



ANNUAL REPORT
For the Year
2022

info@musictherapyontario.com
www.musictherapyontario.com

PRESIDENT

Although we continued to face challenges imposed by COVID and restrictions, 2022 gave us hope in a year of uncertainty. The MTAO board saw several significant changes in leadership, with Julia Beth Kowaleski stepping down as president, Miya Adout finishing her term as Education Chair and Julien Fortier moving on from the secretary position. Incoming was myself, Amy Di Nino, moving into the president role, Kimberly Dolan taking on the Education Chair position and Hope Pascoe accepting the secretary duties for the next two years. Jane Proctor moved into the ethics chair role and we were very pleased to welcome Amy Harris as our new treasurer. Despite all of these changes, the new board has come together to form a cohesive and like-minded unit that is focused on continuing the important work of our MTAO.

The MTAO's events of the year include the usual Annual MTAO Conference, AGM, pre-conference workshop, and SISC Conference. Our upcoming 2023 AGM and Conference will be an entirely virtual event.

This year, we were able to realize our goal of the addition of our first social media content committee, under the direction of Kristina Twilt. This committee has been able to become more active and deepen our social media presence in order to continue our advocacy work. Thank-you to those volunteers who work diligently behind the scenes in this capacity, and to Kristina for leading this committee in their important work.

Additionally this year, Daniel and Amy have begun a collaboration between the MTAO and MTABC to bring the idea from each respective boards into an action plan that would see members from each association afforded the ability to join each other's yearly conferences for a membership rate. We see this as something that could eventually be expanded to other provincial associations and are excited for this to come to fruition for our upcoming 2023 annual conference. Please see the Member Relations Chair report for more details.

It was a celebratory atmosphere to be able to launch our complete website redesign this year. Our main focus throughout 2022 was completing the final details behind the scenes and better understanding how we can manage the new site for the ultimate user experience. Although this process has been long and tedious, we are confidently on our way to having all of the back end in place within the next few months. Please read the Public Relations Chair report for more details.

In conclusion, I share my gratitude to all of the volunteers, including board members,

who put in the work to keep our organization flourishing. I also recognize and thank our MTAO members for their patience and understanding as we navigate our new website and complete membership renewals and process new members. We are always open to feedback and hope you will continue to share with us your ideas and experiences.

Respectfully submitted by, Amy Di Nino RP, MA, MTA

2022 MTAO Board of Directors:

President: Amy DiNino

Vice President: Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi

Secretary: Hope Pascoe

Treasurer: Amy Harris

Public Relations Chair: Kristina Twilt

Education Chair: Kimberly Dolan

Ethics Chair: Jane Proctor

Government Regulation Chair: Kristen DiMarco

Member Relations Chair: Daniel Allen

Regional Representative Committee Members:

Barrie Rep: VACANT

Durham Rep: Antonietta Mongillo Desideri

Eastern Ontario Rep: Jennifer Cunningham

GTA Rep: Steffi Ching

Hamilton/Brantford Rep: Sara Klinck

Niagara Rep: VACANT

Northern Ontario Rep: Kylie Klym

Waterloo Region and Surrounding Areas Rep: Mariah Story

Windsor-Chatham-Sarnia Rep: VACANT

Social Media Committee Members:

Miman Cheng

Victoria Di Giovanni

VICE PRESIDENT

As I am nearing the end of my second term as a vice-president, I am reflecting on all the work the MTAO board has done since I became a part of it in 2019. I would encourage

every music therapist to not shy away from volunteering for your provincial association, as together we can make things happen!

In the past year, I continued monitoring our organizational email, responding to requests, questions and concerns. I assisted at the AGM and participated as a workshop instructor at the annual 2022 (online) conference in February. I participated in all virtual board meetings and email /virtual conversations. At the time of this writing, I am looking forward to assist with the annual 2023 MTAO conference before stepping down from my board position.

Thank you for the opportunity to be on board while living in Bahrain in 2019-2020, this whole experience let me connect with Ontario music therapists and helped me to reintegrate into the Canadian/Ontarian music therapy professional network.

Respectfully submitted by Aksana Kavaliova-Moussi, RP, MTA, MACP, MMT, NMT, CTIC

SECRETARY

It has been a joy and a learning curve joining the MTAO Board of Directors this year as the Secretary. As a new board member, I have greatly appreciated all the support and guidance from the returning board members. It has also been wonderful working alongside the other new board members as we have all come together to build a strong team.

As the secretary to the Board of Directors, I have overseen the scheduling of our bi-monthly meetings, created the agendas and recorded the minutes of the meetings, as well as compiled the annual report. I have also been continuing the process of organizing the shared Drive for the MTAO Board members and helping other board members access documents as required.

