



Ontario Society of
Occupational Therapists

September 30 2022

The Honourable Merrilee Fullerton
Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services
7th Floor, 438 University Ave.
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Fullerton,

The [Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists \(OSOT\)](#) would like to congratulate you on your re-election in the June 2022 general election. Organizations like ours are thrilled to continue the many efforts put forth toward Ontario's Plan to Build. The OSOT is an organization that advocates on behalf of our members through Government Relations, Professional Promotion, Professional Development, Practice Support, and Member Services. In our advocacy, we would like to work alongside your office in our mutual goals of supporting children and social services from varying angles and would like to set up a meeting to discuss how we can do this.

In this, occupational therapists (OTs) have been exemplary in demonstrating a rounded approach towards helping children and youth continue, or resume, daily activities, which include dressing, engaging in extracurricular activities, socializing, attending classes, engaging in volunteering/work, and coping with anxiety and stress. OTs are regulated health care professionals that work in many settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals, home care, and many more.

Occupational therapy provides a valuable resource for children in our province as we come out of the pandemic. Many children will struggle with independence and reintegration into social groups and settings. With occupational therapy, these children can make these transitions attainable. The OTs' strong clinical training paired with the skills necessary to treat both physical and mental health issues, can ensure students are equipped with the necessary skills to re-integrate back into an in-person system. Many students and youth, have been confronted with a shift in learning methods with OT services we can prepare children for socializing, personal care, and extra-curricular activities. In this, OTs can assist students and youth in providing proactive strategies to support their mental health and well-being.

The pandemic's impact on children's health is a priority that needs to be addressed, and OSOT's goal is to expand mental health services and access in the years to come.

We would like to request a meeting on behalf of Ontario's occupational therapists to discuss how we can foster an independent and supportive environment for residents. OSOT looks forward to establishing a strong relationship with your office and supporting children and social service initiatives in the future. Thank you for your time, and we await your response on the matter.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Fullerton', is written over a light blue horizontal line.



Marnie Lofsky, OT Reg. (Ont.), MA (Leadership) (she/her)
Executive Director
Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists