

## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2010

### **ACOTRO Receives Funds from the Government of Canada to develop improved, common assessment approaches for internationally educated occupational therapists (IEOTs).**

**VICTORIA** – The Association of Canadian Occupational Therapy Regulatory Organizations (ACOTRO) has secured over \$2 M of funding to 2015 from the Government of Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition program. The generous funding will allow ACOTRO to continue its collaborative efforts and complete the final Phase of a Pan-Canadian initiative aimed at implementing a common assessment approach for the qualification recognition and competence based assessment of IEOTs.

For several years, ACOTRO has demonstrated a vision and commitment to promoting access to the profession for qualified internationally educated occupational therapists (IEOTs) through a number of shared initiatives.

These have included the completion of two phases of a Pan-Canadian initiative that included: development of the *Assessing Substantial Equivalence of Internationally Educated Occupational Therapists* framework; describing the Canadian Occupational Therapy Education Benchmark; updating the Essential Competencies of Practice for Occupational Therapists in Canada; validating the inventory of capabilities, context and requisite competencies to be assessed; and developing Occupational Therapy Profession Specific Credential Assessment and Competency-based Assessment Tools.

Through the Harmonization Project ACOTRO will work with stakeholders to build on previous research and development. Completion of Phase 3 of the Pan-Canadian initiative will include the following important projects:

1. Harmonizing language fluency assessments and policies;
2. Mapping the occupational therapy Essential Competencies (3<sup>rd</sup> edition) to the National Occupational Therapy Certification Examination Blueprint; ensuring that the NOTCE Blueprint consistently reflects the revised ECs in future; and developing the 4<sup>th</sup> edition ECs;
3. Harmonizing Academic Credential Assessment processes;
4. Formalizing ACOTRO’s identity and presence as the national representative of occupational therapy regulatory organizations in Canada;
5. Pilot testing and refining the Professional Specific Credentialing Assessment (PSCA); and
6. Pilot testing and refining the Competency Assessment Tool (CAT).

ACOTRO and its member regulators look forward to working together on this exciting initiative; the Harmonization Project will be completed in 2015.

## About ACOTRO

Established in 1989, ACOTRO is the national association of provincial occupational therapy regulatory bodies, whose mandates are the protection of the public. ACOTRO's members regulate the practice of occupational therapy in their respective jurisdictions across Canada.

ACOTRO members work collaboratively to:

- a) advance quality occupational therapy regulation;
- b) develop and promote a national strategy for consistent and congruent regulatory practices for the profession;
- c) promote interprovincial and international labour mobility and workforce planning and
- d) promote national and international networking and information sharing of regulatory issues and positions.

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*For more information, please contact:*

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### ACOTRO Members:

Alberta College of Occupational Therapists	New Brunswick Association of Occupational Therapists	College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario
College of Occupational Therapists of British Columbia	Newfoundland and Labrador Occupational Therapy Board	Prince Edward Island Occupational Therapists Registration Board
College of Occupational Therapists of Manitoba (COTM)	College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia	<i>Ordre des ergothérapeutes du Québec</i> Saskatchewan Society of Occupational Therapists