



ONTARIO
PHYSIOTHERAPY
ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



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A WORD FROM THE CEO & PRESIDENT



Sarah Hutchinson

Courtney Bean

It has been an extraordinary year and our Annual Report provides an important opportunity to look back and reflect on our policy work, our advances, and the priorities that will carry us into 2026.

Scope, scope, scope...we are delighted to finally see progress from the Ontario Government on diagnostic imaging for physiotherapists in Ontario. As we look back to 2025, we also look forward to the advancement of scope of practice in 2026. We celebrate the continued successes in other provincial jurisdictions and the recognition of the value of physiotherapists working to their full scope of practice in all domains of our healthcare system.

In 2025, we have continued to be intentional in our efforts to broaden engagement across our community and with our stakeholders. We have seen the results in new levels of interest and partnership with OPA. We celebrate our communications campaign and the recognition of our effectiveness in delivering key messages. We continue to see meaningful changes in how people engage with our content and are supportive of both our messages and our policy objectives.

OPA is member strong! Our ability to make a difference and have an impact is possible because of our amazing membership base and dedicated volunteers who step forward to serve on our Board, Committees, Working Groups and Districts. We are privileged to be part of an extraordinary community of health care professionals, working collaboratively at the provincial level and in partnership with the Canadian Physiotherapy Association to advance the interests of the profession.

Our members remain our key “why” and our key “how” – why does this matter to our members, how can we improve their practices, how can we deliver more value in our programs and services.

In closing out our 2025 review, we extend our sincere gratitude to all members, volunteers, and partners who make our work possible and enhance our profession. Your continued engagement and dedication drive the progress we celebrate in these pages and fuel our vision for the bright future for physiotherapy, by physiotherapists and team in Ontario.



VISION

Physiotherapy by Physiotherapists is available and accessible to all people who live in Ontario throughout their health care journey.

MISSION

As the professional association for physiotherapists, physiotherapist assistants, resident physiotherapists, and physiotherapy and physiotherapy assistant students living in Ontario, we support our members through advocacy, professional development, and career support. We influence and shape decisions that affect the profession and empower our members to provide the utmost in safe and high-quality care to all people and communities served.

VALUES

- | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|
| 
PHYSIOTHERAPY BY
PHYSIOTHERAPISTS | 
INTEGRITY | 
PROFESSIONALISM | 
INNOVATION AND
RESEARCH |
| 
COLLABORATION | 
ACCOUNTABILITY | 
EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATIONS | 
QUALITY IN
SERVICES |

