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COTNS

BOARD MEMBERS

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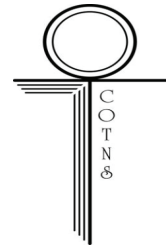
Miranda Doherty—Vice

Chair

Karey Fleming—Treasurer

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# COTNS NEWS



## ABOUT OUR LOGO

In the minutes of the May 1997 NSAOT (Nova Scotia Association of Occupational Therapists, COTNS' name prior to 1999) AGM, it was documented that a logo competition would be held for the purpose of having a new logo to match the organization's new name when the Act is legislated. At the May 1998 AGM, members voted on ten logo submissions. Ms. Rosemary Mooney's was selected by the membership and she won \$199.00. According to Rosemary, "...the logo is a modern version of the phoenix rising from the ashes, a symbol that has been used in the past to depict occupational therapy. The figure is upright, as if rising to face all challenges in its path. There are two circles depicting the head, or brain, emphasizing our problem solving abilities. The three lines on the left side of the figure were artistic only - to give depth to the 'T'."

## PRACTICE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Enclosed in this mail out is the Practice Guideline: Occupational Therapy Support Personnel (2005) which were approved by the Board in late Fall 2005. The practice committee will be developing a FAQ document go along with this new guideline. If you have any questions about the document please email the College so we can use it to help develop the FAQs. The practice committee is looking for new members - if interested, don't hesitate to contact the College!

## WE'RE MOVING

COTNS is moving to Halifax Shopping Centre! We will be in our new office space effective March 1, 2006. Our phone and fax number will not change. This move to Halifax Shopping Centre will allow our committees and the board to meet in the boardroom shared among all the offices. We are pleased that NSSOT will be moving with us to this new location.

**COMMITTEES:**

**PRACTICE**

Denise Bond—Chair  
Cynthia Stilwell  
Diane MacKenzie  
Krista Boychuk  
Nancy Garber  
Nicole Works  
Jennifer Freeman  
Paula Gouthro

**ADVISORY**

David Myatt—Chair  
Janet de Saint-Sardos  
Jennifer Scott  
Gayle Salsman

**CONTINUING**

**COMPETENCY**

Reg Urbanowski, Chair  
Karen Landry  
Joanne Comeau  
Susan Sparkes  
Mary Ellen Sullivan  
Sheila Poulton  
Dorothy Edem -  
Co-ordinator

**NEW PEOPLE AT THE COLLEGE**

**Miranda Doherty – Board Member**

Miranda received her Baccalaureate in Occupational Therapy from McGill University in 1999, after 3 years of study in Biochemistry at the University of British Columbia. She has worked as an OT in adult neuro rehab, vocational rehab and retraining, acute orthopedics, and pediatrics. She is currently an OT at the IWK Health Centre, where she has been a part of numerous teams for the past 5 years. Prior to becoming an OT, Miranda worked as a Pediatric Residential Care Worker and Program Support Worker.

She has more than 10 years of experience in various health care communities across Canada (from Vancouver, Toronto, Montreal, to Nfld and Nova Scotia), as well as experience in a geriatric rehab facility in San Diego, CA. Her passion for helping people is evident, and she is confident her experiences both professionally and personally will be assets on the Board for the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia.

**Jennifer Saunders – Registrar**

Jennifer is a 1999 graduate of the Dalhousie University School of Occupational Therapy and a 2001 graduate from Saint Mary's University Master of Business Administration (MBA) program. She has several years of clinical experience in private practice in Toronto, as well as experience as a Case Manager in the Ontario home care system.

She is currently an Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University School of Occupational Therapy. She looks forward to gaining experience in the regulatory aspect of our profession and using both the business and OT skill set in her role as Registrar.

**REGISTRAR'S REPORT**

Since starting as Registrar in May 2005, it has been a very busy time at the College. COTNS has had a significant increase in new registrant applicants since May 2005. We are certainly busy! We have had 21 new registrants (50% increase than normal) in from June 1–December 31, 2005. There are currently many new projects on the go at the College: a new website, a new CIHI database project, ACOTRO strategic planning and a move! We also have some exciting projects on the go as well – continuing competency portfolio and a review of our current refresher education program. It has been an exciting and busy time here at the College and as we look forward to joint AGM planning with NSSOT, we also look forward to welcoming new Board and committee members. I encourage you to consider contributing to your profession by getting involved with the College.

