

**ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN OCCUPATIONAL  
THERAPY REGULATORY ORGANIZATIONS**

*Mutual Recognition Agreement*

*Association of Canadian  
Occupational Therapy  
Regulatory Organizations*

***May 2006***

# Mutual Recognition Agreement

## 1.0 GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

### 1.1 Signatories

This mutual recognition agreement (the “agreement”) is made between the provincial regulatory organizations for Occupational Therapists named at the end of this document, and hereafter referred to as the signatories.

### 1.2 Resolution

The signatories are committed to the implementation of this agreement. This agreement remains in force until replaced by any further written agreement, even in circumstances where one or more signatories have withdrawn. This agreement will be reviewed periodically according to paragraph 5.3 of the agreement or at the request of any one signatory.

### 1.3 Purpose

This agreement, including set schedules, is set out to comply with the obligation of the signatories under the Agreement on Internal Trade, Chapter 7 (Labour Mobility). The purpose is to establish the conditions under which an Occupational Therapist who is licensed/registered in one provincial jurisdiction will have his/her qualifications recognized in another provincial jurisdiction that is a signatory to this agreement.

### 1.4 Definitions

*“licensure/registration”:*

The authorization conferred on a registrant by the regulating organization to practice the profession in its jurisdiction. Both terms are used interchangeably in this document.

*“originating jurisdiction”:*

The Province in which the occupational therapist is registered by the regulatory organization having legislative authority to regulate practice within that province.

*“receiving jurisdiction”:*

The province in which the occupational therapist seeks to be authorized to practise occupational therapy pursuant to the agreement.

*“regulatory organization”:*

The College/Board/Association/Ordre authorized by statute to regulate occupational therapy practice.

*“scope of practice”:*

The range of occupational therapy activities/tasks which would be considered by the regulatory organization in each province to be within its legal jurisdiction.

*“unrestricted practice certificate”:*

A current authorization to practise as an occupational therapist in the originating jurisdiction without conditions or restrictions except those imposed on all registrants. The certificates recognized under this definition are listed in Schedule 4.

*“agreement”:*

Refers to this document; The Mutual Recognition Agreement

## 2.0 TERMS & CONDITIONS

### 2.1 Whereas:

2.1.1 this agreement does not modify the authority of each provincial Regulatory Organization to set standards and requirements;

2.1.2 the signatories have determined a high level of commonality with respect to scope of practice;

2.1.3 it is further agreed and understood that threshold levels of competence and public safety in the practice of occupational therapy must be established, maintained and upheld by regulators to ensure protection of the public;

2.1.4 the signatories recognize that there are different paths to achieve the threshold competence levels for the practice of occupational therapy and the signatories take the responsibility of setting standards responsibly and in good faith to ensure that the public is protected;

2.1.5 the signatories have determined that each signatory has complaints and disciplinary procedures in place;

2.1.6 no signatory will impose a residency requirement as part of its occupational standards or requirements;

2.1.7 the signatories will continue to assess differences in registration standards and work toward reconciliation of the differences to the extent possible, for mutual recognition of occupational therapists across Canada and in order to prevent and resolve disputes.

### 2.2 Notwithstanding the above, the signatories also agree that:

2.2.1 applicants not covered by this agreement will be reviewed for registration on an individual basis through a process established and defined by the signatory; and

2.2.2 the originating jurisdiction will provide documents in its possession that are required by an applicant for registration in the receiving jurisdiction to the extent it can do so in compliance with statutory privacy requirements.

## **3.0 TERMS OF RECOGNITION**

This agreement came into effect July 1, 2001.

3.1 The signatories agree to register as an occupational therapist (OT) those applicants who:

(a) are currently licensed/registered with an “unrestricted practice certificate” in the jurisdiction of a signatory on or after July 1, 2001; (b) have practised in the jurisdiction of a signatory within the immediate three years prior to their application to register, and (c) meet the requirements under 3.1.1, 3.1.2 and 3.1.3 of this agreement.

### 3.1.1 Education

(a) The applicant must have completed a Canadian Occupational Therapy degree program and listed in Schedule 1, and, if not included in the occupational therapy education program, a minimum of 1000 hours of clinical fieldwork/practicum. Approved programs for the purposes of this clause are reviewed and approved annually by all signatories.