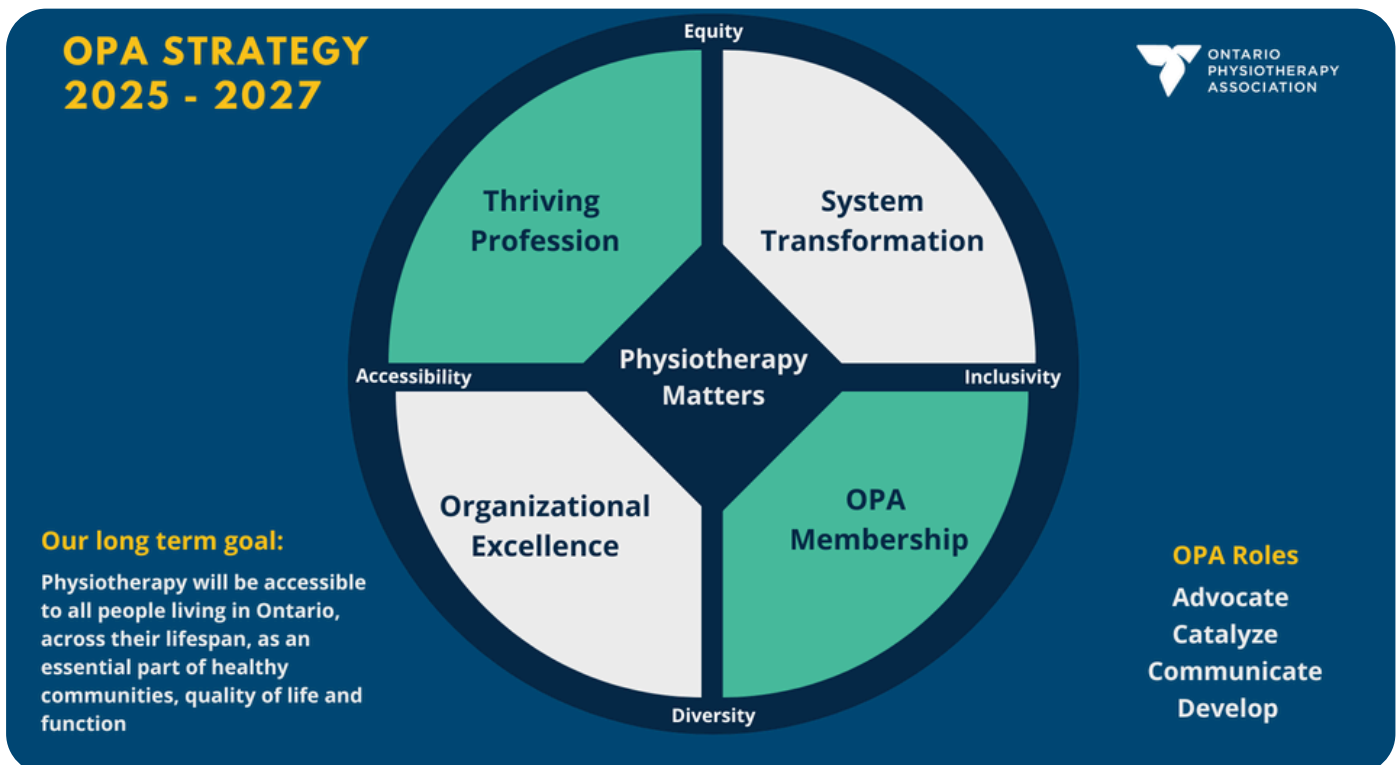
2025 - 2027 STRATEGIC PLAN

In 2025, OPA entered into the first of three years of the strategic plan. Priorities for the Association were identified by engaging with physiotherapists, health system leaders, other health care providers, students, educators, patients, among others. The conversations centered around what's most important for the future of physiotherapy.

OPA's Strategic Priorities are to:

- Focus on what matters - a thriving profession across all sectors
- Advance the role of physiotherapy in health system transformation
- Increase OPA membership
- Deliver organizational excellence

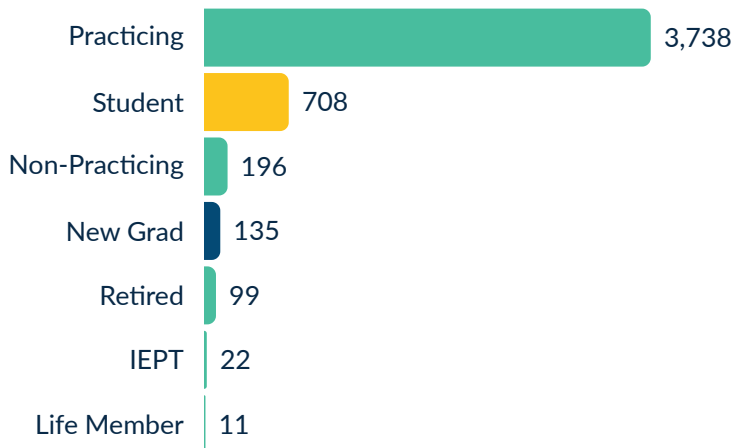
Across all areas, OPA will continue to strengthen inclusivity, diversity, equity and accessibility. Advocacy links directly to our Strategic Priorities.



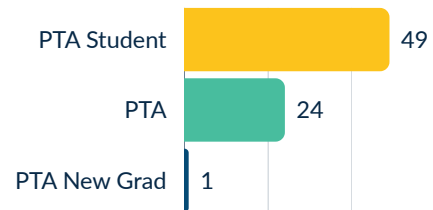
OPA BY THE NUMBERS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

