

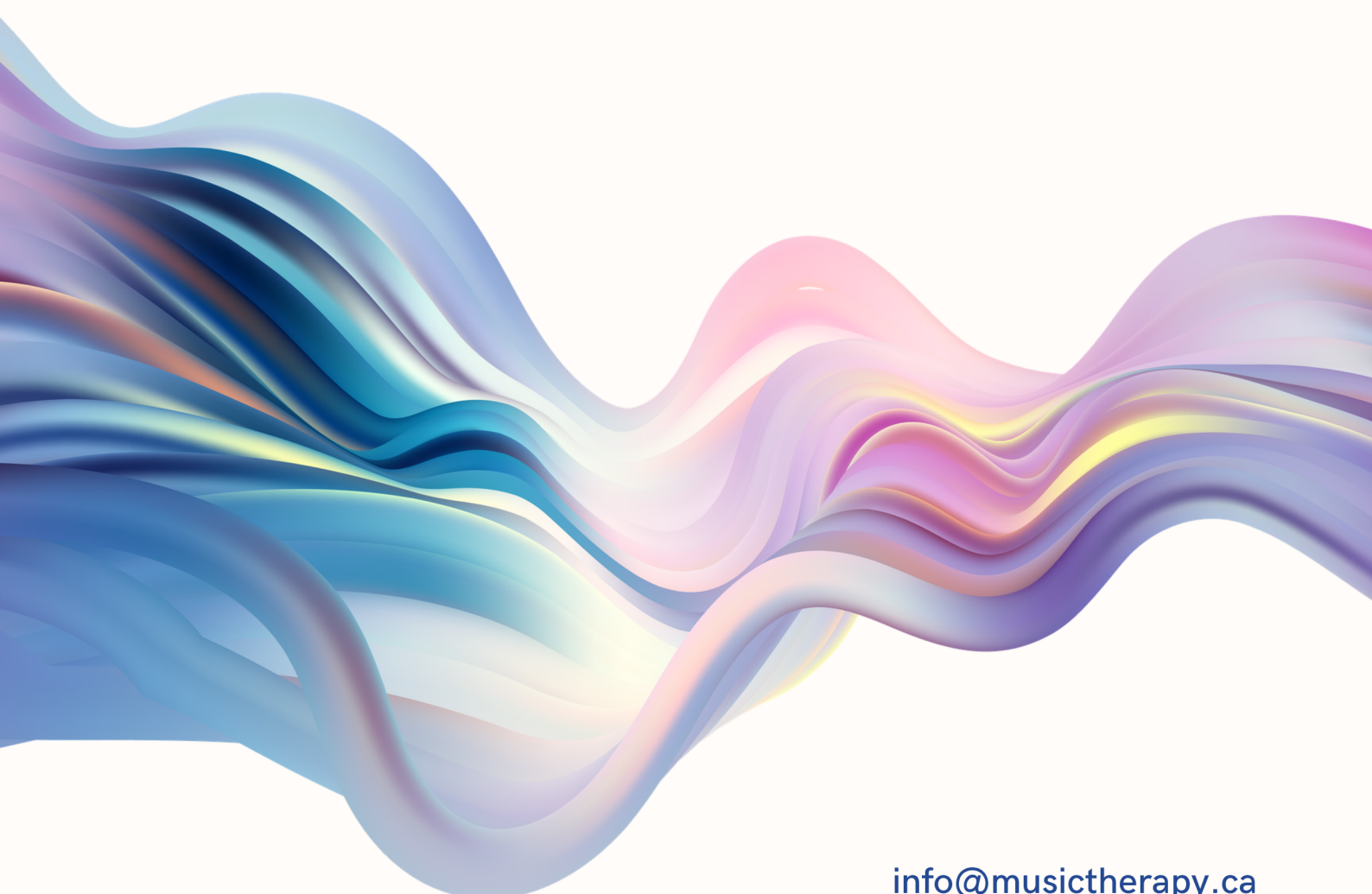


Canadian
Association of
Music Therapists

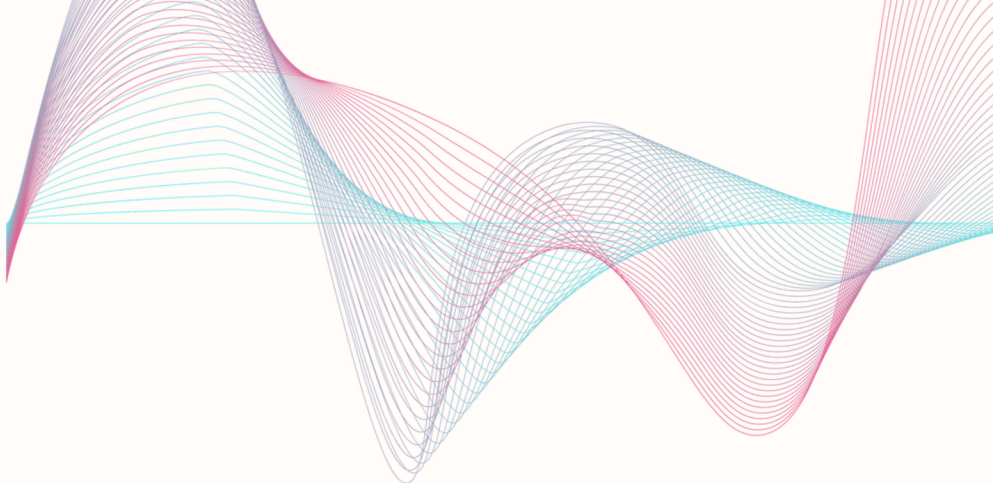
Association
canadienne des
musicothérapeutes

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
MUSIC THERAPISTS



info@musictherapy.ca
1.800.996.2268



WHO WE ARE *WHAT WE DO*

PURPOSE

To be the primary source of knowledge, information, professional development and advocacy to promote Certified Music Therapists (MTAs) and music therapy.

VISION

Supporting the health and well-being of Canadians through music therapy.

VALUES

We enrich the lives of individuals, families, and communities through music therapy.

We recognize and develop the unique potential and strengths of the clients we work with.

We maintain professional standards through MTA Certification and adherence through a code of ethics.

From the Past President

2025 in Review

Wow, what a year it's been! 2025 has been focused on stabilization, governance renewal, and renewed engagement – laying important groundwork for a stronger, more transparent, and future-focused CAMT.

Over the past year and a half in my role as President, I have had the privilege of working alongside board members, additional volunteers, and staff who stepped forward with care, resilience, and commitment. I am deeply grateful for their time, energy, and willingness to navigate complexity in service of the Association. CAMT relies on the engagement of its members and volunteers, and in 2025, that collective commitment was evident across governance, committees, events, and day-to-day operations. This report reflects not only the work accomplished, but the shared effort behind it and the momentum we carry forward into the year ahead.

Governance, Board Development, and Committees

Board renewal. The Board prioritized governance education, updates to orientation and onboarding materials, and the clarification of Board responsibilities and committee roles to help strengthen effectiveness, decision-making, accountability & transparency, and support continuity as board membership changes. From working board to governance board, 2025 focused on building sustainable volunteer engagement by clarifying roles, improving onboarding, and modernizing committee operations. Following an organizational review, we streamlined committees, defined Terms of Reference, aligned them to strategic priorities, and designated Board liaisons for better support and accountability.

Committees recommend, the Board governs, and staff and volunteers implement. This shift revitalized volunteer engagement after a dormancy period. Onboarding and training. CAMT prepared orientation materials, governance training videos, and training on bylaws and platforms (e.g., Teams) to support sustainable volunteer contributions.

