



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

2020 Annual Report

June 2021



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PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION CANADA

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Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2020

ALISON GREIG, President
SHAWNA O’HEARN, President-Elect
BILL NG, Director of Finance
VANINA DAL BELLO-HAAS, Member-at-Large
PATRICIA LEE, Member-at-Large
DIANNE MILLETTE, Member-at-Large

PEAC STAFF 2020

KATHY DAVIDSON, Executive Director
MARY CLARK, Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP
LAURA MURRAY, Accreditation Coordinator

About PEAC

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.

The mission of PEAC is to ensure quality health professional education through accreditation. We rely 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.

Our Strategic Plan

Our strategic plan, renewed in 2020, guides the organization, our staff, and our members in all that we do and provides a benchmark against which to measure our activities.

Given the diversity of the populations served by health professionals, it is crucial that equity, diversity, and inclusion be at the forefront of our minds. Together, we are working to make PEAC a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive organization that flourishes on the exchange of ideas from different perspectives, cultural backgrounds, and systems of knowing.

Our Strategic Priorities

FOSTERING QUALITY

- Promote quality and innovation in education and accreditation
- Integrate transparent communications across accreditation processes
- Demonstrate a culture of continuous quality improvement

CULTIVATING MEANINGFUL PARTNERSHIPS

- Work with stakeholders in the advancement of collective interests
- Build authentic relationships with diverse individuals and communities
- Foster effective national and international accreditation partnerships
- Communicate the work of PEAC to stakeholders

ACHIEVING EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

- Ensure responsible stewardship and financial sustainability
- Apply principles of good governance to PEAC's governance model
- Develop and apply an equity, diversity, and inclusion strategy across all aspects of the organization, including a focus on addressing racism and discrimination

Our Values

INTEGRITY

TRANSPARENCY

EQUITY

RESPECT

ACCOUNTABILITY

DIVERSITY

COLLABORATION

PROFESSIONALISM

INCLUSION

Our Accreditation Programs

The Board of Directors oversees two accreditation programs, the Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Education Accreditation Program (OTA & PTA EAP) and the Physiotherapy Accreditation Program. Our accreditation work dovetails with other national organizations including the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC), the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT), the Canadian Occupational Therapist Assistant & Physiotherapist Assistant Educators Council (COPEC), the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA), the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR), and the Canadian Council of Physiotherapy University Programs (CCPUP). PEAC, together with CPA, CAPR, and CCPUP, form the National Physiotherapy Advisory Group.

Message from the President

Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada and the Board of Directors have been busy through 2020. Like many organizations, the pandemic forced us to work in new and different ways. PEAC transitioned smoothly to our mostly virtual world and we continued to focus on our priorities. A highlight of 2020 was the “refresh” of PEAC’s Strategic Plan, which will soon be published and distributed. Further progress was made on governance restructuring, including revisions to the Bylaws and associated Terms of Reference, development of policies and processes to ensure good governance, Board competencies, and a review of our financial framework. This important work will continue through 2021.



At the Annual General Meeting in April 2020, I began my third and final year as President of PEAC. The Board welcomed Bill Ng as a new Director stepping into the role of Director of Finance. We bid a sad farewell to Sharon Switzer-McIntyre who stepped down from the Board after nine years of valuable contributions, but who agreed to join the Finance Committee as an external member.



The work we do could not happen without the endless hours of commitment first and foremost by our Executive Director Kathy Davidson, our Program Manager Mary Clark, and our Accreditation Coordinator Laura Murray – in large part due to their expertise, PEAC was able to respond to the impacts of the pandemic and effectively conduct its meetings, accreditation reviews, and other business virtually.

PEAC also relies heavily on the ongoing dedication of our many volunteers. We were happy to celebrate with those of you who contributed in one of many volunteer roles to our work in 2020 (Board members, committee members, accreditation peer review team members) during the fabulous virtual wine tasting evening in December 2020, the highlight of the year!

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Greig, BHK, BSc (PT), PhD
President, PEAC

Accreditation of Physiotherapy Education Programs

Overview

In December 2020, all fifteen of Canada's entry-to-practice physiotherapy education programs held accreditation status. Accreditation awards are granted by the Accreditation Committee following each accreditation review and progress review.

Accreditation is a six-year cycle. Between full reviews, most programs are required to submit progress reports in response to requests to provide information about progress towards full compliance with the accreditation standards. In 2020, two education programs completed full accreditation reviews (the Master of Physical Therapy program at the University of Manitoba and the Master of Science (Physiotherapy) program at Dalhousie University), and four education programs submitted seven progress reports which were reviewed by the Accreditation Committee. A number of accreditation reviews and progress reviews were deferred due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Message from the Chair of the 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 Accreditation Committee awards accreditation status to physiotherapy education programs following accreditation reviews and progress reviews.



The committee worked hard through 2020, in particular to review and revise the accreditation standards for physiotherapy education programs with the help of a skilled and committed group of volunteers, the Standards Review Committee, who represented our key stakeholders. Our list of volunteers later in this report illustrates how many were involved in this important project. The Accreditation Standards for Canadian Entry-to-Practice Physiotherapy Education Programs (2020) were published in early 2021.

Entry-to-practice physiotherapy education programs were impacted significantly by the COVID-19 pandemic. Executive Director Kathy Davidson and the AC worked with those programs which had upcoming accreditation-related due dates to provide support and extensions as able. Broadly, the AC issued a guidance document to describe accreditation expectations during pandemic and recognized the impact on the delivery of entry-to-practice physiotherapy education. The AC also appreciated the opportunity to review and provide feedback on initial drafts of a proposal for simulation in physiotherapy clinical education developed by a working group of the National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (NACEP).

The committee welcomed two new members this year. Cassie Prochnau (Associate Professor and Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health and Community Studies at MacEwan University) joined us,

replacing long time member Shawna O’Hearn. Thankfully Shawna remains involved with the work of PEAC in the role of President-Elect of the Board of Directors. We thank her for her contributions to physiotherapy accreditation and look forward to her leadership as Board President in the future. Élise Duchesne (Professeur agrégée at l’Université du Québec a Chicoutimi) has replaced Sharon Switzer-McIntyre who completed her third and final term with the committee in May, having served as AC Chair, and as a member of the Board of Directors. She remains involved with PEAC as a member of the Finance Committee.

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, BSc., MSc., RPT
Chair, Accreditation Committee

PHYSIOTHERAPY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020

VANINA DAL BELLO-HAAS
Canadian Council for Physiotherapy University Programs

ALISON GREIG
Faculty Member

SHAWNA O’HEARN (until April 2020)
CASSIE PROCHNAU (beginning May 2020)
Public Representative

SANDY RENNIE (Vice-Chair)
Canadian Physiotherapy Association

MARIANNE ROOS
Recent Physiotherapy Graduate

KAREN SAUVE (Chair)
National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy

SHARON SWITZER-MCINTYRE (until April 2020)
ÉLISE DUCHESNE (beginning May 2020)
Faculty Member

URIEL PIERRE
Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

LYNN VILLENEUVE
External Accreditor

JEFF WILLIAMS
Public Representative

Affiliated Education Programs

The following describes the **accreditation status** for entry-to-practice physiotherapy education programs in Canada as of December 31, 2020. 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 – Fully Compliant)
- 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 – Probationary)

Accreditation of Occupational Therapist Assistant 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 govern the OTA & PTA EAP. The process of accreditation is addressed by the Joint Accreditation Committee in partnership with 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 accreditation is a voluntary process, the 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 over two decades ago. The first education programs to pilot the new accreditation process were accredited in 2012.