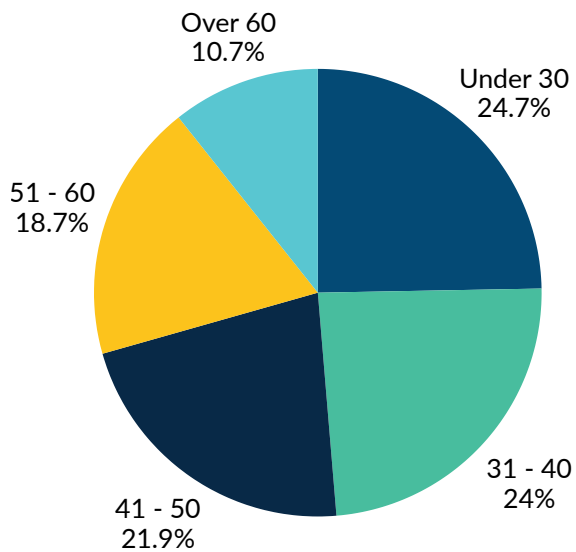
PHYSIOTHERAPIST MEMBERS



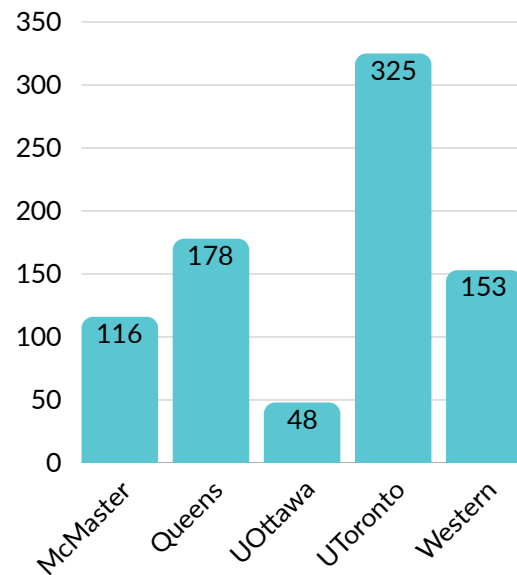
PHYSIOTHERAPIST ASSISTANT MEMBERS



AGE



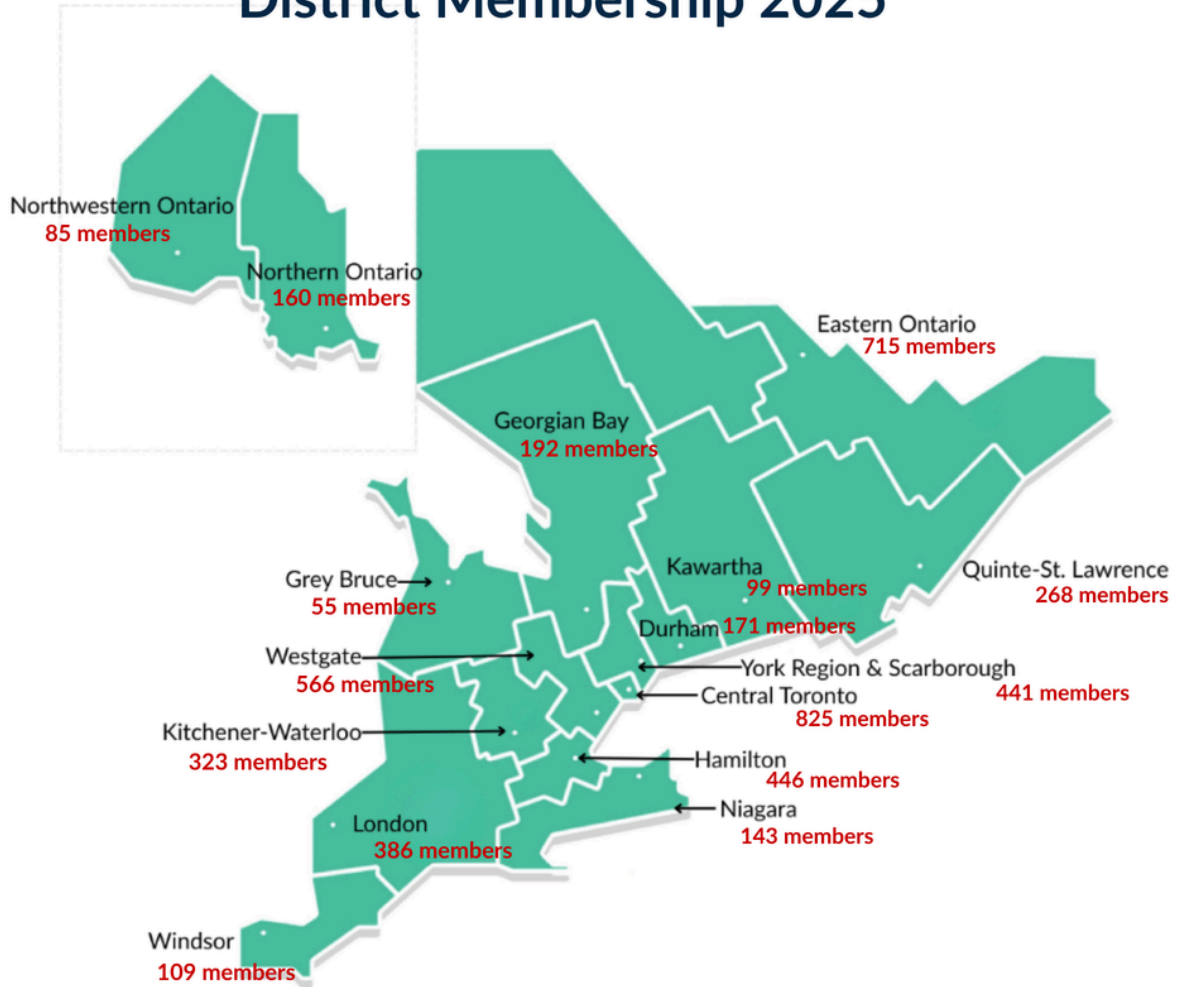
STUDENTS



OPA BY THE NUMBERS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

District Membership 2025



OPA ADVOCACY

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

In 2025, OPA continued its steadfast commitment to advocacy, engaging with government, health system partners, and key stakeholders, to advance the physiotherapy profession and strengthen access to care for people living in Ontario.

OPA Supports Members' Advocacy with Provincial Election Toolkit

In advance of the provincial election in February, OPA developed a toolkit for members to advocate with candidates. A candidate brief and key priorities were provided to help members in their discussions.

OPA CEO Strengthens Relationships at Queen's Park

At Queens Park, MPP France Gélinas took time to wish the entire physiotherapy community a very happy National Physiotherapy Month along with OPA CEO Sarah Hutchison.



OPA Presents to Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs Highlighting Outstanding Scope of Practice Implementation

OPA's CEO presented to the Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs on Bill 2, Protect Ontario Through Free Trade Within Canada Act, 2025 which amends various acts. While OPA supports labour mobility and the intent of Bill 2, it was noted that outstanding regulations for Scope of Practice must be implemented to ensure that Ontario is harmonized to advances in other provinces. This will reduce barriers and enhance labour mobility and create a practice environment that will attract and retain physiotherapists in Ontario.

OPA ADVOCACY

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

OPA Meets with Premier Doug Ford & Minister Sylvia Jones

President Courtney Bean and Isaac Taylor, Physiotherapist, met with Premier Ford and Minister Jones to discuss issues that matter to the profession. This included reducing ER wait times, the role of first contact physiotherapists in expanding access to primary care, integrated community care and transitions between hospital and home, and expanding scope of practice for physiotherapists across Ontario.