Financial Oversight and Organizational Stability

Long-term sustainability was the focus for 2025 with the Board engaging in responsible financial oversight and planning, and infrastructure decisions necessary to support CAMT's long-term sustainability. Operating model oversight. In response to challenges that emerged in early 2024, the Board took a careful look at how CAMT operates and made changes to support greater stability and resilience. With guidance from HR consultants, we moved to a contract-based staffing model that clarified roles and accountability, strengthened financial oversight, improved coordination of communications, and better supported the Board's shift toward a governance-focused structure.

Information governance and risk management. In 2025, the Board paid closer attention to how CAMT manages and protects its information – recognizing information security, record-keeping, and knowledge retention as important governance responsibilities. This work included investing in secure data backups, clearer access management, and more reliable digital systems, as well as addressing gaps in records and archives. Rebuilding core governance, policy, and onboarding materials was an important step in strengthening continuity and preserving institutional knowledge for the future.

Member Communications: Lessons & Improvements

During a complex HR and legal period, members understandably expected more timely updates. In 2025, we acknowledged those gaps, shared the constraints we faced, and committed to clear improvements, including restoring phone service, expanding financial and membership reporting, providing a post-AGM Q&A, and reintroducing communications such as *Salut* and *MTAdvocate*.

Publications & Professional Voice

Journal progress. Over 2025 editorial roles were clarified to strengthen scholarly output and knowledge sharing, and after a 2-year hiatus, the *Canadian Music Therapy Journal* has been restored. Thank you so much to Sherene Chen-See (Managing Editor), Annabelle Brault and Sara Pun (Content Editors).

Education, Certification & Workforce Sustainability

Certification fairness and bilingual access. With the new CBMT exam being released in 2026, we secured two certified Canadian translators to improve exam translation quality—paired with a neutral MTA review for integrity, toward a Canada-relevant exam. CAMT's discussions with CBMT opened a path to an exam better aligned with Canadian practice and francophone accessibility. This strategic direction supports a more equitable and relevant certification journey.

Conference

The conference's success was entirely due to the dedication and leadership of volunteers, whose planning, coordination, and on-site support made the event possible. The Board extends sincere gratitude to all who contributed their time and expertise, helping to re-establish in-person conferencing as a meaningful and sustainable part of CAMT's future.

Looking Ahead to 2026

Policy & Bylaw Modernization: Simplify policy manual, continue bylaws improvements (e.g., clearer absentee/post-meeting voting provisions in plain language), and review the Standards of Practice.

Ethical Integrity and Due Process: In 2025, ethics remained a priority. Behind-the-scenes work on ethical integrity and risk mitigation for all involved took place, including legal consultation on ethics complaints and investigative processes, with clearer procedures and policies to be proposed in 2026.

Volunteer & Committee Momentum: Keep onboarding strong, refine committee scopes, and sustain Board-liaison support to maximize member impact.

Conference Delivery: Develop a robust and accessible online conference for 2026, build on lessons from recent in-person and virtual events to strengthen engagement, knowledge-sharing, and national connection across the profession.

Bilingual Certification and CBMT Exam: Continue to ensure exam translation quality, pursue added PSI test sites in francophone regions, and continue dialogue toward a Canada-aligned exam.

Recognition & Advocacy: Continue work toward coordinated CRA recognition and national-provincial approaches, in collaboration with provincial associations, to strengthen professional recognition and advance pathways toward insurance coverage.

Emily Mostratos, Past President.



Board of Directors & Staff



Wanda Gascho-White
Acting President



Ashley Kurkjian
Acting President-elect



Emily Mostratos
Past President



Stephen Williams
Treasurer/Secretary



Melissa Tan
Director



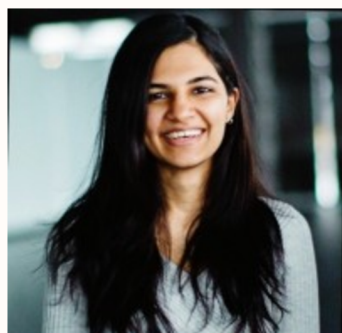
Tyrone D. Barnes
Director



Mia Clow
Director



Rachel Norris
Director



Aprajita Saxena
Director



Kristina Twilt
Membership Services
Administrator



Emily Cheng
Communications Assistant



Robert Rothern
Executive Director

Deep gratitude and thanks to previous Board members Nancy Leung and Priya Zalis

From the Executive Director

As Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Music Therapists, I am pleased to share the events and developments of the past year. This report outlines the challenges we faced, the efforts we undertook, and the progress we achieved together.

