



Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada  
Agrément de l'enseignement de la physiothérapie au Canada

# 2018 Annual Report

March 2019



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PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION CANADA

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# Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2018-2019

ALISON GREIG, President  
 LYNN VILLENEUVE, Past-President  
 VANINA DAL BELLO-HAAS, Director of Finance  
 SHAWNA O’HEARN, Member-at-Large  
 MARK SCHEER, Member-at-Large (until January 2019)  
 SHARON SWITZER-MCINTYRE, Member-at-Large

## PEAC STAFF 2018-2019

KATHY DAVIDSON, Executive Director, PEAC  
 AMANDA WALTON, Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP  
 LAURA MURRAY, Administrative Assistant

## Message from the President

Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada and the Board of Directors have been busy through 2018. We completed the consultations and participated in two facilitated meetings toward developing our next Strategic Plan. That process helped us identify that we should revisit our governance structure and ensure we had appropriate competencies and representation within our Board of Directors. We have therefore embarked on a governance restructuring process that will be implemented over the coming three years. Stay tuned for more information about that transition.



PEAC was a contributor to the national Vision OTA PTA project through 2018. The project’s objectives are to articulate how occupational therapist assistants and physiotherapist assistants can best contribute to healthcare teams and to identify actions which will assist in achieving an agreed-upon “Future State” for practice of these important team members. The results of the most recent stage of the project will be disseminated in 2019.

At the Annual General Meeting in May of 2018, my term as President-Elect ended and I stepped into the position of President of PEAC. Lynn Villeneuve is now Past President for one year and is thankfully available to guide me as necessary! The composition of the Board of Directors otherwise remained the same: Vanina Dal Bello-Haas continued as Director of Finance, and Shawna O’Hearn, Mark Scheer, and Sharon Switzer-McIntyre are Members at Large. Unfortunately, the Board had to bid farewell to Mark Scheer recently and the Governance Committee was tasked to recruit a slate of nominees for new Board members for election at our next Annual General Meeting. Mark was a dedicated contributor to the work and the discussions of PEAC as both an Accreditation Committee member and a Board Member – we will miss his attention to detail and his perspective!

The work we do could not happen without all the endless hours of commitment first and foremost by our Executive Director Kathy Davidson, our administrative assistant Laura Murray, and Amanda Walton



as the Program Manager for the OTA & PTA EAP. We also rely heavily on the ongoing dedication of our many volunteers. For those of you who have taken on the role of peer reviewer you know that it is no small undertaking: the hours spent prior to the visit poring over the Self Study Reports, the Peer Review Team visit to triangulate the data and then the Peer Review Team report that provides an overall impression of how a program is addressing and meeting the accreditation standards is a huge commitment. Please accept my sincere thank you on behalf of the whole PEAC team for all the work that you do to enable us to do our work.

I would also like to thank the education programs (physiotherapy programs, and occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant programs) as well as our numerous partners across the country for their involvement and commitment to the accreditation process. It is always rewarding to see the value placed on accreditation, and we are pleased to see that PEAC is recognized for accreditation excellence nationally and internationally.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Greig

President, PEAC



## Part 1—Overview

### PEAC's Mission

The mission of PEAC is to assure the quality of physiotherapy education in Canada through accreditation. This mission and the accompanying strategic plan guides the organization, its staff, and its members in all that we do, and provides a benchmark against which to measure our activities. The work conducted by PEAC dovetails with other national physiotherapy organizations including the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA), the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) and the Canadian Council of Physiotherapy University Programs (CCPUP); together we form the National Physiotherapy Advisory Group for the profession of physiotherapy in Canada. We also work closely with the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and the Canadian Occupational Therapist Assistant & Physiotherapist Assistant Educators Council (COPEC) to administer the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP).

PEAC is a federal not-for-profit corporation. Business is conducted according to the PEAC Bylaw and the governance structure developed to comply with the Canada Not-for-Profit Corporations Act. This structure ensures accountability and transparency with respect to decision-making.

PEAC relies heavily on volunteers to ensure the required work is achievable fiscally. We are very grateful for the support, participation, and engagement we see from our volunteers and, in many cases, from workplaces which support participation of those volunteers in the work conducted by PEAC.



## Part 2—Accreditation of Physiotherapy Education Programs

### Summary of the Year

In December 2018, Canada boasted fifteen entry-level physiotherapy education programs across Canada, all of which held accreditation status.