OPA Deepens Commitment to Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

OPA developed a position statement advocating for improved Jordan's Principle processes. With Indigenous Services Canada committed to reforming the administration, OPA was pushing for:

- Reduced systemic barriers that prevent access to physiotherapy services
- Culturally safe service delivery with collaborative community co-design
- Continuity of care through longer-term contracts with trusted partners
- Increased administrative capacity with transparency to address backlogs
- Recognition of physiotherapy as essential preventive and early intervention care

OPA ADVOCACY

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Annual Fee Guideline Review

Approximately one year after publishing the 2024 Physiotherapy Fee Guideline, OPA reaffirmed its commitment to keeping pace with the evolving private practice landscape through an annual review process examining market trends, economic pressures, changing patient expectations, and evolving service delivery models. Central to this year's review was direct member engagement through a survey capturing physiotherapists' current fees, fee models, and real-world experiences using the Guideline as an advocacy tool, with insights gathered informing meaningful updates.



OPA Submits Response to Government of Ontario Announcement of Plans to Implement the Authority for PTs to Order Diagnostic Imaging

On September 17, 2025 the Government of Ontario announced proposed changes to ensure the regulations that need to be implemented for physiotherapists to order diagnostic imaging are implemented.

OPA submitted a detailed response to the Government's consultation, backed by evidence, research, and the results of OPA's 2024 survey of Ontario physiotherapists.

OPA's submission emphasized how implementing the authority for physiotherapists to order diagnostic imaging (X-rays, CT scans, MRIs, and diagnostic ultrasounds) will improve access to care, reduce healthcare system burden, and work within established quality and safety frameworks.

