



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

# 2019 Annual Report

May 2020



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PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION CANADA

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# Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2019

ALISON GREIG, President  
VANINA DAL BELLO-HAAS, Director of Finance  
PATRICIA LEE, Member-at-Large  
DIANNE MILLETTE, Member-at-Large  
SHAWNA O'HEARN, Member-at-Large  
SHARON SWITZER-MCINTYRE, Member-at-Large

## PEAC STAFF 2019

KATHY DAVIDSON, Executive Director  
MARY CLARK, Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP (effective September 2019)  
AMANDA WALTON, Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP (until June 2019)  
LAURA MURRAY, Interim Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP (July-November)  
LAURA MURRAY, Administrative Assistant/Accreditation Coordinator

## PEAC's Mission

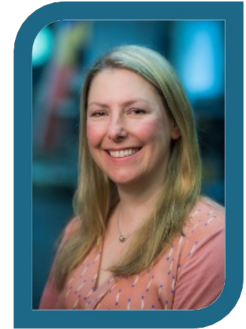
The mission of PEAC is to assure the quality of physiotherapy education in Canada through accreditation. This mission and the accompanying strategic plan guides the organization, its staff, and its members in all that we do, and provides a benchmark against which to measure our activities. The work conducted 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 Bylaws 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.

## Message from the President

Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada and the Board of Directors have been busy through 2019. We have continued to work through the steps identified for governance restructuring, including revisions to the Bylaws and associated Terms of Reference. At the Annual General Meeting in April, we elected two new Board members external to the organization for the first time as we seek to better delineate the role of the Board from the work of accreditation. The Board continues to develop policies and processes to ensure good governance, including a clearer Board evaluation framework, Board competencies, and a review of our financial framework. This work will continue through 2020.



At the Annual General Meeting in April 2019, I began my second year as President of PEAC. The Board welcomed Patricia Lee and Dianne Millette as Members-at-Large. Vanina Dal Bello-Haas continued as Director of Finance; Shawna O’Hearn and Sharon Switzer-McIntyre continued as Members-at-Large.

The work we do could not happen without all the endless hours of commitment first and foremost by our Executive Director Kathy Davidson, and our accreditation coordinator Laura Murray who filled an interim role as Program Manager for the OTA & PTA EAP for some of last year. We wish to thank Amanda Walton who resigned as the Program Manager for the OTA & PTA EAP in 2019, and welcome Mary Clark who transitioned into the role in August 2019.

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 input 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

# Accreditation of Physiotherapy Education Programs

## Overview

In December 2019, 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 2019, one education program completed a full accreditation review (UBC), and five education programs submitted seven progress reports which were reviewed by PEAC.

## Message from the Chair of the Physiotherapy Accreditation Committee

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 2019 and saw the benefits of clearer required evidence in the accreditation standards and the implementation of the offsite review, introduced last year into the physiotherapy accreditation process. The profession has updated its guiding documents – the Competency Profile for Physiotherapists in Canada (2017), the National Physiotherapy Entry-to-Practice Curriculum Guidelines (2019) and the Physiotherapy Competency Examination Blueprint (2018). PEAC was a contributor to the development of each of those key documents. In the fall of 2019, we recruited a diverse and committed group of individuals to our Standards Review Committee, engaging members of our key stakeholder groups as we incorporate those documents into our accreditation standards.

The committee membership remained relatively stable this year. The learning curve is steep and it's a benefit to 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 bid farewell to Mark Scheer, our member from the National Association of Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (NACEP), in January 2019, and our public member Pierre Lagassé in November. Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc, recent physiotherapy graduate, completed her term with the committee in September, having served as Chair for two years. We have missed their perspectives around the committee table, but wish them the best in the future.

