

OTAs and PTAs in Canada's Health Care System: Stakeholder Perspectives

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OTAs & PTAs in Canada: Quick overview

Outside of Québec	TRP/PRT in Québec
Not regulated	Regulated
Provide services only under the supervision of OTs and PTs	Provide services alone or in collaboration with PTs or MDs
Can learn on the job OR	Cannot learn on the job
Jointly trained in (~two-year) education programs	3 year program (College)
Accreditation of education programs - since 2012, voluntary	Accreditation under the supervision of the Minister of Higher Education, mandatory

- ### Why gather Stakeholder Perspectives?
- Stage 1 of a multi-stage project
 - Overall objective is to agree on a vision of how OTAs and PTAs can best contribute to the health and wellness of Canadians
 - Important members of the healthcare team – how can their voice be heard?
 - Not sure if all stakeholders agree upon the potential contribution OTAs and PTAs can make
 - Difficult to establish a vision and a path forward if there are disparate views about that overall objective

The Survey

- Fall 2017
- Circulated broadly to 11 key stakeholder groups, Fr & Eng
- Questions asked respondents to rate statements about
 1. the current state for OTAs and PTAs
 2. how they would like to see the state for OTAs and PTAs in five years
 3. the value of certain resources and opportunities

For example...

The Survey (cont'd) (Yes/No/Don't know)

- I would like to see OTA/PTAs working everywhere that PTs and OTs are working and willing to supervise.
- I would like to see OTA/PTAs working only in institutional/facility settings.
- I would like to see OTA/PTAs working only where there is constant onsite supervision by the supervising OT or PT.
- I would like to see OTA/PTAs regulated by the OT or PT regulatory colleges.
- I would like to see OTA/PTAs regulated by their own college.
- I would like to see OTA/PTAs remain unregulated.

The Survey (cont'd)

Respondents were next asked to rate the value of things like:

- Provision of more continuing education related to OTA/PTAs
- Eligibility for membership in relevant associations
- Implementation of regulation for OTA/PTAs

On a scale of 1-5 (low value/high value)

Methodology/Results

- 1549 complete survey responses from PTs, OTs, OTA/PTAs and PRTs across Canada:

OT or PT	709
OTA/PTA dual or single role	814
Other regulated health professional	6
TRP/PRT (Québec)	20
Total	1549

- Analysed quantitatively, analyzed by discipline
- Qualitative data still to be analyzed and further explored

Top 5 statements endorsed by OTA/PTAs: Comparison with other groups

Statement "I would like..."	OTA/PTA Yes %	TRP Yes %	OT or PT Yes %
OTA/PTAs working everywhere that PTs and OTs are working and willing to supervise	97	75	73
OTA/PTAs working in private OT and PT practice	92	65	79
the "assistant" title standardized nationally (i.e. always "OTA/PTA", or "therapist assistant" or "rehabilitation assistant" or similar)	85	60	83
OTA/PTAs working where there are periodic onsite supervision AND constant remote supervision by the supervising OT or PT	75	55	53
OTA/PTAs regulated by their own college	74	30	31

Statements with most "No" responses from OTA/PTAs: Comparison

Statement "I would like..."	OTA/PTA No %	TRP No %	OT or PT No %
OTA/PTAs working only in institutional/facility settings	82	75	76
OTA/PTA to work only where there is constant supervision	80	65	48
OTA/PTA to remain unregulated	72	90	72

OTA/PTA most valued Future Actions: Comparison

Action	OTA/PTA (mean rating/5)	TRP	OT or PT
Provision of more continuing education	4.5	3.7	4.0
Ensuring an OTA/PTA voice at provincial and national levels	4.4	3.8	3.7
Your own ability to influence change in OTA/PTA practice in your workplace (i.e. to have a voice)	4.4	3.6	3.7

OTA/PTA least valued Future Actions: Comparison

Action	OTA/PTA (mean rating/5)	TRP	OT or PT
Ongoing eligibility for membership in relevant associations	3.8	3.7	3.6
Development of a certification examination for OTA/PTA (with or without regulation)	3.8	3.5	3.6

Other Results

- We have so much more data – just not enough time here to discuss!
- There was also lots of qualitative data which still needs to be formally analyzed

What do the results suggest?

More research and exploration required

Next Steps

- Based on the qualitative and quantitative responses, further exploration of these topics is currently underway
- itracks – facilitated online discussion forums
- 100 participants (OTs, PTs, OTA/PTAs, employers, educators, regulators, patients)
- Sept 20, 21, 24 then again Oct 23, 24

- Stay tuned for results!

Questions? Thank you!

And thanks to our fellow Steering Committee Members:

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Alison Douglas, CAOT	Amy Stacey, NPAA
Janet Craik, CAOT	Amanda Walton, OTA & PTA EAP