## **UPDATE ON THE CONTINUING COMPETENCY PROGRAM**

### **Developed through the Continuing Competency Committee**

#### **Mandate:**

To develop, implement and evaluate the Continuing Competency Program for Occupational Therapists in Nova Scotia and to provide structure for administration of the Peer Assessment Program, which ensures a minimum standard of Occupational Therapy practice in Nova Scotia.

#### **Committee Member Update:**

Ruth Duggan and Anne Hache have resigned. We thank Ruth and Anne for the time, effort and energy they put into the development of the Continuing Competence Program. They were among the pioneers and key players in the early development of the program. We wish them the best in their endeavours. They will both be missed. We have the pleasure to welcome two new members to the committee: Sheila Poulton (Cape Breton), and Mary Ellen Sullivan (Central). We are excited to have them, as they will be great asset to the committee. The current Members of the Continuing Competency Committee are listed on previous page.

#### **Membership Consultation:**

The Joint AGM on June 11, 2005 was a very exciting one. Dr. Reg Urbanowski (CCC Chair) gave an education session on Continuing Competency. The session generated lots of discussions and ideas that the committee continues to use in the ongoing development of the Continuing Competence Program. As outlined in our previous correspondence to members, the full implementation and evaluation of the program will occur over the next 3-5 years. The timing for the full implementation is dependent on the consultation process with members.

Through the membership consultation process concerns have been raised whether the continuing Competency Program will apply to and fulfill the needs of therapists who do not provide occupational therapy services directly to clients, but rather their scope involves service to others (e.g. academic, managers, case coordinators, CEO, directors, etc.). The Continuing Competency Program and tools are designed to apply to all types of practice.

On that note, we are attaching for your review and feedback samples of the Portfolio content those therapists with four different types of experience and practice might have in their Continuing Competency Portfolio. Please review the enclosed "Portfolio Samples" document (printed on yellow paper) and send your comments to Dorothy Edem at [daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca) or to the College.

Phase II of the Continuing Competency Program, which involves the development of the Self-Assessment and Peer Review process will commence in 2006. We will be seeking membership input on the process and contents to ensure that all practice areas are considered.

#### **Continuing Competency Portfolio:**

The development of the Continuing Competency Portfolio is on schedule. The contents pertaining to sections 1, 3 and 4 (Professional Practice Overview, Personal Addition & College Documents respectively) are completed. We are currently consulting with a graphic designer on the design of the portfolio binder. To date, we have received valuable input from members on contents and format of the portfolio - thank you for your input.

#### **Pilot Test:**

The plan is to have a pilot test of the Continuing Competency Portfolio with at least 10 volunteers from different practice areas. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Dorothy Edem via phone (460-7346) or e-mail ([daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca)). The pilot test is scheduled to commence in February 2006.

Stay tuned for further news as the Continuing Competency Program continues to develop. The committee will continue to maintain communication with membership. If you have questions or feedback, please contact Dorothy Edem through e-mail at [daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca](mailto:daedem@hfx.eastlink.ca).

Submitted by Dorothy Edem

## **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. COTNS 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 of 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.*

*COTNS Registrar's Note:* The COTNS 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. Recently, the data provider group reached agreement on the data elements we will collect and report on. This will ultimately change the manner in which we currently collect information.

## **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE**

COTNS is looking to strike a Credentials Committee in the near future. The Credentials Committee will require three individuals working with the registrar to get this committee up and running. The purpose of the Credentials Committee is to consider the eligibility of COTNS applicants, when the Registrar is not satisfied with the evidence presented by the applicant. The Credentials Committee will then be empowered to make further inquiries into the application. Applicants also have the right to request a meeting with the Credentials Committee. For further information on this new committee, please refer to Section 21 of the Act. If you wish to become involved with this committee or would like more information, please call or email the office at your earliest convenience. Thank you for considering becoming involved with the College.