Thankfully we have recruited Marianne Roos, PhD Candidate at Université Laval, to the recent physiotherapy graduate position beginning in the fall of 2019, and Jeff Williams, occupational therapist from Newfoundland, as a public member beginning in early 2020. I myself (Associate Head, Clinical Education at the University of British Columbia) joined the committee in February 2019 as the NACEP member. We have all completed our training and orientation and have begun our learning curve over the next few 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, and we thank all of our valuable volunteers for their contributions to our work

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Sauve

Chair, Accreditation Committee

**PHYSIOTHERAPY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 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 (until January 2019)  
KAREN SAUVE (beginning February 2019)  
National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy

GENEVIÈVE SIROIS-LECLERC (until September 2019)  
MARIANNE ROOS (beginning October 2019)  
Recent Physiotherapy Graduate

SHARON SWITZER-MCINTYRE  
Faculty Member

URIEL PIERRE (beginning January 2019)  
Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

LYNN VILLENEUVE  
External Accreditor

SANDY RENNIE  
Canadian Physiotherapy Association



## Affiliated Education Programs

The following describes the accreditation status for entry-level physiotherapy education programs in Canada as of December 31, 2019. 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 – Fully Compliant)
- 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 – Fully Compliant)

### 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)

# Accreditation of Occupational Therapist Assistant Programs and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Programs

## Overview

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

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) and PEAC provide oversight to the OTA & PTA EAP. The process of accreditation is addressed by the Joint Accreditation Committee of the EAP in partnership with the program staff and the day to day operations of the program are overseen by the Program Manager. CAOT and PEAC are the accreditation agencies for Canadian occupational therapist and physiotherapist education programs respectively. PEAC administers the OTA & PTA EAP.

In most provinces and territories, graduating from an accredited education program is one of the requirements for registration as a regulated health professional. However, with the exception of Quebec where Physical Rehabilitation Therapists (PRTs) are regulated by the Ordre professionnel de la physiothérapie du Québec, OTAs and PTAs are not required to register with an occupational therapist or physiotherapist regulatory body. Although it is a voluntary process, accreditation of OTA & PTA education programs can provide the public, employers and students with assurance of quality. This was one of the reasons publicly funded OTA/PTA education program coordinators approached CAOT and PEAC about developing an independent and objective accreditation process. The first education programs to pilot the accreditation process were accredited in 2012.

As of December 31, 2019, 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. Five of these programs are in their second, six-year accreditation cycle and another five are in the process of their second accreditation review, demonstrating these programs' commitment to the accreditation process and quality education.

The OTA & PTA EAP is committed to following the Guidelines for Good Practice in the Accreditation of Professional Programs as developed by the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC). Its current Strategic Plan is designed to meet the following four outcomes: 1. Efficient, fair accreditation process; 2. Quality improvement embedded in all activities; 3. Sustainable OTA & PTA EAP; and 4. Strengthened stakeholder relations. It continues its practice of 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 are deemed to demonstrate compliance with the established accreditation standards in the same way.

## 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 CAOT and is responsible for implementing and evaluating the policies and procedures of the OTA & PTA EAP.

In 2019 our new Strategic Plan was finalized. It is designed to further our vision of advancing the quality of OTA and PTA education. Due to an unprecedented number of accreditation reviews and to the need to search for a new program manager, our priority this past year was to ensure efficient and fair accreditation processes. This slowed us down in our implementation of the Strategic Plan. These processes included:



- Completion of the accreditation processes (offsite and onsite reviews, recommendation to and approval of accreditation status by PEAC and CAOT) for two programs. Another five programs underwent their offsite review, and their onsite review reports were scheduled for discussion at the February 2020 JAC meeting.
- Review of 14 progress reports demonstrating the continuous quality improvement aim of our accreditation process.
- Review of an additional 10 programs' compliance with CORE criterion 3.4 related to fieldwork hours and supervision, including the development of a Decision Tree to facilitate consistent application of the criterion.
- Two face-to-face Joint Accreditation Committee meetings to conduct the extensive review necessary to make appropriate recommendations for accreditation status.
- Publication of our quarterly e-newsletter, What's New providing accreditation and policy updates, links to resources, and information to OTA & PTA EAP stakeholders.
- An education session held via webinar to representatives of OTA/PTA education programs.
- Recruitment and training of volunteer peer reviewers to refresh and sustain our Peer Review Teams for accreditation.

In June 2019 Amanda Walton resigned and we lost a very valuable program manager. She had been with the program since 2016. I wish to acknowledge and thank Laura Murray who stepped in as the Interim Program Manager for six months as we searched for a new program manager and to allow time for Mary Clark, once appointed, to become familiar with our operations. In recognition of her steadfast work, Laura was promoted to Accreditation Coordinator.

