



September 30 2022

The Honourable Sylvia Jones
Ministry of Health
5th Floor
777 Bay St.
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Dear Minister Jones,

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 towards bolstering Ontario's health care system as outlined in the [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#), and 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 people continue or resume day-to-day activities, which include self-care activities such as dressing, engaging in activities, socializing, engaging in work and school, being independent, and coping with anxiety and stress. OTs are regulated health care professionals that work in many settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals, home care, primary care, rehabilitation, and many more.

Witnessing Ontario's health care system exhaust itself over the last two years has shed light on the gaps in our health care services. Our frontline workers found themselves in an overwhelming situation at their hospitals and clinics—while residents across the province found themselves in isolated environments at home and in other care settings. The prevalence of mental health issues has steadily increased since the start of the pandemic, many are feeling the effects of depression and isolation. As trained professionals who can provide both physical and mental health services, OTs are a valuable resource for the province to lean upon. OTs can help our workforce to readjust back into a work-life balance, assist in empowering our students, and older adults with independence, and address these deep-rooted gaps in care.

As Ontario's health human resources (HHR) faces retention and shortage issues, Ontario's occupational therapists can help to alleviate pressures on our health care system as integral allied health professionals.

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 through the [Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery](#). OSOT looks forward to establishing a strong relationship with your office and supporting long-term initiatives in the years to come. Thank you for your time, and we await your response on the matter.

Thank you,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Lofsky". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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