



## **Profession-Based Language Assessment in Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy**

### **Call of Interest: Advisory Committee – September, 2009**

As you may be aware, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance), in partnership with the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) and the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (CPO), has received funding from the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration (MCI) to develop a single profession-specific language tool applicable to both occupational therapy and physiotherapy. This project is divided into two phases. The first is a benchmarking initiative aimed at characterizing language use in occupational therapy and physiotherapy work environments. In the second phase, a profession-specific language tool will be developed and validated based on the findings from the benchmarking exercise.

The Canadian Centre for Language Benchmarks (CCLB) of Ottawa has been retained to conduct an analysis of language use in occupational therapy and physiotherapy professions. Over the next 10 months CCLB will be conducting a series of observations, interviews and focus groups designed to describe and deconstruct the professional use of communication across the four language skills – speaking, listening, writing, and reading. Observations are to take place in locations across Ontario in a variety of different practice environments: home care, hospitals, private practice, paediatric and long-term care centres.

A small Advisory Committee will be assembled to provide guidance to this process and to ensure that the methodology employed by CCLB accurately reflects the realities of the occupational therapy and physiotherapy workplaces. This group will review relevant project documents and provide advice to CCLB during the course of their investigations. Specific tasks include:

- advising on issues related to the methodology and implementation of the benchmarking;
- providing direction and guidance on the job observation process;
- giving feedback and review draft reports as needed;
- and, making recommendations on future project action.

The time commitment associated with Advisory Committee membership is expected to be minimal totaling approximately 1-2 hours per month. Correspondence will be conducted primarily by email and teleconference.

Please contact the Project Manager, Keith Johnson at [project@alliancept.org](mailto:project@alliancept.org) if you are interested in participating in the Advisory Committee.