

POST-ELECTION TOOLKIT

TAKE ACTION FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY



CAOT · ACE

Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Association canadienne des ergothérapeutes





POST-ELECTION TOOLKIT

1 - ISSUE

Occupational therapy services are not universally accessible to Canadians who need them, despite being low cost, high impact health care solutions.

2 - PURPOSE OF THE TOOLKIT

To assist occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and occupational therapy advocates in engaging with newly elected MPs.

3 - TAKE ACTION

To increase knowledge among elected officials about the value of occupational therapy and to facilitate access to occupational therapy services.

3 - HOW CAN YOU TAKE ACTION?

Write a letter or request a meeting with your MP using the letter templates in the tool kit. Connect with your MP through social media using the proposed messages and let them know how occupational therapists can make a difference in their communities and for their constituents!

KEY MESSAGES TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

- Occupational therapy is about equipping people for the job of living and thriving, participating in all aspects of life, enjoying good health, and contributing to Canada's productivity and prosperity.
- Occupational therapy interventions:
 - help older adults stay at home and in their communities longer;
 - support older adults with functional and cognitive impairments;
 - prevent falls among older adults;
 - provide culturally safe, trauma informed community mental health supports;
 - help employees return to work faster;
 - support the rehabilitation of COVID-19 long-haulers;
 - help the growth and development of children with cognitive or functional impairments; and
 - support accessibility and barrier-free living.

HOW CAN WE MAKE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY MORE ACCESSIBLE?

- Increase funding for occupational therapy services in homes and communities.
- Include coverage for occupational therapy in extended health benefits plans.
- Include occupational therapists on all primary care teams.
- Implement national LTC standards that include an appropriate proportion of occupational therapists as essential health care providers in LTC homes.

POST-ELECTION TOOLKIT

Canadians elected a Liberal minority government on September 20, 2021.

TO FIND YOUR MP, GO TO:

Search: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en>

Liberal MPs: <https://liberal.ca/your-liberal-mps/>

Liberal Cabinet: <https://www.ourcommons.ca/Members/en/ministries>

Conservative MPs: <https://www.conservative.ca/mps/>

Conservative Shadow Cabinet: <https://www.conservative.ca/team/shadow-cabinet/>

NDP MPs & Critics: <https://www.ndp.ca/team>

Bloc Québécois MPs: <https://www.blocquebecois.org/les-candidates-et-candidats/>

Green MPs: <https://www.greenparty.ca/en/elected-team>

SAMPLE LETTERS TO MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT



[Letter to Liberal MPs](#)



[Letter to Conservative MPs](#)



[Letter to New Democratic Party MPs](#)









[Letter to Green Party MPs](#)



[Letter to Bloc Québécois MPs](#)

VIEW BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

 Liberal 159	 Conservative 119
 Bloc Québécois 32	 NDP 25
 Green Party 2	 Independent 1

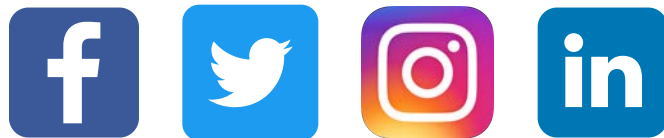
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ENGAGE WITH YOUR MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Most MPs are active on social media to engage with Canadians. Whether it is on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, or other platforms, follow your local MP to stay up to date on their work and connect with them.

To the right are links to proposed social media messages you can use to engage with your MPs on the topic of long-term care, aging in place, mental health, return to work, long-COVID rehabilitation and paediatric health and well-being.

77% of Canadians aged 15 or older regularly use social media, that statistic increases to above 90% for Canadians between the age of 15 and 34. (Statistics Canada, 2021)



SAMPLE SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

- [LONG TERM CARE](#)
- [AGING IN PLACE](#)
- [MENTAL HEALTH](#)
- [RETURN TO WORK](#)
- [LONG-COVID REHABILITATION](#)
- [PEDIATRIC HEALTH AND WELL-BEING](#)

WHO ARE OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS?

Regulated health care professionals with graduate and post graduate degrees

Have been in professional practice for more than a century, since World War I

Are ranked amongst the top 10 professions in North America by CNN and Forbes

Provide low cost, high impact solutions



Are in high demand and enjoy a 92% to 96% employment rate in Canada



Preventing falls



**Helping seniors
age in place**



**Improving home
and community care**



**Supporting
caregivers**



**Delaying hospital
admission**

**OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY:
CHANGING LIVES
FOR THE BETTER**



**Accelerating hospital
discharge**



**Increasing
accessibility**



**Assisting children in
classrooms**



**Alleviating
chronic pain**



**Improving mental
health outcomes**