We are pleased to introduce the WHITE PAPER TASK FORCE!

The Ontario Athletic Therapist Association (OATA) announced last January that the Board appointed Wendy Hampson BPE, CAT(C), Dip At&M to serve as Chair of a Task Force to create a White Paper on the Athletic Therapy profession. Wendy has already recruited Frances Flint, PhD, CAT(C), Joe Kenny B.Sc., CAT(C), M.Ed. and Dr. Jamie Laws B.A., CAT(C), DC, FCCSS(C) to serve as members of the Task Force.

Over the past two years, while working to achieve regulation for the profession under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) in Ontario, it became evident to OATA Board Directors that key stakeholders, including Ontario government officials, do not know about the profession, its history, its scope of practice, its core competencies and education that position it to be a valuable contributor to health care delivery in the province. To this end, the Board decided it would be wise to establish a Task Force to prepare a White Paper on the profession. There are many examples of how other health care professions have used White Papers to address similar challenges, including Ontario Physiotherapists and Ontario Nurses. The Board has asked OATA President, Drew Laskoski, to be the liaison between the Task Force Chair and the Board, supported by Frances Flint, PhD, CAT(C), ATC York University, Chair of the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Committee.

The OATA believes the White Paper will become a legacy document for the profession and that the White Paper will be invaluable to educating health care sector stakeholders about the profession's competencies and to assist the organization in discussions with the College of Kinesiology as we advance the specialization for Athletic Therapy.

The Board has confidence that Wendy Hampson is the ideal person to lead the Task Force and is confident Wendy and her team will deliver a first-class White Paper. A White paper is a long-established tradition in parliamentary government systems as a document for discussion purposes, policy formulation and positioning of a solution or exploration of options.

The regulation process has exposed the OATA Board to health policy and health care delivery issues in Ontario, including the Ministry’s recent decision to have all regulated health professions commit to evidence-based practice. The Association has engaged the membership in a Program of Care demonstration project that will lead to benchmarking AT practice against physiotherapy and chiropractic rehabilitation practices for upper and lower extremities, acute low back injuries and mild traumatic brain injuries. The Board established a research and evidence-based practice committee and, as part of the OATA’s Vision 2015, is moving to create an OATA Research and Education Foundation.

Get your copy of the White Paper at the AGM 2014!

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