



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

# 2023 Annual Report

June 2024



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PHYSIOTHERAPY EDUCATION ACCREDITATION CANADA

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# Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023

DEBI FRANCIS, President  
SHAWNA O’HEARN, Past President  
BILL NG, Director of Finance  
DEB PALMER, Member-at-Large  
URIEL PIERRE, Member-at-Large  
MICHAEL STEWART, Member-at-Large

## PEAC STAFF 2023

LISA ARCOBELLI, Executive Director  
SUZANNE DANEULT, Co-Executive Director (August 2023 until November 2023)  
KATHLEEN RAUM, Program Manager, OTA & PTA EAP  
MEGAN OGLE, Administrative Assistant

## 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 health professionals and 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 (PEAC). 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

In 2023, PEAC remained committed to achieving excellence in health professional education through accreditation. Our team of dedicated staff and over 100 volunteers embody passion, reliability and compassion, reflecting our deep commitment to the health professions accreditation community. The Board led with conviction, collaboration, and accountability, making decisions that aligned with our mission and never wavered in their commitment.

We deepened our engagement with a culture of belonging where everyone feels valued through the co-creation of community guidelines.

We are grateful for the contributions of Suzanne Daneault, who joined Lisa Arcobelli as Co-Executive Director in 2023. At the end of the year, we bid farewell to Suzanne. We celebrated the significant contributions of Dianne Millette, who stepped down from the PEAC Board of Directors, and welcomed Deb Palmer, who brings fresh perspectives, insight, and financial acumen to the Board.

We achieved several milestones in accreditation, including the Standards Interpretation Working Group reaching consensus on interpretation of Criterion 5.4 and Criterion 5.5 of the 2020 Standards. The working group developed the *Guidance Document for the 2020 Standards*, which was followed by training workshops for Peer Review Team members, Accreditation Committee members, and physiotherapy education program faculty and staff.

As we remained committed to transformative systems change and social justice, we continued to work toward embedding social justice within physiotherapy accreditation and education, supported by funding from the Heritage Community Support, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Initiatives program. Our work in this area will continue to be a priority, building and sustaining partnerships and developing an organizational social justice strategy.

I am grateful for the opportunity to share the 2023 Annual Report. We will continue to work together to build on our successes and seek new growth opportunities. Our dedication to excellence and our commitment to transformative systems change will continue to empower us to achieve our mission to serve the health professions accreditation community.



Respectfully submitted,

Debi Francis, DSc, MS, OT Reg. (Ont.)  
President, PEAC

# Accreditation of Physiotherapy Education Programs

## Overview

In December 2023, 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 2023, three education programs completed full accreditation reviews (McGill University, l'Université du Québec à Chicoutimi, and l'Université de Montréal). Seven education programs submitted progress reports which were reviewed by the Accreditation Committee.

## Message from the Chair of the Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee is a standing committee of PEAC and is responsible for implementing and evaluating policies and procedures related to the accreditation of physiotherapy education programs in Canada. The committee grants accreditation status to physiotherapy education programs following accreditation reviews and progress reviews.

In 2023, the Accreditation Committee held one in-person meeting in Montréal and three virtually. Committee members also participated in two interactive workshops on concepts related to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion. These workshops supported committee members in fostering inclusive processes within committee interactions and in developing capacity to support implementation of Criteria 5.4 and 5.5 of the *2020 Accreditation Standards*.

In 2023, the Accreditation Committee submitted three policy revision recommendations to the Board of Directors (ACC-01 Accreditation Decisions, ACC-04 Substantive Change, and ACC-05 Distributed Education). Committee representation also contributed to a national consultation process regarding evidence requirements for Criterion 4.3 of the *2020 Accreditation Standards*. In August 2023, the remaining measures implemented to support education programs during the covid-19 pandemic, related to substantive change reporting requirements and student clinical education experience requirements, were lifted.

In the fall of 2023, the Accreditation Committee welcomed Anna-Marie Nielsen as Additional Member. Anna-Marie replaced Marianne Roos, who stepped down after four years of service, including having held the office of committee Chair.