Additionally, I have begun working on a project to provide additional resources to support new and seasoned MTA members and look forward to sharing this with the membership in the coming year. As a new MTA I am passionate about initiatives to support other new MTAs and would love to hear from student and MTA members with ideas about how the board can better serve our membership. If you have ideas you would like to share, you can contact me at secretary.mtao@gmail.com.

I look forward to continuing to work with the board and advocate for our members and music therapy in Ontario in the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted by Hope Pascoe, MTA, MA, BMT

TREASURER

2022 Financial Reporting

The MTAO's spending in 2022 was much higher than anticipated. Monies needed to be reallocated for the website due to unforeseen expenses. The system is proving to be much more difficult than originally anticipated due to the learning involved and the set up. We anticipate that we should not need to use many more extra funds than budgeted. The MTAO conference and AGM was still online which helped us allocate those funds to the website. We were able to have the Student, Internship, and Supervisory conference in person this year. The attendance was down but it was a great success and some positive feedback. We hope to have increased attendance for the 2023 SISC.

The MTAO's primary source of revenue in 2022 was membership fees. Memberships slightly increased from 209 active members to 215 active members. Currently, MTAs make up the bulk of the memberships while students, retirees, complementary and associate members make up the rest of the membership.

Some financial points of note are:

- The MTAO ended with a surplus of \$11,510, which was more than the anticipated \$6,095 (based on the revised Forecast from June 30, 2022). The MTAO's deficit was \$32,123, rather than the projected \$37,539. We do have some outstanding invoices that are going to be carried over into the 2023 budget as they were not paid in 2022.
- The new website was up and running in July of 2022. This launch posed some challenges and some unexpected expenses that caused funds to be reallocated from other areas in order to accommodate the costs. The cash surplus that carried over from 2021 helped cover the costs of the new website. The total cost at year end was \$37,357, which was more than double our original budget of \$17,500.
- The 2022 taxes will need to be filed and we are currently looking into a chartered accountant to take this on.

- The 2023 budget will be focused on balancing the revenue and expenses and trying to keep the balance closer to zero.

For detailed information about the MTAO's revenue and expenses, please refer to the 2022 Financial Report and the 2023 Budget.

As registrar, I continue to monitor accounts to ensure that members have access to the appropriate resources and services. I monitor Paypal and TD accounts and process payments through our new system as new orders come through. I tried to streamline payments so that payments are only coming through paypal or TD, however I am still needing to reimburse some board members for expenses as needed. I am still trying to get signatory access from TD as I am a new member to the board. This continues to be in process and I hope to complete it within the next month.

The new website is up and running but doesn't come without unexpected issues. I have been able to troubleshoot with the website host, public relations and ethics to help solve some of these issues. Members have communicated some troubles to me and I've tried to resolve some of them in a timely manner. With some of these troubles, payments are still coming through and do not appear to be causing any issues. The system updating once a payment has come through is causing issues from the back end. Sometimes we can resolve and other times we are struggling. Please bear with us as we try to fight these issues to make it more streamlined on the membership end as well as the back end.

As mentioned in the AGM last Feb of 2022, we wanted to try to streamline our membership payments so that all payments would be coming out on one date. Unfortunately, this has caused some issues and we have not been able to set this up. You will continue to renew annually with the date that you always do and orders should be emailed to you so you have enough time to pay before they become overdue.

As I start to get the hang of the roles and responsibilities of the treasurer duties, I want to extend a huge thank you to all the fellow board members for welcoming me and being so patient as I learn all the duties of the job. I particularly want to thank Jane Proctor-ethics chair, and Kristina Twilt-Public Relations chair, for providing all their knowledge and experience to helping me stand on my own two feet. The transition has not been easy but there is so much to look forward to and so much to learn from these duties. I look forward to serving our Music Therapy community in this role over the next year!

Respectfully submitted by Amy Harris, BMT, MTA

PUBLIC RELATIONS CHAIR

This year marked my second year as the Public Relations Chair of the MTAO, and it was an eventful one. I have been the main point of contact for Painted Robot, the web development company who has created our new website which launched in June, 2022. While the website is a much-needed upgrade, the transition process is not without its challenges, and I have continued to work with the rest of the board to provide support for our members as we encounter issues. It has been a rewarding experience to use my computer science background to aid the MTAO in this transition.

