

OSOT SENIORS ADVISORY GROUP TERMS OF REFERENCE

PURPOSE: The Seniors Advisory Group assists the Board of Directors to monitor, identify and address issues and opportunities affecting occupational therapy practice directed to seniors' health and well-being and promotes an integrated approach to positioning OT as leaders in seniors' health and well-being amongst OSOT Teams and/or designated working groups.

FUNCTIONS:

- 1.** To provide oversight and strategic direction to drive change and innovation to achieve the profession's/Society's goal to position occupational therapists as leaders addressing seniors' health and well-being in Ontario.
- 2.** To propose a 5 year OSOT Seniors Strategy and annual priorities for both advocacy and practice development foci of the Society to support the goal of positioning OTs as leaders in seniors' health.
- 3.** To support and inform the work of OSOT Teams, Task Forces and Representatives working on seniors related issues, assuring consistency of core messaging, alignment with the strategic plan.
- 4.** To identify gaps and/or emerging opportunities for focused attention of OSOT to advance the success of a seniors strategy and the achievement of goals.
- 5.** To develop and advance models of OT/inter-professional service delivery to meet needs of seniors and their carers across the continuum of care.
- 6.** To stimulate, engage and partner with researchers and educators to advance the profession's contribution and leadership to seniors' health and well-being.

REPORTING STRUCTURE:

The Seniors Advisory Group reports to the Board of Directors through the Executive Director. A communications strategy will be mutually determined to facilitate communication between the Board and Committee on a regular basis.

Copies of Committee Minutes will be forwarded to the Executive Director and the OSOT Office.

As Seniors Strategy issues may span the focus of attention of a variety of OSOT Teams or Task Forces, the Committee will link regularly through the Executive Director with Team/Task Force Chairs.

Advocacy initiatives targeted to position occupational therapy across Ontario's health policy landscape will be vetted through the Strategic Advocacy Committee.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Seniors Strategy Committee will be comprised of 4 – 6 individuals including;

- occupational therapists with varied strategic experience in working with seniors and/or communities that address seniors' health and well-being
- 1 member of the OSOT Board of Directors
- 1 public member, ideally a senior who is well connected to seniors' advocacy issues

A chairperson who is a member of OSOT will be appointed by the Board of Directors.

MEETINGS:

The Committee will meet quarterly or as may be scheduled at the call of the Chair at a frequency necessary to accomplish the objectives of the Committee. To facilitate involvement of members from across the province, communications and consultation via telephone, email and website chats will be built into the communications strategy of the Committee.

BUDGET:

OSOT Teams/Committees shall be approved a basic operating budget (telephone, printing, photocopying, etc) as per the Budget Planning Process for operational costs to ensure that members do not incur costs for operations of OSOT Teams/committees. Travel expenses for Committee members are not funded through the operations budget. Access to funds in excess of the basic operating budget may be applied for through application to the Board. Funding for projects and initiatives that are approved objectives will be funded separately.

OBJECTIVES:

The OSOT Seniors Advisory Group will establish annual objectives to be approved by the Board of Directors to provide guidance for Committee members and to lend consistency and complementary approaches related to seniors issues amongst all OSOT Teams and working groups.