OPA ADVOCACY

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Advancing the Role of Physiotherapists in Primary Care

OPA President Courtney Bean, CEO Sarah Hutchison, former Primary Care Advisory Committee Chair Emily Stevenson, and Government Relations Representative Don

Gracey met with Dr. Jane Philpott and Carly Bergamini, Director of the Primary Care Action Team (PCAT), an Ontario government initiative. OPA highlighted how approximately 20-30% of primary care visits are for musculoskeletal conditions i, ii, and estimates that a physiotherapist on an interprofessional primary care team can increase attachment rates by approximately 425 total rostered patients (on average) or 24%. [Read full article here.](#)



OPA Member Meets with Premier Doug Ford & Deputy Premier and Minister of Health Sylvia Jones



Anthony Grande, PT and OPA member, met with Premier Doug Ford on September 25 and Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Sylvia Jones on October 7, 2025.

OPA provided Anthony with a letter of acknowledgement and appreciation for the Premier and Minister of Health on behalf of 12,000 physiotherapists in Ontario for their leadership in announcing plans to implement the needed changes.

OPA ADVOCACY

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

OPA Presents at Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario and Health Workforce Canada Connects 2025 Conferences: Demonstrating that PTs are Essential to Primary Care



Emily Stevenson, OPA's Director, Practice and Policy, and Amy Hondronicols, former Director, Practice, Policy & Member Services, presented at the Association of Family Health Teams of Ontario conference. They shared the evidence for physiotherapists in team-based primary care - resulting in the right care, at the right time, by the right provider.

Additionally, OPA's Director of Practice and Policy, Emily Stevenson, presented at the Health Workforce Canada Connects conference and highlighted the same message.

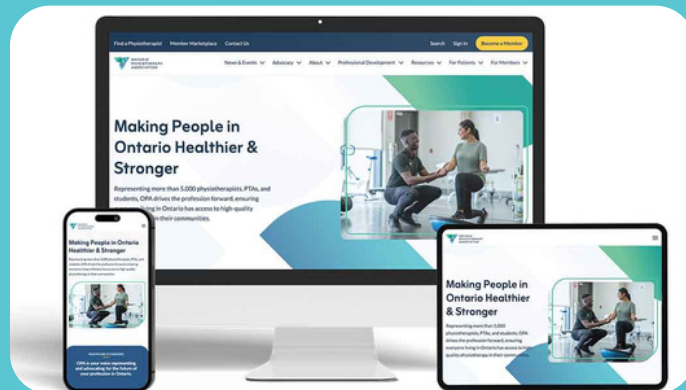


INCREASING ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

A Bold New Website Built for You

Built from the ground up based on feedback from the physiotherapy community, the new website features easier navigation, personalized content by practice area, front-and-centre news feed, practice resources for students & new to practice, and greater responsiveness and accessibility.



OPA Campaign Wins Three Gold Awards

OPA's New Voices & New Opportunities campaign reached more of the physiotherapy community than ever before, with over 120,000 viewers watching the value of OPA video and increased engagement across emails and video content. The campaign earned OPA three gold awards from the Healthcare Digital Marketing Awards in the categories of email campaign, microsite, and special video.

The campaign showcased the new CEO, President and Board of Directors to communicate OPA's evolving value proposition and its critical role on behalf of the physiotherapy community. The award-winning video achieved exceptional engagement, with 37.70% of viewers watching at least 25% of the content and 19.53% watching to the end.



MEMBERSHIP

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

INTERACTION

InterACTION Welcomes over 300 Attendees to Network and Learn

OPA's conference, March 21-22, provided the opportunity for the physiotherapy community across Ontario to get together. With dozens of sessions, a chance to network formally and informally, and celebrate award winners, the event was a huge success!



MEMBERSHIP

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Engaging With Students

Ontario accommodates almost 700 students in five schools across Ontario. McMaster University, Queen's University, University of Ottawa, University of Toronto, and Western University all offer a master's degree in physical therapy. In addition, the Ontario Internationally Educated Physical Therapist Bridging (OIEPB) Program provides educational support to physiotherapists who were educated outside of Canada.

Communicating and Connecting with PT Students

OPA's President Courtney Bean and/or OPA's CEO Sarah Hutchison went in-person to visit each school this fall. They shared insights on the profession and the Association's role in supporting physiotherapists throughout their careers. It was inspiring to experience the students' energy and enthusiasm, which is a reminder that the future of the profession is in excellent hands.

These visits are part of OPA's continued commitment to connecting with physiotherapy students across the province and supporting the next generation as they begin their journey in the profession. We appreciate their curiosity, questions, and enthusiasm for their future profession.