Our social media presence has been riding the ebbs and flows of the busy tides of the seasons. Our Social Media Committee has created posts for last year's Annual Conference and Student / Intern / Supervisors Conference, as well as posts to generate wider community engagement, such as posting podcast episodes featuring our board members talking about music therapy, highlighting some news stories of music therapy in Ontario, and highlighting the benefits of becoming an MTAO member.

I have also continued to send out our regular newsletters to our members, manage our MTAO Members Facebook group, and have continued to manage job postings and referrals that come in to the MTAO. The job postings and referrals process has become more streamlined with the new forms enabled on our website, and this has resulted in a faster turn-around time from when a posting gets submitted to reaching our members.

With my term as Public Relations Chair (and unofficial Website Administrator) ending, I am grateful to have contributed to the MTAO during a time of many transitions. Thank-you to the other MTAO Board Members for their continued hard work and overflowing support as I contributed to this role. It has been a pleasure and great learning experience to provide support to our membership, and to connect with our members both virtually and in-person. I am excited to welcome our incoming Board Members to the team, and wish all our MTAO members a wonderful 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Kristina Twilt, BMT, BSc, MTA

EDUCATION CHAIR

It has been a wonderful first year in the education chair role filled with great connections, learning, and inspiration. In 2022 we were grateful to host our annual

Student, Intern, and Supervisor Conference (SISC) back in person at Wilfrid Laurier University. This was offered in a hybrid opportunity to allow participants from all over the country and beyond the chance to connect. We were thrilled to see engagement from a wide range of regions including but not limited to Toronto and GTA, Waterloo, Ottawa, Stratford, Nova Scotia, Taiwan, Indonesia, Kansas, and beyond.

The 2022 SISC included six incredible presentations, some of which were offered in person and streamed, others presented live virtually and streamed to the in person participants, and others still offered specifically in the virtual or in person capacities. They included;

- Career Possibilities: Getting in Touch with Your Values, Mission, and Vision (Daiva Zemaitis CMT, MT-BC, MTA, Music Therapy Supervisor, NMT, Reiki Practitioner)
- Professionalism When Applying for a Job/Internship (Teresa Ianni MMT, RP, MTA)
- Knowing the Destination: Developing Competency-Based Education Concepts in Music Therapy Clinical Training (Mary Jane Landaker MME, MT-BC)
- A Note from Indonesia: Three years after the MMT (Kezia Putri MMT, MTA, MT-BC)
- Focusing Workshop (Sarah Bell M.A., MTA., RCT-C)
- Nourishing Your Energy: Beyond Self Care (Daiva Zemaitis)

In addition to these presentations there were also opportunities for networking and open discussions about current questions, thoughts, and needs as well as hopes for future educational opportunities to come from the MTAO. A survey was sent to participants and to general members which remains open on an ongoing basis in hopes of hearing and incorporating the voices of our members into our programming. The SISC brought about many rich discussions, new and renewed connections, and many insights which will be instrumental in curating future MTAO opportunities.

In addition to the SISC we have been hard at work preparing for the 2023 AGM and Annual Conference. While we had anticipated hosting this in person in Toronto, due to some unexpected shifts and in order to be accountable to our membership as a result, we decided to pivot back to the online structure. We feel that this choice will also be supportive of a theme that has become evident throughout the year, which is a craving of connections with those in the music therapy community globally. We are looking forward to the 2023 AGM & Annual Conference: Near, Far, Wherever You Are.
#ConnectingGloballyToInformLocally

In the coming year we look forward to continuing to enhance these two conferences based on the voices of our members. Members can also expect additional workshops/virtual skill enhancing opportunities currently in development. We hope to hear from you regarding feedback of the experiences to date as well as what you hope to see moving forward for your development, and that of the field of Music Therapy. If you would like to get in touch, please email me at education.MTAO@gmail.com or fill out our feedback form [here](#).

Respectfully submitted by Kimberly Dolan, RP (Qualifying), MTA, NMT

ETHICS CHAIR

I am honoured to be the MTAO's Ethics Chair for the 2022-2024 term. Thank you to my predecessor, Maya Chriqui, for her four years of dedication to this role.

The MTAO received only one ethics-related inquiry this year. It concerned music programming being offered as therapy, without the involvement of a certified music therapist. This is a fairly recognizable scenario, and though there is typically no misrepresentation to investigate (i.e., no one is falsely claiming to be a certified music therapist), there is often an opportunity to educate those in charge of the music programming about the field of music therapy, and the training that therapists receive.

In 2022, the Canadian Association of Music Therapists published an update to its Code of Ethics. The updated document can now be accessed in the members' area of the CAMT's website. In the coming months, I will reboot the Ethics in Action portion of the MTAO's monthly newsletter, to help members familiarize themselves with the updated Code.