Accreditation is a six-year cycle. Between full reviews, most programs are required to update PEAC through progress reports submitted in response to PEAC's requests to provide information about progress towards full compliance with the accreditation standards. In 2018, three education programs completed full accreditation reviews, and six education programs submitted progress reports which were reviewed by PEAC.

### Message from the Physiotherapy Accreditation Committee Chair

The Accreditation Committee (AC) is a standing committee of PEAC and is responsible for implementing and evaluating the policies and procedures related to the accreditation of physiotherapy education programs in Canada. The committee makes recommendations to the Board of Directors of PEAC for review and approval.

The committee worked hard through 2018 and had a very productive year. Following the three accreditation reviews which were completed this year, we evaluated the changes made to the accreditation process by seeking feedback from the programs, the peer reviewers, and the Accreditation Committee members. The changes that we evaluated included submission of required forms and the addition of an offsite review by the peer review team three months ahead of the onsite visit. The feedback strongly supported these changes; we will continue with ongoing evaluation but for now are pleased that the changes have been helpful for everyone involved in the accreditation process.

The committee membership remained relatively stable this year. The learning curve is steep and it's a benefit to both PEAC and the AC when members are able to complete more than one three-year term. Members would agree that they are just becoming comfortable with how best to approach the accreditation materials after their first term. Consistency in decision-making is enhanced by ensuring we have experienced committee members year to year.

Unfortunately the committee had to bid farewell to Shenda Tanchak, our member from the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR) in October 2018, and to Mark Scheer from the National Association of Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (NACEP) in January 2019. Both were hard-working and dedicated committee members, and Shenda served as Chair for two years (September 2015-September 2017). We will miss their perspectives around the committee table.



We look forward to welcoming Uriel Pierre and Karen Sauvé to the committee in April 2019. Uriel is the Deputy Registrar for Admissions at the Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec and will be our CAPR member. Karen is the Associate Head Clinical Education at the University of British Columbia and will be our NACEP member. Both have already begun their training and orientation and will begin their learning curve over the next three years.

The committee members work diligently to ensure that the accreditation process for physiotherapy education programs is credible and robust. We look forward to another productive year. I will chair my final meeting with PEAC in September 2019, and a new chair will be elected at that time.

Respectfully submitted,

Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc

Chair, Accreditation Committee





**PHYSIOTHERAPY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018-2019**

VANINA DAL BELLO-HAAS  
Canadian Council for Physiotherapy University Programs

ALISON GREIG  
Faculty Member

PIERRE LAGASSÉ  
Public Representative

SHAWNA O'HEARN  
Public Representative

MARK SCHEER  
National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (until January 2019)  
KAREN SAUVÉ (effective January 31, 2019)

GENEVIÈVE SIROIS-LECLERC  
Recent Physiotherapy Graduate

SHARON SWITZER-MCINTYRE  
Faculty Member

SHENDA TANCHAK  
Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (until October 2018)  
URIEL PIERRE (effective January 31, 2019)

LYNN VILLENEUVE  
External Accreditor

LINDA WOODHOUSE  
Canadian Physiotherapy Association



## Affiliated Education Programs

The following describes the accreditation status for entry-level physiotherapy education programs in Canada as of December 31, 2018. For contact information and details about levels of accreditation, please see the PEAC website.

### British Columbia

- University of British Columbia – Master of Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)

### Alberta

- University of Alberta – Master of Science in Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)

### Saskatchewan

- University of Saskatchewan – Master of Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)

### Manitoba

- University of Manitoba – Master of Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)

### Ontario

- Western University – Master of Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)
- McMaster University – Master of Science (Physiotherapy) Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)
- University of Toronto – Master of Science in Physiotherapy Program (Accreditation – Probationary)
- Queen’s University – Master of Science in Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Probationary)
- Université d’Ottawa – Programme de maîtrise ès sciences de la santé en physiothérapie (Accreditation – Probationary)

### Quebec

- McGill University – Master of Science, Applied, in Physical Therapy Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)
- Université Laval – Programme continuum baccalauréat-maîtrise en physiothérapie (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)



- Université de Montréal – Programme continuum baccalauréat-maîtrise en professionnelle en physiothérapie (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)
- Université du Québec à Chicoutimi – Programme de maîtrise en sciences appliquées (physiothérapie) (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)
- Université de Sherbrooke – Programme de maîtrise en physiothérapie (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)

#### Nova Scotia

- Dalhousie University – Master of Science (Physiotherapy) Program (Accreditation – Fully Compliant)



## Part 3—Accreditation of Occupational Therapist Assistant Programs and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Programs—the OTA & PTA EAP

### Summary of the Year

The Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP) is responsible for the accreditation of physiotherapist assistant and occupational therapist assistant education programs in Canada.