Challenges and Responses

In 2025, CAMT adopted a new staffing model that allocates specialized resources to specific areas of work. Under this model, the Executive Director also assumes the responsibilities of the chief financial officer. Membership services are managed by Kristina Twilt, while communications benefit from the expertise of U of T Journalism graduate Emily Cheng. Our core staff is further supported by contracted services: Harvey Financial Services for bookkeeping and, for IT support, initially GAMtech and now Pluto Micro.

This operational redesign aims to reduce the concentration of organizational knowledge in any one role and to distribute workload more evenly in support of greater overall efficiency. Although this model remains in its pilot phase, early results are encouraging. As we continue to identify and address operational gaps, CAMT is steadily strengthening its internal processes.

Financial Health

Despite ongoing financial pressures related to legal matters, CAMT ended the year in a strong financial position. Administratively, we concentrated on improving our bookkeeping, settling outstanding accounts, and bringing all government filings up to date. Our goal is to operate as smoothly and efficiently as possible, freeing resources for other priorities. The summary financial statements included elsewhere in this report reflect our continued commitment to transparency and accountability.

Member Engagement

Members will have noticed the return of MTAdvocate and MTA Salut this year, as well as more frequent communications from the CAMT Board, National Conference organizers, and the newly revitalized Canadian Journal of Music Therapy. We also laid the foundation for a renewed social media presence in 2026, beginning with Bluesky and with potential expansion to additional platforms. Strengthening connections with provincial and regional music therapy associations remains a priority, demonstrated by CAMT's offer of \$300 to support their Music Therapy Awareness Month activities in 2025.

Looking Ahead

In 2026, we will continue our organizational "housecleaning," with plans to update and streamline key policies, clarify and implement foundational documents, strengthen our advocacy efforts, and enhance the CAMT website.

Acknowledgements

This year's accomplishments would not have been possible without the support of our members; the commitment of our volunteers, including governance volunteers; the contributions of government and private funders such as Canadian Heritage; our partners and stakeholders; and our dedicated staff.

Robert Rethon, Executive Director



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC THERAPISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES MUSICOTHÉRAPEUTES
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
For the year ended December 31, 2025**

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
REVENUE		
MTA Membership fees	\$ 232,298	\$ 230,238
Conference fees and sponsros	63,727	(66)
Heritage Canada Grant	5,000	-
Library subscriptions and other	3,646	100
Interest	<u>1,552</u>	<u>1,780</u>
	<u>306,223</u>	<u>232,052</u>
EXPENSES		
Personnel	114,097	156,501
Conference	67,909	-
Office and general	42,820	47,563
Professional fees	37,242	20,807
Translation-CBMT Exam	13,527	-
Bank charges	11,765	5,995
Translation services	10,510	919
Rent	2,598	1,813
Travel	-	1,573
Printing and publishing	-	1,175
Amortization of tangible assets	<u>-</u>	<u>896</u>
	<u>300,468</u>	<u>237,242</u>
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES	\$ <u>5,755</u>	\$ <u>(5,190)</u>

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSIC THERAPISTS
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES MUSICOTHÉRAPEUTES
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the year ended December 31, 2025**

NET ASSETS	Invested in <u>capital assets</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Unrestricted</u>	Total <u>2025</u>	Total <u>2024</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ -	\$ 65,000	\$ 24,931	\$ 89,931	\$ 95,121
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,755</u>	<u>5,755</u>	<u>(5,190)</u>
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 65,000</u>	<u>\$ 30,686</u>	<u>\$ 95,686</u>	<u>\$ 89,931</u>

See accompanying Notes to Financial Statements

Ethics Committee

Ethics is a confidential portfolio that is chaired by a board member, serving as the Ethics Chair. Ethics are a foundational component of our professional identity, intended to protect clients from harm by guiding the decision-making and actions of members. The Chair serves as an educational and consultative role for informal inquiries and serves to delegate formal complaints. All communication regarding ethics begins with Wanda@musictherapy.ca.

