



## Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Academic Credentialing Council Annual Report : 2023

Accreditation supports the development of quality occupational therapy education as a foundation for the occupational therapy profession. Currently, entry-level professional occupational therapy programs in Canada are accredited using the CAOT Academic Accreditation Standards and Self-Study Guide. Decisions about accreditation status are made by the Academic Credentialing Council (ACC) according to the [ACC Terms of Reference](#). A recommendation is sent to the CAOT Board of Directors who approves based on adherence to policies and procedures.

### 2023 Highlights

- The accreditation program completed two satellite (distributed) program site visits and two full accreditation visits. All were in-person site visits.
- The Competencies for Occupational Therapists in Canada (2021) were integrated into the accreditation Standards. The revised Standards and timeline for implementation were posted in English and French in January 2023.
- The accreditation program continued work on a governance review with the help of the Accreditation Steering Committee and an external consultant. A virtual meeting with members of CAOT Board, ACOTUP and ACOTRO was held on June 8, 2023 to discuss findings and preliminary recommendations of the Steering Committee. The final report of the Steering Committee was sent to the three organizations for comment and by December 2023, all three organizations agreed to proceed with forming a tripartite Task Force to examine next steps.
- ACC Chair, C. Vallée represented ACC on the Accreditation Steering Committee and the OT Competency Coordinating Committee.
- Following a policy review in 2022 by the ACC, the CAOT Board approved policy revisions to the following policies: P.04 Conflict of Interest, P.07 Training of Reviewers and P.08 Distributed Sites.
- The ACC welcomed a new Chair Rose Martini, new ACOTRO representative Kim Doyle. The ACC gratefully thanks outgoing Chair Catherine Vallée for six years of service with ACC.

### ACC Roster (as of December 31, 2023):

**Rose Martini**- Chair  
**Susan Rappolt**  
**Alicia Carey**  
**Nathalie Veillette**  
**Cori Schmitz**

**Maureen Kershaw** - Public Member  
**Jackie Bosch** - ACOTUP Representative  
**Shaniff Esmail** ACOTUP Representative  
**Kim Doyle**- ACOTRO Representative

**Natalie MacKenzie**- ACOTRO Representative  
**Alison Douglas**- Director of Standards  
**Ryan McGovern** - Accreditation Officer

If you are interested in becoming an ACC member, please notify [accreditation@caot.ca](mailto:accreditation@caot.ca). We are looking for potential volunteers who are able to:

- Work in collaboration with the Chair and National Office Staff.
- Participate on off-site and on-site teams.
- Review the submissions of the educational programs according to the most current academic accreditation policies and procedures of the Association.
- Participate in accreditation decisions about the program under review.
- Advise and make recommendations to the Board on the mandate of the Academic Credentialing Council.
- Evaluate the work of the Council on an annual basis for continuous improvement.