(b) Notwithstanding the requirements of subsection (a), applicants who comply with the following conditions will be recognized as having education and experience substantively equivalent to a Canadian Occupational Therapy degree program:

(i) At the time of their application have an unrestricted practice certificate and

(ii) Prior to the application date, have established practice by continuously practising with an unrestricted practice certificate in the jurisdiction of one signatory for a minimum of three consecutive years.

This subsection (b) does not apply to applicants applying to Quebec.

### 3.1.2 Examination Requirement or Equivalent

Notwithstanding the terms of this agreement, an applicant who applies to a jurisdiction that requires an examination must also meet one of the following:

- (a) Successfully complete an examination approved by the signatories to this agreement;
- (b) Have completed a Canadian Occupational Therapy degree program on or before December 31, 1985;
- (c) Have continuously held an unrestricted practice certificate for 3 years with a signatory that grandparented applicants who had not completed a examination;
- (d) Obtain registration from a signatory that does not require a examination and demonstrate integration of practice competency within 18 months of graduation, through at least 750 hours of occupational therapy practice;
- (e) Have graduated from a Canadian Occupational Therapy degree program where terms and conditions of cooperation are provided for in the statutory framework between a signatory and the authorities of teaching establishments in preparing curricula leading to conferring a degree giving access to a practice certificate of registration. Such degree programs are listed on schedule 2.

Examinations approved by the signatories who use an exam will be listed on Schedule 3. To remain on Schedule 3, an examination must be unanimously approved by these same signatories at an annual review. An exam may be added to/removed from Schedule 3 between reviews with their unanimous approval.

### 3.1.3 Requirements

At the date of his or her application the applicant must

- a) Hold a current and unrestricted practice certificate in the originating jurisdiction;
- b) Have completed and submitted the prescribed application form, documents, and fees for the jurisdiction to which he/she is applying; and
- c) Have satisfied other regulatory requirements within the receiving jurisdictions that pertain to entry to practice provisions that are not covered in 3.1.1 and 3.1.2. in the receiving jurisdiction.

## 4.0 ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES

- 4.1 The signatories agree to continue to work toward an equivalency review model using a competency framework for the purposes of evaluating international graduate occupational therapists and their ability to fully access this agreement. Implementation is targeted for June 2009.
- 4.2 The signatories agree to develop a continuing competency model for the purposes of strengthening confidence in this agreement. The target for completion is June 2007.
- 4.3 The signatories agree to work towards a consistent obligation across all provinces for our members to hold professional liability insurance.
- 4.4 The signatories agree to work towards consistency across all provinces for our members to access temporary registration/authorizations.

## 5.0 MAINTENANCE OF THE AGREEMENT


- 5.1 The chair of the Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) is responsible for monitoring this agreement.
- 5.2 Each signatory agrees to give reasonable advance notice to other signatories when proposing modification or adoption of new standards or requirements that might impact on the inter-provincial/territorial mobility of occupational therapists. To the extent possible, each signatory also agrees to afford other signatories an opportunity to comment on the standard or requirement.

- 5.3 Each signatory agrees that this agreement is a dynamic and evolving instrument that may be amended with the consent of all signatories. The signatories agree to periodic reviews of this agreement every 3 years effective November 17, 2006 or when such a request is made by one of the signatories.
- 5.4 Each signatory will give written notice to other signatories of its intent to withdraw from this agreement at least 12 months before the signatory withdraws. The withdrawal will take effect 12 months after the notification. The notice period is waived where the withdrawal is not within the signatory's control.
- 5.5 Any entity that after this agreement has been executed by the signatories is delegated authority to regulate occupational therapy by their government may accede to this agreement on such terms as are agreed to by all signatories.
- 5.6 Each signatory agrees to seek the necessary legislative changes from its respective government in order to implement and maintain this agreement if there is a need for such changes. Each signatory also agrees to make the necessary changes to by-laws, policies or procedures permitted by their legislation in order to implement and maintain this agreement.
- 5.7 An exact French translation of this agreement will be obtained, and will be equally accepted and adhered to by all signatories as an official version of this agreement.