All Students Enjoy Free Membership

OPA/CPA membership is free for physiotherapy students in accredited programs, approved bridging programs for internationally educated PTs, and physiotherapist assistant students in accredited or candidacy-status programs. OPA offers resources and opportunities designed specifically for students and early-career professionals, and advocates on their behalf throughout the year.



MEMBERSHIP

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Celebrating Member Excellence: Member Spotlight

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Expanding Horizons: A Physiotherapist's Role in Ontario's Emergency Departments

Andrew Tri,
Physiotherapist

Andrew Tri, a physiotherapist working in the emergency department at Toronto General Hospital, shares his journey, insights, and hopes for the future of the profession.



[Read the Full Article](#)

In late 2025, OPA launched a reimagined Member Spotlight initiative to showcase innovative work happening across the profession highlighting key advocacy areas. Members were invited to come forward, whether practicing in an innovative role, contributing to research, speaking in the media, or advancing the profession through advocacy, to be celebrated by the OPA community.

In October, November, and December, OPA profiled three members exemplifying a core advocacy priority: enabling physiotherapists to work to their full scope of practice, improving patient access to care and reducing strain on the broader healthcare system.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The Critical Role of Physiotherapists in Reducing the Burden on Emergency Departments

Natasha Bhesania
Physiotherapist



When Natasha Bhesania graduated from the University of Toronto with a Master of Physical Therapy in 2007, she was immediately drawn to the intensity and complexity of acute care. She took on several roles across intensive care, neurotrauma, orthopedics, and general internal medicine units. A permanent role on Mount Sinai's geriatric consult team eventually opened the door to a new opportunity that would push the boundaries of traditional physiotherapy practice.

[Read the Full Article](#)

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Venkadesan Rajendran on Working to Full Scope in Stroke Care

Venkadesan Rajendran
Physiotherapist

"My journey in the field of physiotherapy began in 1999, when I recognized how many patients were living with pain and disability without timely access to proper care."



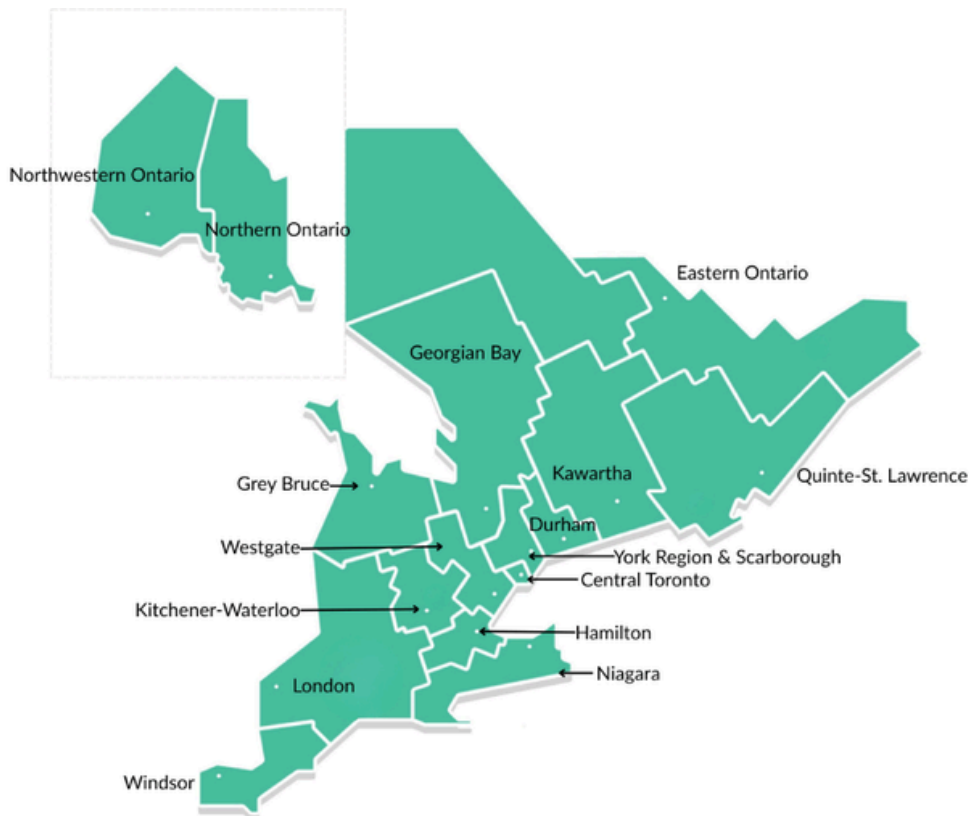
[Read the Full Article](#)

The Member Spotlight will continue to evolve, featuring one member per month and highlighting the rich diversity of the profession: the variety of settings where physiotherapists practice, the communities they serve across Ontario, and the broad range of people who make up OPA's membership.

