



Ontario Society of  
Occupational Therapists

September 30, 2022

The Honourable Paul Calandra  
Minister of Long-Term Care  
400-37 Sandiford Dr.  
Stouffville, ON L4A 3Z2

Dear Minister Calandra,

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 supporting our long-term care system 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 toward helping residents continue or resume day-to-day activities, which include dressing, engaging in activities, socializing, increasing independence, and coping with anxiety, stress, and isolation. OTs are regulated health care professionals that work in many settings such as schools, clinics, hospitals, home care, and many more.

Occupational therapy has an important and relevant role in long-term care homes as it engages in a restorative care approach that provides a better quality of life for residents. Occupational therapy services provide engagement and function for residents in order to age in place gracefully and with a healthy mindset while reducing the stress on other health professionals such as nurses and personal support workers. Occupational therapy also works towards identifying physical barriers in the home to prevent falls, skin integrity issues, and behaviours that enact a negative response from residents experiencing dementia. To provide access to occupational therapy in long-term care homes is to ensure that residents can remain engaged, happy, and healthy within the comfort of their homes.

***Our goal is to engage more OTs to practice in long-term care homes as they are pivotal in assisting older adults in cultivating independence. The pandemic's impact on our older adults' health is a priority that needs to be addressed.***

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 long-term care 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 be 'M. Calandra'.



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