



CAOT Volunteer Program  
*Get Involved!*



### Andrea McNeill

Past Chair CAOT-BC Advisory Committee. Current member of CAOT-BC Advisory Committee and Volunteer Co-Chair for CAOT Conference 2018.

### Andrea's story

That was how Andrea expressed her excitement to a colleague after CAOT-BC's first day at the Provincial Legislature, where a group of BC occupational therapists, including Andrea in her role as Chair of the CAOT-BC Advisory Committee, were invited to attend the Legislature and to meet the MLA's afterwards. "It was really beneficial to be involved; very interesting talking to the MLA's about our profession; the cost effectiveness of occupational therapy and the benefits to our clients. It was very well received. Occupational therapy is still not well understood; our scope, practice and benefits, so we still have lots of work to do to promote awareness about our profession."

The Advisory Committee meets quarterly and discusses many topics and issues that are relevant to practicing OTs across the province. Andrea really enjoys supporting the growing awareness of the profession. She has been part of the CAOT-BC Advisory Committee since 2012, first as a committee member, then as the Chair, and now once again as a committee member. What she likes is "meeting the various OTs across the province and hearing about their different roles and issues in their respective geographic/practice regions. You get stuck in your own rabbit hole, so to speak, so it was really interesting for me to hear about all, the different pressure points of the OT profession within the different practice areas in the regions, as well as public versus private issues."

Andrea believes that "volunteering leads to more volunteering" and she is proving her point. She has recently been appointed as Volunteer co-Chair for CAOT Conference 2018 in Vancouver. She was pretty thrilled with the first meeting, "the energy is contagious!" Yes, it is.

CAOT thanks Andrea McNeill for sharing her volunteer story with us.

