

MRA Information Guide

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR REGISTRATION UNDER THE MUTUAL RECOGNITION AGREEMENT (MRA) for the OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY PROFESSION IN CANADA?

Each provincial occupational therapy regulatory authority in Canada supports the mobility of occupational therapists across Canada. With this in mind, if you are currently registered with another OT regulatory organization in Canada you may be eligible to apply to the College of Occupational Therapist of British Columbia (COTBC) under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA). The MRA document is available at our website at www.cotbc.org

Occupational therapists applying for registration under the provisions of the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) will be required to authorize that a current or former regulatory organization verify and provide to the receiving jurisdiction, copies of official documents required for registration. Complete the Authorization for Release of Information part of the form and then send it to the previous regulatory organization with which you have been registered. The regulator will complete the Confirmation portion of the form and send it directly to COTBC.

Regulators may charge a fee of \$40.00 to complete this form, copy your documents, and forward to COTBC.

The following checklist may assist you in determining the likelihood of your eligibility. If you have one box checked under each of sections A, B, and C you may be eligible for application under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for Occupational Therapy in Canada.

A. PRACTICE Requirement:

- I am currently practicing occupational therapy in Canada without restrictions on my license/registration/certificate.

B. EDUCATION Requirement:

- I completed a baccalaureate program at a Canadian educational institution (as listed on Schedule 1 of the Mutual Recognition Agreement) and a minimum of 1000 hours of approved clinical fieldwork in occupational therapy in Canada

OR

- I **do not** have a baccalaureate degree in occupational therapy from a Canadian program (listed on Schedule 1 of the Mutual Recognition Agreement) but **have practiced in at least one Canadian province continuously for a minimum of three years.** (Please note that this option does not apply for therapists moving to Quebec)

C. EXAM Requirement:

I passed the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) examination

OR

I graduated from a **Canadian Occupational Therapy Program** when the CAOT exam was not in effect (prior to December 31, 1985)

OR

I was continuously registered and held an unrestricted practice certificate (certificate/license/registration/permit) with a regulatory organization that, experienced legislation changes regarding the CAOT exam. The change was that applicants had to pass that exam to be eligible to practice (ie. I was registered before the CAOT examination was a requirement of registration)

OR

I was continuously registered and held a practice certificate (certificate/license registration/permit) in a province that does not require that I have passed the CAOT examination and I have provided direct occupational therapy for a minimum of 750 hours within eighteen months of graduating from an occupational therapy education program

OR

I graduated from the occupational therapy education program offered through McGill University, Université de Montréal, or Université Laval in 1976 or later.

The above checklist is intended to assist you in determining the likelihood of your eligibility to apply for registration with a regulatory organization in Canada under the Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) for the profession of Occupational Therapy. If you have one box checked under each of sections A, B, and C you may be eligible to apply under the MRA.

This information is intended only as a guide, and does not replace the decision-making authority of the regulatory organization to which you are applying. The information you have provided will be verified.

If you are not eligible for registration under the Mutual Recognition Agreement, your application will be considered under the regular registration process.

If you have any questions please contact College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia (COTBC), Suite 219, Yarrow Building, 645 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1G2 or by email at info@cotbc.org or by telephone at (604) 386 – 6822.