For many of the informal inquiries (seeking information or clarification, but generally not resolution), a follow-up phone conversation explores the issue. The Ethics Chair received approximately twelve informal inquiries during the reporting period. These inquiries typically involved members seeking clarification regarding ethical considerations in their practice. All these informal inquiries have been concluded.

There were three formal complaints through the ethics email in the reporting period. A formal complaint seeks resolution between two or more parties. The Ethics Chair doesn't investigate or adjudicate the complaint – rather, it is forwarded to an investigator, typically an experienced MTA who has facilitated a complaint's investigation previously. The investigator follows the process and procedure outlined in our Code of Ethics. The role distinction ensures the Ethics Chair's impartiality by not investigating directly. Two of the three formal complaints moved forward to an investigation. One investigation has been concluded with ongoing communication for clarity, while the other complaint is ongoing.

As a reminder, the CAMT does not publicize the details and/or the outcomes of a complaint. This value is part of our organization's intention on privacy and fairness.

The Ethics portfolio remains committed to supporting members in navigating ethical challenges and maintaining high professional standards. Questions and inquiries can be sent to Wanda@musictherapy.ca.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Williams, MTA
Past Ethics Chair

National Conference Committee

NATIONAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

CHAIRS:

Nancy Leung
Emily Carruthers

MEMBERS:

Steering Committee and Conference Committee:

Julia Beth Kowaleski, Katelyn Wheaton, Mia Clow, Heather Lepine, Tany Lavoie

Scientific Committee:

Elizabeth Mitchell, PhD, RP, MTA (Scientific Committee Lead);

Susan Summers, BPE, B.Ed., MMT, PhD, NMT, AVPT, MTA;

Priya Zalis, MTA, RP, MMT;

Mélie Laurier-Crompt, MA, MTA;

Cynthia Bruce, PhD, MTA;

Amy Clements-Cortes, PhD, RP, MT-BC, MTC.

ACTIVITIES:

Following the disappointment of the cancellation of the 2024 National Conference, the National Conference Committee was entrusted with the important mandate of organizing CAMT's 50th anniversary conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia. The quickly constituted committee rose to the occasion, delivering a highly successful event centred on the theme "Honoring Our Past, Shaping Our Future."

Feedback from conference attendees was overwhelmingly positive, with enthusiasm for the integration of music throughout the conference, the engaging pre-conference and conference programming, and the equally engaging social media presence.

After the event, the committee conducted a SWOT analysis, which informed a set of recommendations to guide future conferences.

2025 National Conference

REGISTRATIONS

129 In Person
(Both Days)

2 In Person (Friday) **5** In Person (Saturday)

14 Asynchronous

46 In-Person delegates indicated this was their first CAMT conference

3 Asynchronous delegates indicated this was their first CAMT conference

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP REGISTRATIONS

15 Advanced Supervision Workshop (with waitlist)

25 Somatic Approaches for Music Therapists

23 Songwriting for Music Therapists (with waitlist)

LOCATION BREAKDOWN

CANADA

68 Ontario
35 Nova Scotia
20 Québec
15 British Columbia
11 Alberta
6 Manitoba
3 Newfoundland and Labrador
3 New Brunswick
1 Prince Edward Island
1 Saskatchewan

INTERNATIONAL

3 United States of America
2 United Kingdom

We acknowledge the financial support of the Government of Canada.

