



September 30, 2022

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ministry of Education
5th Floor
438 University Ave.
Toronto, Ontario M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Lecce,

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 on our mutual goals in focusing on student resilience and mental well-being through the [Learning Recovery Action Plan](#) 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 toward helping students continue or resume daily activities, which include dressing, engaging in play, socializing, attending in class, printing, literacy, 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.

Over the last two years, students and families have shifted from classroom activities and engaging sessions to remote learning. The pandemic shed light on issues like mental health and isolated environments for school-age children. Therein, OTs are equipped with the expertise to help students, teachers, and families revert into an engaging learning model that is necessary for success at school. This includes physical supports, mental health supports, collaborative learning environments, interventive approaches, and assessments, all garnered for the growth and development of our students.

With this, OTs may offer new methods of learning and assist students and staff by providing techniques and strategies to support the mental health and well-being of all within the education system. When it comes to literacy and printing, we are aware of the need for a focus on ensuring students have developed the skills to participate as best as they can in school.

The pandemic's impact on children's health is a priority that needs to be addressed. Our goal is to promote and ensure access to OT services in schools for both educators and children as we transition back to in-person learning.

We would like to request a meeting on behalf of Ontario's Occupational Therapists to discuss how we can foster a supportive learning environment for our students and staff through the [Learning Recovery Action Plan](#). OSOT looks forward to establishing a strong relationship with your office and supporting



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educational initiatives in the years to come. Thank you for your time, and we await your response on the matter.

Thank you,

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