As of December 31, 2020, 28 OTA and PTA education programs were affiliated with the OTA & PTA EAP; 25 programs held accreditation status, and the remaining three programs held candidacy status. Ten of these programs are in their second, six-year accreditation cycle and another three are in the process of their second accreditation review, demonstrating the commitment of these programs 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). The OTA & PTA EAP's 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. We continue our 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 and 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.

As it was for many, our world was pushed into disarray when the COVID-19 pandemic was declared in March 2020, and our attention shifted to guiding programs to meet our accreditation standards despite the restrictions in place to prevent the spread of the virus. Videoconferences were held with educators to help us understand their challenges and to learn of their innovations and adaptations in program delivery. I am inspired by the commitment to quality education practices in light of some extremely challenging circumstances. The JAC held three additional meetings to develop guidelines for education programs that included a temporary 10% reduction of required fieldwork hours. Although programs were not required to submit substantive change reports for temporary changes made due to COVID-19, they were required to report changes which were made up until December 30, 2020 in the annual survey. This information helped inform the JAC's approach to the continued disruptions due to COVID-19 in 2021.

We adapted our processes and were able to proceed with two virtual accreditation reviews; the three scheduled for Fall 2020 were postponed to 2021. Progress reports continued to be received from programs demonstrating their commitment to continuous quality improvement; five progress reviews were completed based on these reports.

The delay of three accreditation reviews provided the committee with additional time that enabled us to make progress on our strategic plan as follows:

- Establishing improvement cycles to streamline program and peer review team documentation, and measure the changes.
- Facilitating a workshop with educators on Standard 4: Program evaluation to help inform revisions to the Standards which began in Fall 2020.
- Contracting with ECO Canada to lead our Standards Revision process, establishing the Standards Revision Sub-Committee and beginning our stakeholder consultation processes.
- Reviewing the Joint Accreditation Committee Terms of Reference to propose improvements related to equity, diversity and inclusion.
- Publishing our quarterly e-newsletter, "What's New" providing accreditation and policy updates, links to resources, and information to OTA & PTA EAP stakeholders.
- Recruiting and training of volunteer peer reviewers to refresh and sustain our Peer Review Teams for accreditation.

The Joint Accreditation Committee was able to meet in person in Toronto for their February meeting and via videoconference in October 2020 to conduct the extensive review necessary to make appropriate recommendations for accreditation status. The JAC members work diligently to ensure that the OTA & PTA EAP accreditation process is credible and robust. I have inherited a strong, collegial, and



dedicated committee which has thrived under the steadfast leadership of Lesley Bainbridge who completed her final term in October 2020 after an illustrious career and long association with accreditation. In 2020 we also said farewell to valued COPEC member Karen Koseck and CAOT member Angelena Gartner yet welcomed Sean Murphy as the new COPEC member, Kathryn Tansley as our private educator member, and Keerthan Sritharan as our recent OTA & PTA graduate. I am grateful to all JAC members for their commitment and extensive work completed on behalf of the OTA & PTA accreditation process. It has also been my pleasure to work with the educator members of COPEC who I can rely on to provide honest and constructive feedback on our processes and suggestions for improvements.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Hall, PT, PhD

Chair, Joint Accreditation Committee

JOINT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2020

LESLEY BAINBRIDGE, PT
Chair (until October 2, 2020)

MARK HALL, PT
PEAC (incoming Chair)

KATHY CORBETT, OT
CAOT

CATHY CUDDINGTON, PT
PEAC (Regulatory)

TRACY DIGNUM, PT
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

ANGELENA GARTNER, OTA
CAOT

JANIS LEONARD
Public

KAREN KOSECK, OT (until Feb 2020)
SEAN MURPHY, OT (beginning Oct 2020)
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

KEERTHAN SRITHARAN, OTA/PTA
Recent Graduate (beginning Oct 2020)

KATHRYN TANSLEY, PT
Private Educator (beginning Oct 2020)

KATHY DAVIDSON, PT
PEAC Liaison (non-voting)

ALISON DOUGLAS, OT
CAOT Liaison (non-voting)

Affiliated Education Programs

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs have **accreditation status** as of December 31, 2020. 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 (5)

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

Ontario (13)

- Centennial College—Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Collège Boréal—Programme Assistant de l’ergothérapeute et Assistant du physiothérapeute
- Durham College—Occupational Therapist Assistant/Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- 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, 2020. For contact information please see the OTA & PTA EAP website.