DISTRICTS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Members Advancing Physiotherapy Through Community Engagement



OPA's 16 Districts form the foundation of member engagement across the province, led by dedicated volunteer physiotherapists who take on important governance roles and work tirelessly to serve the membership. Through the Districts, members connect through social events, professional development opportunities, advocacy initiatives, and networking.

District volunteers organize courses, webinars, and events that bring local perspectives and health issues to the provincial level, playing a vital role in shaping OPA's strategic direction. The OPA Board deeply values this engaged leadership and the critical contribution it makes on behalf of all physiotherapists.

DISTRICTS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Northern Ontario Conference a Big Success!

The Northern Ontario District of OPA hosted its bi-annual conference, Physio North 2025. Attendees said “I feel encouraged about our profession and am more motivated to get back at it!” and “It was truly a valuable experience for both skill development and networking opportunities. It was great connecting with so many engaged professionals.”



Kitchener-Waterloo District Hosts First Networking Event

The Kitchener-Waterloo District of OPA launched their first networking event in 2025. The physiotherapy community in KW was supported in staying connected at their Walk for Alzheimer’s for National Physiotherapy Month in May as well.



DISTRICTS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

London District Hosts Webinar with Dr. Rich Trenholm

The London District hosted a webinar in February featuring Dr. Rich Trenholm, a Sports Medicine Doctor who attended the Paris 2024 Olympics. Attendees gained behind-the-scenes insight into elite athlete preparation, high-performance sports medicine, and best practices from major international events, along with practical strategies for enhancing physiotherapy skills at the highest level of care.



London District Walk for Truth and Reconciliation

The London District gathered at Springbank Park for a Walk for Truth and Reconciliation, encouraging participants to wear orange shirts in honour of the day. Members met at the Springbank and Wonderland entrance and walked together for approximately one hour, led by London District President Christina Ziebart.



2025 AWARD RECIPIENTS

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION



Innovation & Advancement Award

Recognizes trailblazers who advance the profession through innovation in clinical practice, research, technology, or education.

Greg Alcock: Greg was instrumental in developing the Advanced Health Care Practice Program in Sport and Exercise Medicine at Western University and shaping high-quality educational content for the National Orthopedic Division.

Leadership & Advocacy Award

Honours advocates who elevate physiotherapy's profile within the public and health care community.

Anthony Grande: Anthony has been a strong leader in government and auto sector advocacy, building positive relationships with Ontario's government to advance physiotherapy's scope and address auto insurance challenges.



Outstanding Volunteer Award

Recognizes members who have made exceptional volunteer contributions to the Association and the profession.

Rhonda Matthews: Rhonda is celebrated for her years of dedicated service in the Northern District, holding roles such as Treasurer, Communications Coordinator, and now District President, in a region with limited resources.

Student/New Grad Leadership Award

Celebrates emerging leaders who actively promote physiotherapy and contribute to the Association early in their careers.

Kristin Nugent: Kristin is recognized for her leadership within her program and her advocacy for better care and awareness for older adults and people with neurological conditions.



PTA Leadership Award

Honours a PTA who demonstrates patient-centered leadership and innovation in care delivery.

Pamela Morton

Pamela consistently goes beyond traditional PTA duties, ensuring her clients receive compassionate, high-quality care that enriches their health and experience.

MEMBER MILESTONES

ONTARIO PHYSIOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to OPA members for their years of commitment to the profession by maintaining a membership in the Association for 50 and 60 years.