Our Members

1227

MTA Members

56

New MTAs Certified

342

Non-Clinical Members

535

Student & Intern Members

454

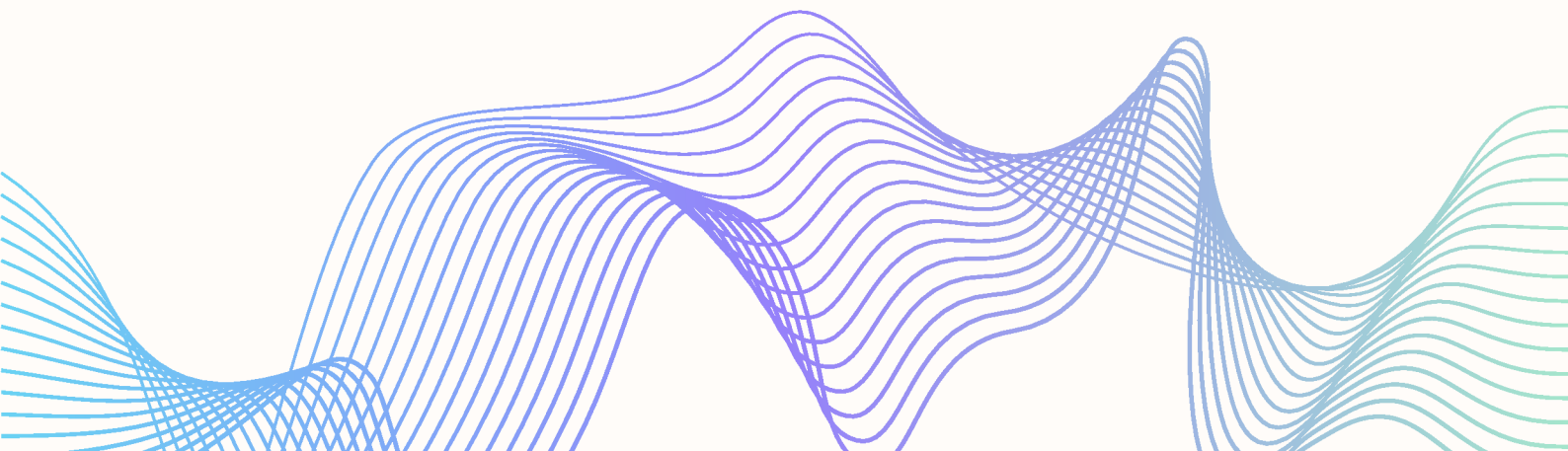
Completing internships
across Canada

29

MTAs took the Supervisor
Level 1 Training Course

Volunteers

CAMT extends its heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who generously contributed their time, expertise and goodwill as the organisation worked to rebuild after a challenging chapter in its history. Their dedication made it possible for CAMT to turn a corner, deliver a vibrant and successful 50th National Conference, and resume many of its core activities.



