



CAOT Volunteer Program  
*Get Involved!*



**Danielle Hogan**

Past Chair Certification Examination Committee

### Danielle's story

At first she couldn't believe she was actually involved in developing questions for the exam - that dreaded exam that she had written only a handful of years before. However, Danielle Hogan now feels that she will miss her work with the Certification Examination Committee (the CEC) as she wraps up a seven-year term as a volunteer regional rep, Chair Elect, Chair and now Past Chair. She has a strong appreciation of the work that goes into the making of the exam and she can feel the weight that the decisions made by the CEC have on student lives. She's been there and clearly remembers how overwhelming it was. Danielle feels privileged to have served on the CEC and to uphold the integrity of the exam preparation process.

Danielle had not considered a role with the CEC. She had no idea what the CEC was about. After contributing to some item writing in 2008-2009, a 'colleague' who was on the CEC asked for her participation in a one-off project which she agreed to and, later, when asked to become the Newfoundland representative on CEC she "could picture what it looked like so I jumped at the opportunity!" The time commitment was originally two years with significant travel to Ottawa a minimum of twice a year for 3 days of meetings. She sought approval from her Professional Practice Consultant, Manager and Director at Eastern Health - all of whom recognized what a great opportunity it was and supported her educational leave. As a bachelor's trained clinician she wasn't sure her skills would mix with the academic members of the team; largely Masters level and PhD candidates; everyone seemed so experienced...but this anxiousness was soon overcome. Everyone contributes equally on the CEC and decisions are not just run through the Chair. It's really collaborative, for the betterment of the profession, and no one individual contributes more than the others. Regional representatives from an array of practice areas bring a wealth of knowledge to the table.

New team members are actively mentored. As Past Chair, Danielle had the opportunity to mentor the incoming Chair and Chair Elect in their roles, giving back. She learned more about the profession on a national level and she made friendships that will last a lifetime. Danielle noted that at every set of meetings, one night is reserved for supper with the other CEC members, to "sit back, gather our thoughts, rejuvenate. It will be emotionally hard to leave this committee. It's become part of my routine."

The work can be a roller coaster, mentally exhausting and daunting. But she learned so much. Danielle urges people to step outside their comfort level and just get involved, whether they're new grads or experienced clinicians. OT has shaped who she is and she feels the growing community of OTs have a shared perspective on life and practice - it's where she feels connected.

CAOT thanks Danielle Hogan for sharing her volunteer story with us.