Also, this past year, I remained involved in the duties of the MTAO's treasurer. I acted as interim treasurer until the role was filled by Amy Harris in the fall. Since then, I have been helping Amy transition into the role. I have also been working with the treasurer and the Public Relations Chair (Kristina) to troubleshoot membership and registration problems on the new website, since its launch in the summer of 2022.

I continue to welcome all inquiries from MTAO members about ethics-related issues. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions, comments and/or concerns.

Respectfully submitted by, Jane Proctor, MA MTA

GOVERNMENT REGULATION CHAIR

The end of 2022 marks my second year as the Government Regulation Chair with the Music Therapy Association of Ontario and the completion of my first 2-year term. The past two years have fostered opportunities for learning, growth and important developments in regulation in Ontario and across Canada. As Government Regulation Chair I primarily represented the MTAO at The Partnership of Registered Psychotherapist Associations (PRPA) and College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario (CRPO) meetings in order to update the MTAO membership on issues pertaining to the regulation of psychotherapy in our province. As of the end of 2022, the MTAO had 76 RP and RP(Qualifying) members.

The **PRPA** is a collective of Ontario associations joined in discussion regarding advocacy issues for Ontario Registered Psychotherapists. One significant project the PRPA was involved in over the past two years was a campaign to remove GST/HST on counselling therapy/psychotherapy across Canada. The goal in doing so is to increase access to services by reducing the financial burden on the healthcare system, workplaces and communities. When a profession is regulated as a health profession by at least five provinces or territories, the services of that profession are GST/HST exempt. 2021 marked an important milestone when counselling therapy/psychotherapy became regulated in five provinces (Nova Scotia [Registered Counselling Therapist - 2011], Quebec [Psychotherapy Permit - 2012], Ontario [Registered Psychotherapist - 2015], New Brunswick [Licensed Counselling Therapist - 2017], and Prince Edward Island [Counselling Therapist - 2021]). In a first step towards removing taxes from counselling therapy/psychotherapy, Bill C-218: An Act to amend the Excise Tax Act (psychotherapy services) was tabled in December 2021 and in September 2022 Petition e-4126 was launched and garnered 14,422 signatures of support across Canada. For more information and to stay updated on this campaign and other projects of the PRPA, visit www.prpainfo.ca and PRPA Ontario on Instagram and Facebook.

Throughout the year I also attended meetings and information sessions hosted by the **CRPO** on various practice issues including changes to the quality assurance program and evaluating policies related to supervision requirements. I shared relevant updates with the MTAO Board and members through our monthly newsletter and was available to support MTAO members' inquiries about regulation issues pertaining to their practices.

Thank you MTAO members for the opportunity to serve as Government Regulation Chair over the past two years. It's been a pleasure working with the passionate and dedicated members of the MTAO Board of Directors!

Respectfully submitted by Kristen DiMarco, RP, MTA, MA

MEMBERS RELATIONS CHAIR

I completed the first half of my second term this year as the Member Relations Chair with the MTAO. I continue to be inspired by all of the great work happening by our members in all corners of the province.

I have continued to facilitate regular meetings with Regional Representatives in order to connect about what the board is involved with and to gather feedback. These meetings also serve as a great way to learn about the development of music therapy in Ontario. These meetings continue to happen every two to three months within close proximity to our respective board meetings.

I have also continued to assist the Education and Public Relations Chairs with conference planning and facilitation. This past October marked the first time since I joined the MTAO Board that we were able to host a hybrid conference with in-person attendees. It served as a great opportunity to connect with members through various options.

The main focus of my work during my remaining time as Member Relations Chair will focus on increasing inter-provincial connection and networking opportunities with members of other provincial music therapy associations. This is based on my own aspirations, and on feedback received by members and Regional Representatives. At the time this report is being written, the MTAO and MTABC are working on a joint venture that would allow MTAO members to attend MTABC sponsored events at the membership price, and vice versa. With hybrid and virtual networking opportunities here to stay, it makes sense to build off this momentum and develop ways to increasingly connect with members, students, and associations across our country. The first opportunity to test this pilot project will be our yearly conference and AGM at the end of February, and it is hoped that this report is being read and listened to at the conference by members of both associations!

It has been a busy year on my end, and I have appreciated the patience and support of the Board and MTAO members. I'm excited to finish this term strong and continue to foster connections with members across the province, and country.

Lastly, our list of fabulous Regional Representatives can be seen on page three of this report. We currently have three openings for Regional Representatives at this time. If you are interested in taking this on, please email me at memberrelations.mtao@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted by Daniel Allen, MTA, MMT, BMT