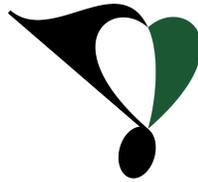


2020 Update to the Canadian Association of Music Therapists



Music Therapy Association of Saskatchewan

As our new normal had stretched over the year MTAS continued to utilize technology to work together. We have been actively meeting, and continue to focus on building value for our members. Early in the pandemic our board looked at the four pillars CAMT has been using to guide their focus and talked about these pillars and what it looks like on a provincial level. We have determined that our focus would be on supporting our members by increasing our focus on "Develop" and "Connect". Through 2020 and early 2021 we increased the number of online video conferences we had via our "Expert Panel" series as well as hosting a more laid back connection focused video chat around Christmas. This approach has been successful and we have seen many members joining us for these events in higher numbers than past in person events.

It has been wonderful to "meet" therapists in other parts of the province much more quickly than if we were relying on in-person events alone. Sharing with other music therapists the triumphs (figuring out Zoom and other virtual therapy tricks!) and the struggles of the past year has truly made our community "stronger together".

The third pillar the board felt MTAS could address on a provincial level was "Advocate". In order to do this, we remained active in our work with FACT-SK. The FACT-SK group has also continued its work through the pandemic and we have seen some inroads with individual politicians as the mental health crisis grows. This crisis has further highlighted the need for safe, qualified professionals who can provide support to people in a timely manner.

Although the 2020 CAMT conference that was planned for Regina was moved to the virtual platform, and we were unable to share this amazing province in person, it was a proud moment for us to be able to highlight Bernadette Kutarna. She is a pioneer in the truest sense of the word and has provided steady growth to the profession throughout her career. Not a music therapist in SK hasn't heard "Do you know Bernadette?". We are honoured to continue to promote and grow music therapy off the building blocks she set in Saskatchewan.

Respectfully submitted,

Lana Wilkinson,
MTAS President