How can CAOT support OTA/PTA Practice and Education?

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Outline

- Introduce new Director of Standards
  - Alison Douglas, PhD, OT Reg. (Ont.)
  - Full time position
- Background about CAOT and OTAs
- New Initiatives to support OTAs
- Ongoing Initiatives
- Potential Initiatives
- Additional ideas/comments?

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Background

- OT assistants are an integral part of OT service delivery
- Introduction of OTA PTA EAP (2012)
- Recognition that CAOT needs to provide increased support

- Titles vary across the country:
  - OT worker, OT support personnel, OTA, rehab assistant
- Inclusive title of Support Personnel was used by CAOT
- Practice Profile for Support Personnel in OT (2009)
- Position statement Support Personnel in OT Service (2011)
- Require revisions in 2015

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New initiatives

- New OTA/support personnel section on CAOT website.
- Publication of OT Now special edition (spring 2015)
- New OTA associate member category (fall 2015)
  - Eligible: OTA grads from accredited school or school that becomes accredited within 3 years, existing support worker members. People approved by the membership committee
  - Insurance automatically approved
  - Access to all member services: webinars, journals, education
  - All others may join as individual associate members
- OTA and support personnel column in OT Now (2016)

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Ongoing initiatives

- Free membership for OTA students
- OTA/OT student fieldwork opportunity
  - Non-clinical, role emerging, intra-professional.
  - Focus groups and survey to determine what is wanted/needed by OTAs and OTA educators
  - Review of position statement
  - Review of existing website
  - Identification of potential resources
  - Publication in OT Now to showcase the outcomes of placement
- Update of Profile and Position Statement

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Potential initiatives

- Development of support for increased OTA placements
- Increased support from and visibility of CAOT within OTA community & networking opportunities
- OT Weekly – OTA section (newsletter section specific to OTAs)
- Development of educational materials specific to OTA
- Special stream at conference
- Promote access to free student membership
- Incentives to become practicing OTA members

…… and?

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Contact Information

- Alison Douglas
- 1-800-434-2268 X250
- adouglas@caot.ca

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