Alberta (1)

- NorQuest College—Interdisciplinary Therapy Assistant Program

Nova Scotia (1)

- 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 2020:

PEAC

Michael Chan	Dianne Millette	Sharon Switzer-McIntyre
Vanina Dal Bello-Haas	Bill Ng	Shenda Tanchak
Alison Greig	Shawna O'Hearn	Lynn Villeneuve
Mark Hall	Uriel Pierre	
Patricia Lee	Sandy Rennie	

PT Accreditation

Sara Abassbhay	Winta Desta	Shawna O'Hearn
Lisa Arcobelli	Élise Duchesne	Sarah Oosman
Anita Ashton	Priscilla Flett	Lissa Pacheco-Brousseau
Lesley Bainbridge	Amanda Fortin	Uriel Pierre
Charles Sèbiyo Batcho	Moni Fricke	Dan Pringle
Courtney Bean	Laura Galiana	Cassie Prochnau
Allana Beavis	Katie Gasparelli	Sandy Rennie
Jennifer Billeck	Alison Greig	Julian Roach
Tracy Blake	Simone Gruenig	Marianne Roos
Andréanne Blanchette	Bruce Holmes	Robin Roots
Joni Boyd	Najih Ismail,	Bryce Rudland
Lori Brady	Mia Legato	Karen Sauve
Victor Brittain	Leanne Loranger	Meredith Smith
Aaron Clarke	Stephanie Lurch	Sharon Switzer-McIntyre
Denise Connelly	Bernadette Martin	Isabelle Verret
Donovan Cooper	Hugo Massé-Alarie	Lynn Villeneuve
Vanina Dal Bello-Haas	Alisha Morgan	Jeff Williams
Suzanne Daneault	Stephanie Nixon	

OTA & PTA Accreditation

Teresa Avvampato	Alison Greig	Sean Murphy
Catherine Backman	Mark Hall	Susan Paul
Lesley Bainbridge	Stefany Kawka	Cassie Prochnau
Shelly Bercovitch	Carmen Kimoto	Venkadesan Rajendran
Sandra Bressler	Karen Koseck	Patricia Reader-Downey
Dawn Burnett	Sandra Lamb	Sandy Rennie
Sarah Cole	Julie Langelier	Hélène Sabourin
Kathy Corbett	Patricia Lee	Andrea Sicoli
Cathy Cuddington	Janis Leonard	Geneviève Sirois-Leclerc
Heather Cutcliffe	Nicola MacNaughton	Darrell Skinner
Tracy Dignum	Claudia Martin	Keerthan Sritharan
Alison Douglas	Kelly Martindale	Jennifer Stephenson
Dona Drynan	Karen McIntosh	Kathryn Tansley
Shaniff Esmail	Marie-Belle McKinnon	Grace Torrance
Debi Francis	Eileen McNamara	Michèle Vaillant
Angelena Gartner	Louise Middleton	Allison Watts
Heather Gillespie	Lucy Miller	Jeff Williams

Partnerships

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

- The Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada (AAAC)
- The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO)
- The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy University Programs (ACOTUP)
- The Black Physiotherapy Association (BPTA)
- The Canadian Council of Physiotherapy University Programs (CCPUP)
- The Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (CAPR)
- The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA)
- The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT)
- The Canadian OTA and PTA Educators Council (COPEC)
- The Indigenous Health Sub-Committee (IHS) of the Global Health Division (GHD) of CPA
- The National Physiotherapist Assistant Assembly (NPAA) of CPA
- The National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy (NACEP)

It is a pleasure to work with all of you.

