey

## **PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Members: Jill Burton  
[Chair], Sarah Hodder (Lynch), Lesley  
Skinner, Kerri Wells, Susan Morgan

This year has definitely been a different one for the PR committee. During OT Month 2020 we were unable to hold our Red Cross Equipment Drive or our fundraising contest because of the Covid Pandemic. Members of NLAOT were advised to make donations to a committee of their choice on behalf of

OT month, NLAOT made a \$100 to the Red Cross.

In lieu of O'Teas and the Pippy Park social event, an OT trivia night was held during OT month. 6 teams from across the province participated, it was a great turn out and a fun night! Hoping to hold a similar virtual event this upcoming OT month.

The PR Chair continues to support the work of the Archives Committee whose members include Joanne Porter, June Walker-Wilson, Mary Manojlovich, Brenda Head, Maire NicNiocaill, Jane Simmons, Patti Moores.

Going forward, the PR chair (& committee) will continue to liaise with CAOT as they work on a nationwide marketing strategy. This seems to be on hold this year.

We have additional funds left over from OT month that we felt should be used to upgrade promotional materials for NLAOT members, students and career fairs. PR committee has been working on this for the past few months, hoping to also have some merchandise for



members to order for this upcoming OT month.

We encourage anyone interested in joining the PR committee to reach out to Jill at [publicrelations@nlaot.ca](mailto:publicrelations@nlaot.ca). We often meet every 1-2 months, with more frequent meetings leading up to OT month.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jill Burton

## **DIGITAL MEDIA REPORT**

### **Zoom**

This year we are pleased to have added a Zoom account to facilitate video meetings for executive and subcommittee meetings, as well as general meetings and AGM's.

### **Website**

We continue to work with the website company to optimize the website's design and functionality. Recently added to the website are documents created by the Driving Committee. You will find two publicly available documents under "Our Impact", and the members only document under forms in the members area. Future plans for the website include further development of "Our History" in

collaboration with the Archives Committee.

### **Social Media**

This year's OT Month social media campaign was "The History of Occupational Therapy in NL". The purpose of the campaign is to promote and celebrate the profession, and create engagement on social media. Thank you to the Archives Committee for their involvement, and for all the work they do! If there is something you would like posted on social media, please forward to [digitalmedia@nlaot.ca](mailto:digitalmedia@nlaot.ca).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Lynch

## **CAOT BOARD DIRECTOR (NL) REPORT**

The CAOT AGM was held on March 22, 2021, virtually via Zoom. Congratulations to Margie Collingwood, one of our NLAOT members, who was re-elected as the Treasurer for the CAOT Board of Directors for a two-year term.

Due to Covid travel restrictions the CAOT Board of Directors continues to meet virtually. The CAOT Board of Directors last met in April 2021, and



will meet again on June 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Updates from that meeting will be provided, and NLAOT members are encouraged to read CAOT news and updates, including board meeting highlights, in the CAOT weekly email. One of the topics discussed at the April 2021 meeting was the National Occupational Therapy Certification Exam (NOTCE). The NOTCE will be offered again in July 2021, using a hybrid approach without restrictions, allowing candidates to choose in-person testing centres or live remote proctoring.

The annual CAOT conference for 2021 will be a virtual event, from May 16-19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The conference was attended by several members last year virtually, who found it to be an excellent opportunity for professional development. Some of the sessions this year highlight topics that are very relevant to practice during the pandemic, including sessions about telepractice. Professional Issue Forums (PIFs) this year include *Sexuality from an Occupational Perspective* and *Palliative and End-Of-Life Care: Making Space for Uncomfortable Conversations*. The full conference program can be found [here](#). Registration is available until

May 13<sup>th</sup>, so there is still an opportunity to register.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns related to CAOT, or if there is any feedback you have for our national association.

*The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists provides services, products, events and networking opportunities to assist occupational therapists achieve excellence in their professional practice. In addition, CAOT provides national leadership to actively develop and promote the client-centered profession of occupational therapy in Canada and internationally. NLAOT members are encouraged to visit [www.caot.ca](http://www.caot.ca) or to join CAOT on Facebook or Twitter for news, volunteer opportunities, training and professional practice resources, and additional information about the work of our national association.*

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sarah Burt