



COLLEGE of OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS of NOVA SCOTIA

Autumn 2022 Newsletter

Board of Directors Nominations Announcement

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the results of this year's Board nominations process. The following occupational therapists were acclaimed to the COTNS Board of Directors and their new term will begin at the October 2022 Board Meeting. They have provided the following biographies for the newsletter.

Jen Davis

Originally from Winnipeg, I have lived in Nova Scotia for more than 20 years and consider it my home. I graduated from Dalhousie University with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy in 2006. I worked briefly for Work Safe New Brunswick followed by five years in private practice, focusing on return to work, job site assessments and ergonomic assessments. In 2012, I was hired as the first occupational therapist working for the Student Accessibility Centre, working with students with disabilities. In 2020, I became the Manager of the Student Accessibility Centre. I graduated in 2020 from Dalhousie with a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy Post-Professional. When not working, I like to spend time with my wife and our two dogs, riding my bike and learning to play the piano.

Lisa Saunders-Green

Lisa Saunders-Green is a 1990 graduate of Dalhousie University's School of Occupational Therapy. She has worked in both the public and private sectors with individuals with physical and mental health concerns. She looks forward to another two-year term on the COTNS Board.

The next Board Meetings will be held
October 12, 2022 and December 7, 2022.

Board meeting dates and information can be found on the College website.

The College will be closed September 30th in recognition of National Truth and Reconciliation Day

Vulnerable Sector Check Update

As the provincial regulator of occupational therapists, the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia requires registrants to cyclically provide a valid Vulnerable Sector Check as part of our mandate of public protection. This registration requirement has been in place for new applicants since September 1, 2021 and is being phased in for all current registrants. A Vulnerable Sector Check includes a Criminal Record Check.

Registrants requiring a Vulnerable Sector Check have been notified. A letter outlining the requirements of a Vulnerable Sector Check and details of how to obtain one has been mailed to your home address and uploaded to your profile. A separate notification email has also been sent.

The Vulnerable Sector Check must be uploaded to your profile under the "Vulnerable Sector Check" area within three months of your Vulnerable Sector Check being conducted. A valid and correct Vulnerable Sector Check must be completed and submitted before the next licence renewal period, and because they can take several weeks, we encourage you to start now.

The College recognizes that the results of criminal record screening may not predict future conduct nor guarantee good character. However, the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia endorses criminal record screening as an important tool for helping to ensure public safety. It should be noted that a conduct history does not automatically result in a denial of registration. However, there must be nothing in your previous conduct that will impact your ability to practice occupational therapy safely and ethically.

For more information, please see the Vulnerable Sector Check page of [our website](#).

Vulnerable Sector Check FAQs

Q. When do I need to send in a Vulnerable Sector Check?

A. Registrants that have received a request to provide a Vulnerable Sector Check must provide the Check to the College prior to May 15, 2023. In order for a Check to be valid, it must have been completed within the last three (3) months when submitted to the College.

Q. I have a Vulnerable Sector Check, can I send it into the College?

A. Registrants may send in a valid Check now, as long as it was obtained within the last three (3) months.

Q. Do you need the original hard copy, or can I scan that to you?

A. Registrants are required to upload a copy of their Vulnerable Sector Check to the appropriate area of

their COTNS profile. You do not need to send in the original hard copy (if provided to you); however, it should be retained if requested by the College in the future.

Q. I completed my Vulnerable Sector Check via [MyBackCheck service](#). How do I provide the results to the College?

A. Registrants are required to download the documents that show the results of their Vulnerable Sector Check (including Criminal Record Check Results) and ensure that all documents have been uploaded to their online profile. Please verify that the document uploaded to your profile includes all of the required information. Sharing your results with the College through the MyBackCheck service does not meet our requirements.

Q. Do I need to bring a letter with me to the police station when I request a Check?

A. If you reside in an area that requires an in-person application for a Vulnerable Sector Check, you may be required to provide written documentation that supports your request for a Check. This will vary depending on the detachment or police station. You may use the request letter sent to you, or you may use the authorization letter available on the [College website](#). If your local detachment requires additional clarification, please contact the College (902) 455-0556.

Please Note: If you are unsure whether you have been selected to provide a Vulnerable Sector Check, please check your profile or contact the College.

Competency E-learning Module

The 2022 National eLearning Module on the *Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada*, ACOTRO, ACOTUP & CAOT (2021) will be available the first week of October 2022. Details on how to register and complete the National eLearning Module will be emailed to registrants. All registrants are required to complete this module before the licence renewal period.

The national eLearning module was developed with the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) and in partnership with occupational therapy regulatory bodies across Canada to educate occupational therapists about the 2021 Competencies.

A copy of the *Competencies for Occupational Therapists In Canada* is available on [our website](#).



College Updates



Recognizing our Volunteers

It is my pleasure to acknowledge the accomplishments of one of our public member volunteers. I am pleased to share that Jim Stewart, was awarded the Lieutenant Governor Medal for Public Administration. Jim serves as a public member on the College's Investigations Committee.

More information on Jim Stewart's award can be [found here.](#)

Our contact information has changed - has yours?

The College has moved to Suite 302 within the same building.

Our address is 302-380 Bedford Highway, Halifax NS, B3M 2L4.

The College will no longer have a fax machine as of October 1, 2022.
Please contact us by phone: 902-455-0566 or email: admin@cotns.ca

Please check the contact information on your profile including your address, phone numbers, email address, and employment information.

College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia

COTNS Board

Chair - Marybeth Fleming
Treasurer - Sarah Teklet
Secretary - Lisa Saunders-Green
Director - Kelsey Hunter
Director - Maria Lasheras
Director - Phillip Veinotte

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