The OTA & PTA EAP is collaboratively governed by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC). CAOT and PEAC are the accreditation agencies for Canadian occupational therapist and physiotherapist education programs respectively. PEAC administers the OTA & PTA EAP. OTAs and PTAs are not regulated in Canada with the exception of physical rehabilitation therapists (P.R.T.) in Quebec, who hold a three-year college diploma and are regulated by Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec. Accreditation is a voluntary process. Its development was initiated by publicly-funded education programs seeking a means to ensure quality. The first education programs to pilot the accreditation process were accredited in 2012.

During 2018, four programs were granted accreditation status, two of whom completed their onsite accreditation visits in 2017, and two whose visits took place in 2018. A further two programs completed an accreditation visit and are awaiting accreditation award decisions (to be provided in 2019). Two programs applied for Candidacy Status in 2018 and are awaiting their candidacy status award decision in 2019.

As of December 31, 2018, 27 OTA and PTA education programs were affiliated with the OTA & PTA EAP; 22 programs held accreditation status, and the remaining five programs held candidacy status. Planning was underway for the onsite accreditation reviews of eight programs in 2019.

The growth of the OTA & PTA EAP has required frequent meetings and discussions to ensure that policies in place are both flexible (to accommodate the wide variety of education delivery models within this group of education programs) and consistently applied (to ensure that all programs demonstrate compliance with the established accreditation standards). There has been a significant investment in the development of resources to support and guide programs and peer reviewers through the accreditation review process this year.

## Message from the Chair of the Joint Accreditation Committee

The Joint Accreditation Committee (JAC) for OTA/PTA accreditation is a standing committee of both PEAC and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and is responsible for implementing and evaluating the policies and procedures of the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP).

Through 2018, a number of significant evolutionary steps were completed, guided by our [2016-2018 Strategic Plan](#):



Management of the operations of the program is ongoing – some key operational events this past year included:

- Completion of the accreditation processes (offsite and onsite reviews, recommendation to and approval of accreditation status by PEAC and CAOT) for two programs. Two programs underwent their offsite review, and their onsite review reports were scheduled for discussion at the February 2019 JAC meeting. These programs were awaiting notification of accreditation status as of December 31, 2018.
- Preparation (including recruitment of peer reviewers) for eight program accreditation reviews scheduled in 2019.
- Development and review of the policies, procedures, and resources needed to effectively guide the accreditation process, a few of which included:
  - identification of ‘Key Indicators’ for each criterion with the purpose of clarifying the intent of each criterion in the 2012 Accreditation Standards
  - publication of 2012 Accreditation (2018 revision), which included both the Key Indicators as mentioned above, as well as a list of Required Evidence for Criterion 3.4, and Standards 4 and 6
  - a quarterly e-newsletter entitled ‘What’s New’, providing accreditation and policy updates, links to resources, and information sharing to OTA & PTA EAP stakeholders;
  - a series of eight online modules for education programs to assist them as they prepare for their accreditation review
- Two face-to-face Joint Accreditation Committee meetings to conduct the extensive review necessary to make appropriate recommendations for accreditation status.
- Participation in an extensive Strategic Planning process, which began with stakeholder consultations and culminated in a full day facilitated planning session in October 2018.
- Provision of an education session via webinar to representatives of OTA/PTA education programs.
- Recruitment and training of a pool of peer reviewers to meet the need for volunteers to join Peer Review Teams for accreditation.

The JAC members work diligently to ensure that the OTA & PTA accreditation process is a credible and robust process. I am grateful to all members of the committee and to Amanda Walton, Program Manager, and Laura Murray, Administrative Assistant for their commitment and extensive work completed on behalf of the OTA & PTA accreditation process. We look forward to a productive coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Bainbridge

Chair, Joint Accreditation Committee



**JOINT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2018-2019**

LESLEY BAINBRIDGE  
Chair, PEAC

SANDRA BRESSLER  
CAOT

TRACY DIGNUM  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

ANGELENA GARTNER  
Recent OTA/PTA Graduate

SANDRA HOBSON  
CAOT

KAREN KOSECK  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

JANIS LEONARD  
Public

DIANNE MILLETTE  
PEAC (Regulatory)

LETA STEGNE  
OTA/PTA Educator – Private (until November 2018)

KATHY DAVIDSON  
PEAC Liaison (non-voting)

ALISON DOUGLAS  
CAOT Liaison (non-voting)



## Affiliated Education Programs

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs have **accreditation status** as of December 31, 2018. For contact information, please see the OTA & PTA EAP website.