Accreditation Committee members are committed to ensuring that the accreditation process for physiotherapy education programs remains robust, consistent and reliable. The upcoming year 2024 will





be busy with four accreditation reviews and two focused reviews, in addition to a working group reviewing the accreditation process for distributed education.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Debigaré, PT, PhD  
Chair, Accreditation Committee

PHYSIOTHERAPY ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2023

RICHARD DEBIGARÉ (Chair)  
Additional Member

ÉLISE DUCHESNE (Vice-Chair)  
Faculty Member

LINDSAY BEAVERS  
Faculty Member

GORDON GRIFFITH  
External Accreditor

KATE GROSWEINER  
Canadian Physiotherapy Association

MERCERINA (MYRENE) LYCHEK  
Public Member

OLIVIER PRÉMONT  
Recent Physiotherapy Graduate Member

CATHERINE (CASSIE) PROCHNAU  
Public Member

MARIANNE ROOS (until June 2023)  
ANNA-MARIE NIELSEN (beginning September 2023)  
Additional Member

ROBIN ROOTS  
National Association for Clinical Education in Physiotherapy

JASON VOGELSANG  
Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators

SARAH WOJKOWSKI  
Canadian Council of Physiotherapy University Programs

## Affiliated Education Programs

The following describes the **accreditation status** for entry-to-practice physiotherapy education programs in Canada as of December 31, 2023. 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 – Probationary)
- 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 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 OTA and PTA 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 (JAC) 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 some 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 Physiotherapy Technologists (Phys. T.) 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 and PTA education programs can provide the public, employers, and students with assurance of quality. This was one of the reasons publicly funded OTA and 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, 2023, 25 OTA & PTA education programs were affiliated with the OTA & PTA EAP; 23 programs held accreditation status, and two programs held candidacy status. Sixteen of these programs were in their second, six-year accreditation cycle, 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. The committee continues its work towards excellence in accreditation for OTA & PTA programs and has had another productive year.

Most notably is the approval by the CAOT and PEAC Boards of Directors of the 2023 Accreditation Standards. This is a great achievement and we have made progress in streamlining and improving the clarity of the accreditation standards. I am grateful, in particular, to the Standards Revisions Subcommittee who provided their expertise and experience in crafting these revised standards in collaboration with our consultants ECO Canada, and to the members of the JAC and OTA & PTA EAP staff who provided valuable feedback in refining the standards. The standards were circulated to OTA & PTA educators and other partners across the country for feedback and we appreciate the engagement and input that have contributed to the refinement and improvement of the standards. Accreditation is a substantial undertaking for OTA & PTA programs, and I am confident that these revised standards will streamline the process for all partners in the accreditation process.

In 2023 we reverted to in-person onsite accreditation reviews with three programs undergoing full accreditation reviews and seven programs submitted progress reports demonstrating their continued quality assurance processes and program improvements. A new education program was awarded candidacy status. It was a busy year for the JAC and our accredited programs.

Other highlights for 2023 for the OTA & PTA EAP and JAC include:

- Continued work on JAC policies and procedures to improve clarity, timeliness and efficiencies in our processes.
- The OTA & PTA EAP 2019-2024 Strategic Plan was extended for an additional three years.
- Guidance documents to education programs.
- The waiving of substantive change reports related to online delivery was extended until August 31, 2023.

We bid farewell to Cathy Cuddington (PT) who completed her JAC term in 2023. Thank you, Cathy, for your thoughtful engagement and significant contributions to the JAC. Cathy was a PEAC/regulator representative on the committee who, in addition to her many contributions to the JAC discussions, brought a background in policy and regulation to bear in reviewing JAC policies and procedures. Thank you, Cathy.

We welcomed two new members to the JAC in 2023. Chris Smerdon (PT) joined the committee as the PEAC/regulator representative. Sandra Lamb joined the JAC as an experienced OTA/PTA. Chris and Sandra's respective experience and expertise has brought valuable insights and recommendations.

I am grateful for the engagement and input from our OTA & PTA education community this past year, and I appreciate the participation and commitment of the JAC members and OTA & PTA EAP staff who strive for excellence in OTA & PTA accreditation.



Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Hall, PT, PhD  
Chair, Joint Accreditation Committee

## JOINT ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2022

MARK HALL, PT (Chair)  
PEAC

KATHY CORBETT, OT (Chair Designate)  
CAOT

CATHY CUDDINGTON, PT (until March 2023)  
CHRISTINE (CHRIS) SMERDON, PT (beginning March 2023)  
PEAC (Regulatory)

TRACY DIGNUM, PT  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

ELISE GUEST  
Public

STEFANY KAWKA, OT  
CAOT

SANDRA LAMB  
OTA/PTA

SEAN MURPHY, OT  
OTA/PTA Educator – COPEC

KATHRYN TANSLEY, PT  
OTA/PTA Educator – Private College

ALISON DOUGLAS, OT  
CAOT Staff Liaison (non-voting)

LISA ARCOBELLI, PT (until August 2023)  
SUZANNE DANEAUULT, Dt.P (August 2023 until November 2023)  
PEAC Staff Liaison (non-voting)



## Affiliated Education Programs

The following occupational therapist assistant and physiotherapist assistant education programs held **accreditation status** as of December 31, 2023. 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—Interdisciplinary Therapy Assistant Program
- Red Deer Polytechnic–Occupational and Physical Therapist Assistant Program
- SAIT Polytechnic–Rehabilitation Therapy Assistant Program

### Ontario (11)

- 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
- Mohawk College of Applied Arts & Technology–Occupational Therapist Assistant and Physiotherapist Assistant Program
- Niagara 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 program held **candidacy status** as of December 31, 2023. For contact information please see the OTA & PTA EAP website.

### Alberta (1)

- Bow Valley College – Interdisciplinary Therapy Assistant Diploma Program

### 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 2023:

### PEAC

Michael Chan

Debi Francis

Mark Hall

Janis Leonard

Dianne Millette

Bill Ng

Shawna O’Hearn

Deb Palmer

Denis Pelletier

Uriel Pierre

Cassie Prochnau

Michael Stewart

Sharon Switzer-McIntyre

Lynn Villeneuve

### PT Accreditation

Zeina Abu-Jurji

Lesley Bainbridge

Debra Beach Ducharme

Lindsay Beavers

Joni Boyd

Victor Brittain

Catherine Brodrique-Boisvert

Zachary Chan

Sonia Chaudhary

Denise Connelly

Hélène Corriveau

Cathy Cuddington

Suzanne Daneault

Richard Debigaré

Jasdeep Dhir

Élise Duchesne

Frédéric Duguay

Shannon Field

Mary-Catherine Fraser Saxena

Heather Gillis

Alison Greig

Gordon Griffith

Kate Grosweiner

Simone Gruenig

Margaret Hart

Bruce Holmes

Leanne Loranger

Stephanie Lurch

Myrene Lyчек

Nicole Marquis

Anna-Marie Nielsen

Martin Porier

Maira Prado Landaeta

Olivier Prémont

Cassie Prochnau

Laurie Proulx

Marianne Roos

Robin Roots

Sharon Switzer-McIntyre

Elizabeth Taylor

Yannick Tousignant-Laflamme

Lynn Villeneuve

Jason Vogelsang

Sarah Wojkowski

Marlene Wyatt

## OTA & PTA Accreditation

Teresa Avvampato  
Lesley Bainbridge  
Dawn Burnett  
Debra Cooper  
Kathy Corbett  
Cathy Cuddington  
Heather Cutcliffe  
Suzanne Daneault  
Tracy Dignum  
Alison Douglas  
Donna Drynan  
Debi Francis  
Elise Guest

Mark Hall  
Claire Hochfeld  
Stefany Kawka  
Carmen Kimoto  
Sandra Lamb  
Pierre Lagessé  
Janis Leonard  
Reta MacDonald  
Kelly Martindale  
Marie-Belle McKinnon  
Sarah Morrison  
Sean Murphy  
Shawna O’Hearn

Susan Paul  
Caren Plischke  
Deryck Pollard  
Cassie Prochnau  
Nancy Pullan  
Venkadesan Rajendran  
Hélène Sabourin  
Chris Smerdon  
Sharon Switzer-McIntyre  
Michèle Vaillant  
Phillip Wendt

## 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)
- The Queer Physiotherapist Collective (QPC)

It is a pleasure to work with all of you.



