



College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario  
Ordre des ergothérapeutes de l'Ontario

Delivered by email to [marthabauerot@gmail.com](mailto:marthabauerot@gmail.com)

June 29, 2020

Martha Bauer  
President  
Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists  
55 Eglinton Ave. E., Suite 210  
Toronto, ON M4P 1G8

Dear Martha,

I hope that you and your family, your members and all their loved ones are healthy and safe during this difficult time.

Thank you for your letter on behalf of the Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists dated June 5, 2020 regarding your concerns about the College registration period. We want to assure you that your correspondence and suggestions were brought to the entire College Council for consideration at their meeting on June 23, 2020. We understand just how disruptive the pandemic has been and we remain committed to doing the right thing for the public and our registrants.

We are grateful for the tremendous efforts of occupational therapists to ensure public health and safety during this unprecedented time. The College is mindful that some registrants are facing professional, financial, and personal challenges associated with the ever changing COVID-19 pandemic. Requests for financial relief have been reviewed in detail with great concern and compassion.

As you are aware, the College must ensure it has the appropriate level of resources to effectively carry out its mandate of public protection. In addition, the College has new obligations it must meet due to changes in government legislation and public expectations that require significant and dependable revenue streams for the College.

To balance our sensitivity to the impacts of the pandemic with our obligation to protect the public, we have reviewed our legal standing and bylaws. We have also reviewed our projected cash flows to gauge what impacts we can withstand without endangering our operations.

The College has had to balance relief options for registrants with the constraints of fiscal responsibility and future sustainability. As such, we have extended the renewal period from May 31, 2020, to August 31, 2020, providing registrants with an additional three-month window to renew. This decision was made swiftly to alleviate some of the pressure registrants may be facing. In addition, the College has also provided registrants with the option to pay their renewal fee in installments up until the extended renewal deadline. Council has not made the decision to reduce registration fees for the 2020-2021 registration period.



With the May 26, 2020 release of the amended directive #2, which allows for the gradual restart of healthcare services, the College is hopeful that most registrants will be, if they are not already, in a position to gradually resume service delivery and renew their certificates of registration. The College reminds registrants of their continued requirement to hold adequate professional liability insurance throughout the extended annual renewal deadline and beyond.

Registrants, who still find themselves in a difficult financial situation and are impacted by the wider ramifications of the pandemic, are encouraged to contact Clara Lau, Manager, Registration, at [clau@coto.org](mailto:clau@coto.org) to discuss what options may be available to them.

Rest assured that the College remains dedicated to doing its utmost to serve the public interest and to advance matters in a professional and responsible fashion.

Sincerely,

Elinor Larney, MHSc., OT Reg. (Ont.)  
Registrar

cc Christie Brenchley, Executive Director OSOT [cbrenchley@osot.on.ca](mailto:cbrenchley@osot.on.ca)

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