### British Columbia (3)

- Capilano University—Rehabilitation Assistant Program
- Okanagan College—Therapist Assistant Program
- Vancouver Community College—Occupational/Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Alberta (4)

- MacEwan University—Physical/Occupational Therapist Assistant
- Medicine Hat College—Occupational/Physical Therapist Assistant
- NorQuest College—Physical Therapy Assistant
- SAIT Polytechnic—Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant Program

### Ontario (12)

- Centennial College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Collège Boréal—Programme Assistant de l’ergothérapeute et Assistant du physiothérapeute
- Fleming College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Georgian College—Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant
- Humber College—Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- La Cité collégiale—Programme Assistant de l’ergothérapeute et Assistant du physiothérapeute
- Mohawk College of Applied Arts & Technology—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Niagara College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Sault College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- triOS College, Brampton—Physiotherapy Assistant/Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
- triOS College, London—Physiotherapy Assistant/Occupational Therapy Assistant Program
- triOS College, Toronto—Physiotherapy Assistant/Occupational Therapy Assistant Program

### Newfoundland (1)

- College of the North Atlantic—Rehabilitation Assistant Program





### Nova Scotia (2)

- Eastern College, Halifax Campus–Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy Assistant Program
- Nova Scotia Community College, Cumberland Campus–Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Assistant Program

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs held **candidacy status** as of December 31, 2018. For contact information please see the OTA & PTA EAP website.

### British Columbia (1)

CDI, Surrey Campus–Rehabilitation Therapist Assistant Program

### Alberta (1)

Red Deer College–Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist Assistant Program

### Ontario (1)

- Durham College–Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Program

### Nova Scotia (2)

- Nova Scotia Community College, Lunenburg Campus–Occupational Therapy/Physiotherapy Assistant Program
- Université Ste. Anne–Programme Assistant de l'ergothérapeute et Assistant du physiothérapeute



## Part 4—Recognition of Our Volunteers

In addition to the contributions made by PEAC committee and Board members, PEAC is fortunate to benefit from the participation of many other volunteers. We would like to acknowledge and thank many individuals who supported the work of PEAC throughout the past year in various capacities, including those who acted as members of Peer Review Teams and committees throughout 2018:

### PEAC Volunteers

Annie Boudreau	Leanne Loranger	Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc
Denise Connelly	Désirée Maltais	Jackie Smylie
Luis Cyr	Bernadette Martin	Sharon Switzer-McIntyre
Vanina Dal Bello-Haas	Marcelle McPhaden	Shenda Tanchak
Suzanne Daneault	Brenda Mori	Elizabeth Taylor
Richard Debigaré	Bill Ng	Lynn Villeneuve
Brandy Green	Shawna O'Hearn	Nancy Walker
Alison Greig	Sandie Rennie	Linda Woodhouse
Pierre Lagassé	Mark Scheer	

### OTA & PTA EAP Volunteers

Teresa Avvampato	Mark Hall	Dianne Millette
Lesley Bainbridge	Sandra Hobson	Nancy Pullan
Sandra Bressler	Karen Koseck	Candi Raudebaugh
Kathy Corbett	Patricia Lee	Sandy Rennie
Heather Cutcliffe	Janis Leonard	Leeanne Sadowsky
Lori Cyr	Siri Marken	Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc
Tracy Dignum	Kelly Martindale	Leta Steghe
Tanya Dutton	Karen McIntosh	Sharon Switzer-McIntyre
Shaniff Esmail	Kelly McKnight	Grace Torrance
Angelena Gartner	Eileen McNamara	Michèle Vaillant
Heather Gillespie	Nicola McNaughton	Lynn Villeneuve
Pauline Godsell	Lucy Miller	



## Part 5–Partnerships

The work of PEAC is supported and enriched by its relationships with a number of organizations, including but not limited to:

- The Canadian Council of Physiotherapy University Programs (CCPUP, the Academic Council)
- The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR)
- The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA)
- The National Physiotherapist Assistant Assembly (NPAA) of CPA
- The National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (NACEP)
- The Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC)
- The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT)
- The Canadian OTA and PTA Educators Council (COPEC)
- The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University Programs (ACOTUP)
- The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO)
- The Vision OTA PTA Steering Committee

It is a pleasure to work with all of you.