List of Provincial & Multi-Provincial Associations

Alberta: MTAA

Music Therapy Association of Alberta
www.mtaa.ca

Atlantic: AAMT

Atlantic Association for Music Therapy
www.atlanticassociationmt.com

British Columbia: MTABC

Music Therapy Association of BC
www.mtabc.com

Manitoba: MTAM

Music Therapy Association of Manitoba
www.mtamanitoba.ca

Ontario: MTAO

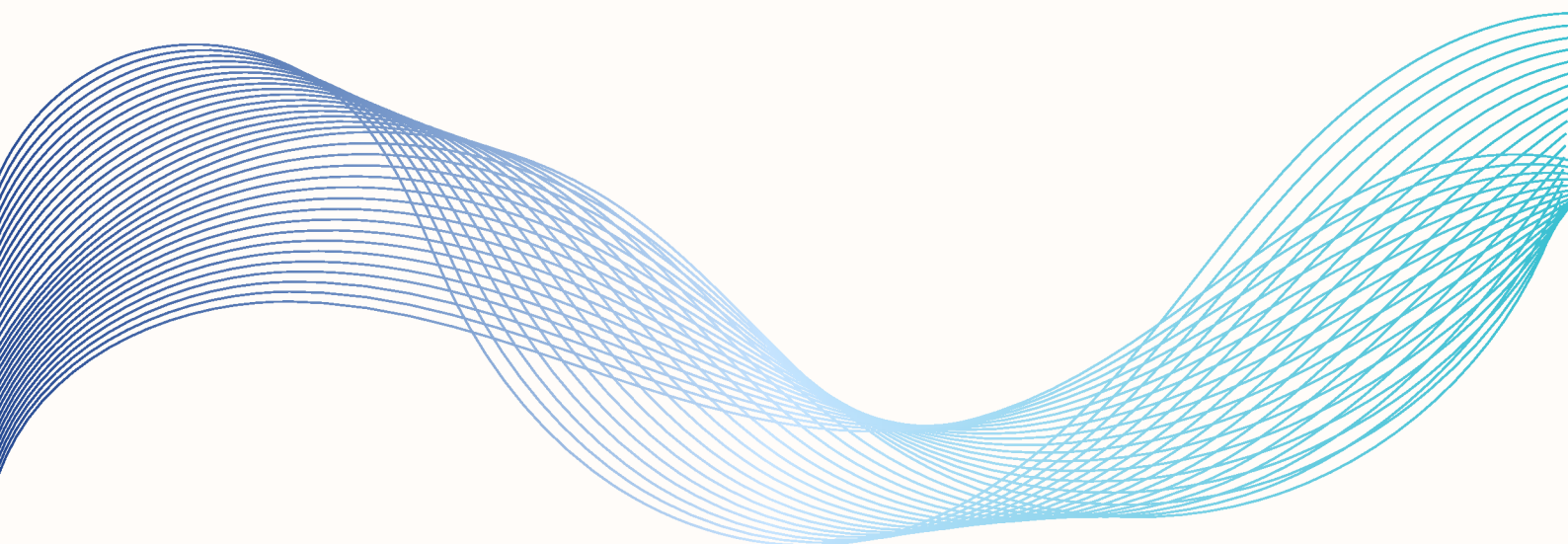
Music Therapy Association of Ontario
www.musictherapyontario.com

Québec: AQM

Association québécoise de
musicothérapie
www.musicotherapieaqm.org

Saskatchewan: MTAS

Music Therapy Association of
Saskatchewan
www.musictherapysk.com



Annual Milestone Recognition



New MTAs Certified in 2025

Niniane Lois Magno

Aaron Nussbaum

Emily Gilbert

Shriya Khan

Nathan Garland

Sophie Jolicoeur-Becotte

Alana Andersen

Jeongwu Lee

Brittany Keller

Josephine Arsenault

James Ennis

Saul Hudacin

Haraman Gill

Erin Lamb

Grace MacDonald

Lok I (Cathy) Iu

Sharon Isaac

Cynthia Marhue

Elizabeth Bacon

Steven Tang

Kylie Thompson

Ryan Carley

Keisha Edwards

Marie-Jeanne Beauchamp

Michael Capo

Amy Spence

Lindsay Thomson

Herman Shing Hang Chow

Tessa Charter

Hsuan-Yu Chou

Carrie Somerville

Lucia Ober

Julian Harmel

Emma Mabley

Mackenzie Lee

Madi Trupp

Natasha Wandel

Loghan Puhach

Jillian Chesney

Da Eun Ryu

Emily Markwart

Ann Running

Leah Lee

Emma Wood

Arianne Reid

Elisha Buenaventura

Brent Rounsville

Trish Ignacio

Julia Blundon

Tsz Pan Gretchen Lee

Eryn Russell

Rhyan Caven

Wing Hoi Kwok

Odelia Koh

Geoffrey McIver

Nicole Steinley

5-Year Milestones Certified in 2021

Kim Cooke
Abigail Portillo
Edwina Lin
Leah Magnan
Sara Lavigna
Lacey Friesen
Nadia Petriw
Graylen Howard
Leigh-Ann Burger
Cameron Yip
Catherine Kennedy
Olivia Maisel
Suzanne Oliver
Tiffany John
Valérie Saulnier
Natalie Kimpton
Tyler Reidy
Caleb Gilman
Justis Krar
Brooklyn Hull
Eric Hadley
Lou Latil
Jacqueline Cheung

