



ALCOA Member — CAOT —

The Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) is the national professional association of occupational therapists that represents over 7100 members in Canada. CAOT, a non-profit organization, provides advocacy, resources and member services to promote excellence in occupational therapy.

CAOT works closely with its affiliates, which include provincial professional associations and the Canadian Occupational Therapy Foundation, as well as with occupational therapy educational programs and occupational therapy regulatory organizations. As part of the Association's strategic priorities, it seeks to create an evidence-based environment for occupational therapy, foster partnerships and alliances and advocate for occupational therapy.

CAOT reaches occupational therapists and students, consumers, professional associations, researchers, the educational community, and provincial and federal governments.

CAOT believes in a comprehensive view of health and strongly supports initiatives that enable residents of Canada to develop healthy patterns of occupation (CAOT, 2003). Occupation includes everything that people do during the course of everyday life, including the occupations through which people look after themselves, enjoy life, and contribute as members of society (CAOT 1991). CAOT develops policy, practice and education initiatives in a number of areas related to healthy occupation for older adults including Home Care, Mental Health Care, Universal Design, Driver Rehabilitation, and Fall Prevention.

For more information visit www.caot.ca

ALCOA Volunteer Spotlight on — Darene Toal-Sullivan —

Darene Toal-Sullivan is the Director of Professional Practice at CAOT, a position she has held since 1998. She is the primary contact with regard to occupational therapy practice for the CAOT membership, relevant consumer groups, governments and other organizations interested in health care. Specific to older adults, Darene has been involved in research on fall prevention for community dwelling older adults including the Tools for Living Well project <http://www.otworks.ca/default.asp?pageid=774> and the Stable, Able and Strong, Post-Fall Support project <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?pageid=1385>

Darene has represented CAOT on ALCOA since 1998. She worked with ALCOA to host a Professional Issue Forum on Occupational Therapy and Active Living for Older Adults at the CAOT national conference in 2002. See corresponding CAOT Position Statement at <http://www.caot.ca/default.asp?ChangeID=1&pageID=621> Darene at the present time is Secretary of the ALCOA Board.

Darene has been teaching part-time in the Occupational Therapy Program, at the University of Ottawa, Faculty of Health Sciences since 1993. She is recipient of the Part-time Professor of the Year, University of Ottawa, 2001. Her previous work experience prior to CAOT includes private practice in occupational therapy, vocational case manager for the Federal Government and occupational therapist at a rehabilitation centre.

Darene is presently pursuing doctoral studies in Education at the University of Ottawa. She believes in the health benefits of active living for all ages and enjoys attending the gym, playing golf, cross-country skiing, walking her dog, and a new sport---kayaking! She also is an avid decorative artist.

ALCOA ROUNDTABLE MEETING TO DISCUSS POLICY

ALCOA will be holding a meeting of its members and partners in Toronto on the 25th of February to further discuss recommendations that advance the Healthy Living Strategy. ALCOA is expecting over 26 representatives from ALCOA partner organizations to attend.

The meeting is part of the ALCOA Health Policy Project which aims to compile recommendations on how active living for older adults could be advanced along the four strategic directions of the Healthy Living Strategy (HLS)

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/hl-vs-strat>.

The four strategic directions are: Leadership and Policy Development; Knowledge Development and Transfer; Community Development and Infrastructure; and Public Information.

Leadership and Policy Development involves the provision of strong and continuing leadership to a sustainable, long-term strategy, and the creation of policies at all levels (public and private) that enable people to lead healthy physically active lives.

Knowledge Development and Transfer involves a continuum of activities pertaining to physical activity that includes gathering knowledge; analyzing and synthesizing knowledge; and making knowledge available to people who can use it, in forms that are most useful to them.

Community Development and Infrastructure involves support for effective, sustainable community actions and infrastructures that build community capacity to promote healthy living and physical activity and provide supportive environments for health and physical activity.

Public Information involves the provision of information and other communication strategies to motivate older adults and groups to adapt physical activity, to develop the skills they need to be healthy and physically active, and to support others in healthy active lifestyle decisions.

Representatives from the following organizations are expected to be attending the meeting:

Active Living Alliance for Canadians with a Disability
Alberta Centre for Active Living
Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport
Canadian Association for Community Care
Canadian Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation
Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
Canadian Academy of Sport Medicine
Canadian Centre for Activity & Aging
Ontario Coalition of Senior Citizens Organizations
Canadian Institute of Planners
Canadian Physiotherapy Association
Canadian Parks and Recreation Association
Canadian Senior Games Association
Canadian Society for Exercise Physiology
Fondation en Adaptation Motrice
Institute for Positive Health for Seniors
Manitoba Cardiac Institute
National Indian & Inuit Community Health Representatives Organization
Older Adult Centres' Association of Ontario
Osteoporosis Canada
Saskatchewan Seniors Mechanism
VON Canada
Waterloo Research Institute for Aging
YMCA Canada

Editor's Note: In case you have any comments please do not hesitate in emailing them at alcoa@ca.inter.net