60 Years

Marilyn Marsh, Elaine Christensen,
Patricia Harvey

50 Years

Anne Smith, Carolyn Higgs, Doreen Sharpe, Jennifer
Cummings, Ken Lundrigan, Sandra Fowler-Sasso

40 Years

Alison Bonnyman, Ann Botham, Audrey Kouyoumdjian, Barbara Stefanska, Bruce Armstrong, Daniel
Pereira, Debra Harshaw, Ginette Hamel, James Wayling, Jane Goldberg, Janice Lee, Janet MacDowall,
Joan Mlynarczyk, Joseph Putos, Karen-Lee Masse, Kelly Hunter, Lucie Pelland, M. Brooke Malstrom,
Maureen Luther, Marlene Turgoose, Nancy Toffolo, Pasqualina Santaguida, Rochenda Howard, Sharon
Walsh, Suzanne Foreman, Susan Teengs, Theophylus Wijesundera, Wendy McCann, William Rhodenizer

30 Years

Alessandro Rosatelli, Alice Lui, Alison Sass, Agnes Makowski, Amanda Fei, Anita Allen, Annemarie Fei, Barbara Nagy,
Benita Margalot, Bobbi-Jo Gibbs, Brenda Mori, Brenda Scott-Thomas, Carl Gayle, Charlene Reynolds, Claire Belton,
Colleen Browne, Courtney Bean, Dana Guest, Daniel McQueen, Darlene Robinson, David Munro, Dean Tesic, Deepa Ganatra,
Diana Raghunandan, Éric Mageau, Euson Yeung, Gail Harris, Grazyna Bergiel, Grant Gagnon, Halina Pawlowski Michell,
Jackie Yates-Cohen, James Neale, Janet Weigel, Jasmine Menard, Jennifer Van Kampen, Jeffrey Charron, John Brice,
John Brubacher, John Pendlebury, John Staresinic, Judy Apps, Karen Guha, Katherine Cvornyek, Keri-Lynne Burgess,
Kim Hogan-Dyer, Laurie Bickerton, Lisa Menezes, Madhavi Ladha, Margaret Ranger, Maria (Mary) Mule, Marius Walfisz,
Melanie Metrow, Michel Landry, Mindi Goodman, Miriam Mulkewich, Nadia Colantonio, Nathalie Chartier, Nicole Igel-
TerBeek, Niloofar Faghani, Oren Cheifetz, Patricia Hoover Pearson, Patti Joslin, Peter DeAngelis, Rachel Carter,
Robert Barkley, Ron McMahon, Rowena Hill, Samantha Stergaros, Sandra Whetham, Shannon Elliott, Sheela Zelmer,
Sherry Plamondon, Stephanie Boyd, Stephane Maxwell, Sue-Ann Rudaitis, Tania Campbell, Terry Rowan, Tricia Hayton,
Trudy Mason, Victor Millard, Wendy Moore-Hill, Wendy Sarsons

20 Years

Allison Francis, Angela Lin, Andria Cellucci, Adam Weiss, Alexandra MacPherson, Amy Doiron, Arvin Kim, Avinnash
Sookmangal, Bonita Follick, Bridget O'Brien, Christopher Ganesh, Colleen Dunphy, Craig Brown, D. Christine Gibner,
Daniel Agostinelli, Danie DeGrace, David Revitt, David Ross, Dianne Stickley, Diana Schon, Dzenana Preksavec-
Circic, Elaine Sivak, Emily Bruni, Erin MacCormack, Geneviève Boucher, Glenn Wark, Heather Miller, Hillary Farr,
Irene Antunes, James Aboelela, Jason Bellefleur, Jennifer Entwistle, Jennifer Haywood, Jennifer Missere, Joanna
Sherman, Joanne Kasaboski, Julie Bossé, Julie Chalaris, Kian MacDougall, Karen San Andres, Laura O'Brien, Lisa
Campbell, Mark Cheung, Martine Jean-Pierre, Meghan Buttle, Mike Postic, Nicole Robinson, Omar Sahraoui, Patricia
Ferrari, Raymond Kao, Rebecca "Becky" Heitman, Ryan Leung, Saiwing Yu, Sandra Van Dyke, Scott Alexander,
Sharon Rich, Shawn Silver, Stacey Meester, Tania Mannella, Yao Yao, Yogita Dhalla

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Courtney Bean,
President



Magda McCaughan,
Secretary



Charlotte Anderson,
President-Elect



David Egbert



Jennifer Howey



Wing Ting Truong



Manuel Valle



Terry Wang



Kyle Whaley



OPA extends sincere gratitude to the following Board Directors who completed their terms of service in March 2025: Their leadership, strategic insight, and commitment to the profession have been instrumental in advancing OPA's mission. The contributions of time, expertise, and dedication they brought to their roles are deeply appreciated, and OPA wishes them every success in their future endeavours

Oren Cheifeitz



Katie Gasparelli



Susan Roberts



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