



COLLEGE of OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPISTS of NOVA SCOTIA

COTNS NEWS

Summer 2020 Newsletter

Private Practice Reopening: COVID-19 Update

The Government of Nova Scotia announced a date to resume non-urgent/elective practice for self-regulated health professions whose practice was restricted under the order of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (March 23, 2020).

Private practice occupational therapists were allowed to resume non-urgent/elective services on June 5, 2020, if they met specific, approved requirements outlined by the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia (COTNS).

COTNS created a plan in collaboration with other health regulators and health associations for private practice occupational therapists. This plan was approved by the Department of Health and Wellness and is available on our website.

The College welcomes clarifying questions regarding these guidelines. These questions can be asked to the Registrar (registrar@cotns.ca).

Professional Liability Insurance

To be registered to practice as an occupational therapist in Nova Scotia, all registrants must carry professional liability coverage with \$5,000,000 liability and a legal endorsement for investigations by the regulatory body. This coverage may be purchased by the registrant personally (AON, BMS via CAOT) or may be provided by an employer. Regardless of the provider or purchaser of the insurance policy, the policy must meet our requirements as indicated in section 48 of the Occupational Therapists Registration Regulations.

The College is currently conducting a review of submitted policies. Should a policy not meet our requirements, registrants will be contacted and will be required to acquire appropriate insurance.

COTNS Board of Directors Election

COTNS will host an election for the Board of Directors this month. The online poll will open on Thursday, July 30th and be available for 5 days, closing on Monday, August 3rd at 4pm. All current COTNS registrants can cast their votes for the two available positions by logging in to their COTNS online profile (<http://members.cotns.ca>) and selecting "Ballots" from the left-side menu.

There are 4 nominees for two COTNS Board positions. Each candidate has submitted a short bio/statement for your consideration leading up to the election; statements found on the next page.

Marybeth Fleming, Lake Fletcher

My name is Marybeth Fleming with 28 years of remarkably diverse experience, I am confident I can meet the needs of the BOD.

As a 1992 graduate from UWO I have not only remained a hands-on clinician, I have also assumed many leadership, educator, and management roles in both the private and public sectors. While a Senior Occupational Therapy and Professional Practice Leader, I was known as an innovator and pioneer with a proven track record illustrating proficiency project management skills.

I am confident that my experience, my proficiency as a team player, my availability will assist in the advancement of the board's strategic directions. I will afford the board insight and commitment to all tasks assigned will be completed with accuracy, proficiency, fairness and efficacy to ensure the protection of the public and uphold the mandate of the board.

Please consider me a member of the Board of Directors that you can trust.

Erin Iles, Halifax

I was nominated to be a member on board for the COTNS by Dominique Shepard and Kaitlin Sibbald. I have an Honours Bachelors for Arts from the University of Toronto where I discovered my interest in bio-psychosocial determinants of health. Following my studies at U of T, I worked as a caregiver for a woman who lived with a physical disability, which led me to pursue my Masters of Occupational Therapy (OT) from Dalhousie University.

Currently I work in three positions: a research coordinator at the Early Psychosis Program; sole OT for Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH), a healthcare program for individuals who are homeless or at risk for homelessness; and a primary clinician Dartmouth Connections. I believe three distinct, but interrelated work experiences shape me into an ideal candidate because I understand how OTs can bring unique skills to mental health, marginalized and research.

Lisa Saunders-Green, Harmony

Lisa Saunders-Green is a 1990 graduate of Dalhousie University's School of Occupational Therapy. She began her career in acute care mental health, and then worked at the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre for 13 years, most of that time in brain injury rehabilitation. Since 2003, she has worked in private practice with Cornerstone Occupational Therapy Consultants. Her community-based practice is mixed, and includes working with folks with brain injuries and mental health conditions, as well as musculoskeletal/aging related concerns. She also completes medical legal consultations, and, with her business partner, has built and manages a busy practice which includes a number of associate therapists.

Lisa is detail oriented and organized, with strong written communication skills. Her broad range of experience, including inpatients, outpatients, and community-based care, across numerous diagnostic groups, in both the public and private sectors, positions her well to contribute to the work of COTNS.

Sarah Teklet, Halifax

My name is Sarah Teklet and I am a registered OT in Halifax, Nova Scotia. I graduated from the School of OT – Dalhousie University in 2011. I began my career in a private clinic in Alberta and transitioned to working in a private hospital/rehabilitation facility in The Bahamas.

I have since returned to Halifax where I was born and raised. At present, I am employed with Lifemark with my area of practice primarily focused on return to work.

I now wish to embrace the challenge and opportunity to serve the fascinating profession of OT in an additional capacity as a board member with our College. The multifaceted background of my clinical experience, as well as my personal, lived experience as a minority Nova Scotian female enables me to offer diversity, wide-ranging experience, and professionalism.

Thank you for your consideration.

Important Things
to Note!

Continuing Competence Program

The Continuing Competence Committee decided to postpone the introduction of the written Competence Assessment until the 2021/2022 registration year. The decision was made due to the factors around COVID-19. The College will inform all registrants when the assessment date is finalized.

Professional Advocacy Organizations

Throughout the course of any given year, the College receives many requests that are outside the role of a regulatory college. Some of these requests include professional advocacy initiatives, communication distribution requests, research requests, mentorship requests, etc. Registrants should approach their professional association or society, such as the Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists (NSSOT) for these requests. The main role of professional associations or societies is to advocate for the profession of occupational therapists and provide important professional development and resources. Access to the resources and professional development requires membership in those organizations.

Please contact the Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists directly at nssot.ed@gmail.com for more information.

Regulation Changes

The College has begun the process of amending our Regulations. These changes will strengthen the College's ability to meet our mandate by addressing operations and core regulatory processes that are in the public interest. During the registrant consultation period, 23% of our registrants participated in this process, providing feedback.

The next steps in the consultation process will involve gathering information from our key stakeholders. We hope that these changes will be in place by Spring 2021.

Documentation Requests

The College can process documentation requests from registrants. These requests may include LMSA transfer documents, regulatory history forms, and letters of standing. While some requests may be processed the same day, other requests may take between 2-7 business days. We ask that registrants make requests with consideration for this processing time.

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Members at Large:
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Email: Chair@cotns.ca

COTNS Staff

Registrar
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Jenn MacKay-Myra
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NOTCE Postponement

The National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination (NOTCE) scheduled for July 4, 2020 was postponed to September 12, 2020.

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) is continuously monitoring health authority recommendations and closures and may need to cancel or postpone the exam. If either happens, CAOT will inform all exam registrants of any exam change by at least six weeks before exam, or sooner when a decision is made.

Please visit the CAOT website for up-to-date information.

Registration Fee Payment Deferral

Just a reminder to those registrants that deferred their registration fees; payment is due August 31, 2020. The College will accept payment via cheque, e-transfer (admin@cotns.ca or registrar@cotns.ca) or credit card. If paying via credit card, please ensure that your credit card information is updated on your online profile. You will need to inform us via e-mail or phone that you would like us to process your credit card for payment; it does not get applied automatically.

The Last Word

Have you moved, changed positions, or have a new manager/supervisor?

Registrants must keep their personal and employment information updated with the College.

Changes can be made on your online profile (members.cotns.ca).