## SIGNATORIES

Signed:

Alberta Association of Registered  
Occupational Therapists

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar


College of Occupational Therapists of  
British Columbia

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar

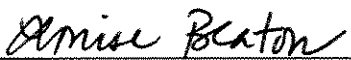
College of Occupational Therapists of  
Manitoba

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

New Brunswick Association of  
Occupational Therapists

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar


Newfoundland & Labrador Occupational  
Therapy Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar

College of Occupational Therapists of  
Nova Scotia

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar


College of Occupational Therapists of  
Ontario

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Registrar

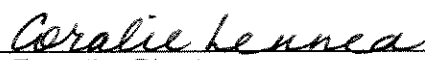
Prince Edward Island Occupational  
Therapists Registration Board

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ACOTRO Representative

Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Présidente

Saskatchewan Society of Occupational  
Therapists

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director

**SCHEDULE 1**  
**Approved Degree Education Programs for 3.1.1 Clause (a)**

University Name	Entry Level Degree	Date Conferred	Date Degree Last Conferred	New Degree Title	Date Conferred
Dalhousie University	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup>	1985	2007	MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	2008
McGill University	B. Sc. (Occ. Ther.) <sup>9</sup>	1975			
McMaster University	BHSc(OT) <sup>6</sup> MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	1992 2000	2001		
Queen's University	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup> MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	1973 2006	2006		
University of Alberta	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup> MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	1978 2003			
University of British Columbia	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup>	1986	2005	MOT	2006
Université Laval	B. Sc. Santé (ergothérapie) <sup>8</sup>	1973			
University of Manitoba	BMR(OT) <sup>3</sup> MOT	1979 2005	2004		
Université de Montréal	B. Sc. (ergothérapie) <sup>7</sup>	1972			

University Name	Entry Level Degree	Date Conferred	Date Degree Last Conferred	New Degree Title	Date Conferred
University of Ottawa	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup>	1991			
University of Toronto	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup> MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	1974 2003	2002		
University of Western Ontario	BSc(OT) <sup>1</sup> M.Cl.SC.,OT <sup>5</sup> MSc(OT) <sup>2</sup>	1974 1998 2003	1998 2003		

<sup>1</sup> BSc (OT) → Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy

<sup>2</sup> MSc(OT) → Master of Science in Occupational Therapy

<sup>3</sup> BMR(OT) → Bachelor of Medical Rehabilitation (Occupational Therapy)

<sup>4</sup> MOT → Master of Occupational Therapy

<sup>5</sup> M.Cl.SC.,OT → Master of Clinical Science in Occupational Therapy

<sup>6</sup> BHSc(OT) → Bachelor of Health Science in Occupational Therapy

<sup>7</sup> B. Sc. Santé (ergothérapie) → Baccalauréat ès sciences (ergothérapie)

<sup>8</sup> B. Sc. (ergothérapie) → Baccalauréat ès sciences de la santé (ergothérapie)

<sup>9</sup> B. Sc. (Occ. Ther.) → Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy

## SCHEDULE 2

### Universities with Legislative Terms and Conditions of Cooperation

<b>Degree Name</b>	<b>University Name</b>	<b>Since</b>
B.Sc.Occ.Ther.	McGill University	1976
B.Sc.(ergothérapie)	Université de Montréal	1976
B.Sc.Santé (ergothérapie)	Université Laval	1976

## **SCHEDULE 3**

### **Approved Examination**

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) Examination.

#### **Signatories Using the Approved Examination:**

Alberta

British Columbia

New Brunswick

Newfoundland & Labrador

Nova Scotia

Ontario

Prince Edward Island

Manitoba

Saskatchewan

## **SCHEDULE 4**

### **Unrestricted Practice Certificates**

**Certificates/Licenses/Registration/Permits recognized under this agreement include:**

British Columbia (COTBC)	Full Practising Certificate
Alberta (AAROT)	Annual Practice Permit
Saskatchewan (SSOT)	Full-Time Practising License Part-Time Practising License
Manitoba (COTM)	On the Practising Register
Ontario (COTO)	General Practising Certificate
Quebec (OEQ)	Permit & Entered on the Roll
New Brunswick (NBAOT)	Individual Membership
Prince Edward Island (PEIOTRB)	Certificate of Registration
Nova Scotia (COTNS)	Certificate of Licensure on the General Register
Newfoundland and Labrador (NLOTB)	Full Practising License