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 for their commitment and extensive work completed on behalf of the OTA & PTA accreditation process. I am also grateful to the members of COPEC who I can rely on to provide honest and constructive feedback. This next year will be my last year on the JAC and I am very pleased that Dr. Mark Hall has been appointed Chair-Elect by the CAOT and PEAC Boards, as recommended by the JAC. Mark, who has served on the JAC and as a Peer Review Team member, is well recognized in the community for his leadership.

The Staff and JAC look forward to a productive coming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lesley Bainbridge

Chair, Joint Accreditation Committee

JOINT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2019

LESLEY BAINBRIDGE  
Chair

MARK HALL  
Chair-Elect, PEAC

SANDRA BRESSLER  
CAOT

TRACY DIGNUM  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

ANGELENA GARTNER  
Recent OTA/PTA Graduate

KATHY CORBETT  
CAOT

KAREN KOSECK  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

JANIS LEONARD  
Public

DIANNE MILLETTE  
PEAC (Regulatory)

KATHY DAVIDSON  
PEAC Liaison (non-voting)

ALISON DOUGLAS  
CAOT Liaison (non-voting)

AMANDA WALTON (until June 2019)  
OTA & PTA EAP Program Manager (non-voting)

MARY CLARK (effective September 2019)  
OTA & PTA EAP Program Manager (non-voting)

## Affiliated Education Programs

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs have **accreditation status** as of December 31, 2019. 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 Therapist Assistant and 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 and Physiotherapist Assistant
- Humber College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and 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 (3)

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

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs held **candidacy status** as of December 31, 2019. For contact information please see the OTA & PTA EAP website.

### Alberta (2)

- NorQuest College—Interdisciplinary Therapy Assistant Program
- Red Deer College—Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant Program

### Ontario (1)

- Durham College—Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Program

### Nova Scotia (2)

- Université Ste. Anne—Programme Assistant de l'ergothérapeute et Assistant du physiothérapeute

### Prince Edward Island (1)

- Holland College – Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program



## Recognition of Our Volunteers

In addition to the contributions made by 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 throughout 2019:

### PT Accreditation

|                       |                      |                          |
|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Denise Connelly       | Leanne Loranger      | Sandy Rennie             |
| Vanina Dal Bello-Haas | Marilyn MacKay-Lyons | Marianne Roos            |
| Suzanne Daneault      | Désirée Maltais      | Robin Roots              |
| Richard Debigaré      | Bernadette Martin    | Karen Sauve              |
| Laura Galiana         | Marcelle McPhaden    | Mark Scheer              |
| Brandy Green          | Brenda Mori          | Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc |
| Alison Greig          | Bill Ng              | Sharon Switzer-McIntyre  |
| Bruce Homes           | Shawna O'Hearn       | Lynn Villeneuve          |
| Pierre Lagassé        | Uriel Pierre         | Linda Woodhouse          |

### OTA & PTA Accreditation

|                   |                      |                          |
|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Teresa Avvampato  | Angelena Gartner     | Lucy Miller              |
| Lesley Bainbridge | Heather Gillespie    | Sean Murphy              |
| Shelly Bercovitch | Alison Greig         | Cassie Prochnau          |
| Sandra Bressler   | Mark Hall            | Nancy Pullan             |
| Dawn Burnett      | Sandra Hobson        | Patricia Reader-Downey   |
| Sarah Cole        | Stefany Kawka        | Sandy Rennie             |
| Heather Cutcliffe | Sandra Lamb          | Leeanne Sadowsky         |
| Lori Cyr          | Patricia Lee         | Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc |
| Tracy Dignum      | Nicola MacNaughton   | Darrell Skinner          |
| Alison Douglas    | Claudia Martin       | Jennifer Stephenson      |
| Donna Drynan      | Kelly Martindale     | Sharon Switzer-McIntyre  |
| Tanya Dutton      | Karen McIntosh       | Grace Torrance           |
| Shaniff Esmail    | Marie-Belle McKinnon | Michèle Vaillant         |
| Debi Francis      | Eileen McNamara      |                          |

## 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.