Timothy Eddy Sophia
Fatema Higgins
Micaela Pirritano
Sonja Knaus
Fion Wai Tung Leung
Sidney MacDonald
Noa Kay
Mariah Blaine-Longo
Cody Ray
Bryn Pickard
Karly Goss
G. Rogers Rogers
Meredith Woodiwiss
Ju Hee (JULIANNE) Ryu
Alana Pon
Hayley Naunton
Maria Osiowy
Alexis Grant-Lefebvre
Darby Shute Meszaros
Kirsten Ziegelmeier
Tiana Dick
Cynthia Ng
Rena Yung

Kelsey Arsenault
Jean Wahl
Jessamy Gray
Olivia Maveal
Melissa Murphy-Naidoo
Terence Boyd
Chelsey Braaksma
Beatrix Yip
Heitha Forsyth
Naomi Friesen
McKenna Hodges
Naoko Funahashi
Anne Bird
Rebecca McDonald
Nicholas Scott
Michelle Yee Ting Hui
Christal Oei
Ian Fildes
Briana Gregoris
Max (MEGAN) Duplisea
Chelsea-Anne Woolridge
Jungwoo (JONATHAN) Han
Kelly Lefaive

10 Year Milestones Certified in 2016

Erinn Epp	Karli Purscell	Cordon Purcell
Stéphanie Lavigne	Nadine Veroba-Dagg	Kathleen Pereversoff
Lisa Johnson	Rebecca Woodruff	Rachel MacEwan
Danielle Schmidt	Joney Chin	Samantha Harber
Samuel Minevich	JiMyung Yoon	Emily Sousa
Dominique Piquard	Len McCarthy	Alva Espino
Joanie Ayotte	Jessica Shen	Elaine Jia Ying Cheung
Sarah Bell	Courtney Mailman	Carmen Lee
Kristen Shin	Amber Christopher Caitlin	Jennie Paquette
Roxanne Christian	Monument	Julia Walmsley
Jeffrey Burton	Jennifer Read	Rebekah Jordan-Miller
Tiana Malone	Jennifer King	Naomi Rachlis
Bethany Parsons	Victoria Rondinelli	Durae Wilson
Lucy Thomas	Stephen Venkatarangam	Jessica Heise
Alexandra Moir	Kristen DiMarco	Kimiko Suzuki
Trevina Samaan	Rebecca Barr	
Aspen Switzer	Corey Hollett	

15 Year Milestones Certified in 2011

Candice Twees	Sarah Wilson	James McLauchlan
Benilda Formoso	Monique McGrath	Rachel Suljic
Catherine Mitchell	Christelle Laforme	Elizabeth Eldridge
Patricia Hortop	Nadine Cadesky	Ariane Paradis
Antionietta Mongillo	Nynne Collins	Carolyn Marshall
Julie Gaudin	Grant Porter	Monique Laflamme
Emmanuelle Spiess-Benielli	Laureen Giesbrecht	Glenn Watson
Alissa Dueck	Taya Henriques	Sacha Rose Kiesman
Helene Gaudreau	Mayumi Holbrook	Danika Wulff
Lucinda Johnston	Shannon Ingersoll	Yee Chun Sincere Tung
Georgina Panting	Kristen Anderson	Alison Klassen
Joel Kroeker	Amanda Dupupet	Shannon Clark
Bernice Chu	Chris Riccomini	Sung Tak Josephine Lee
Grace Mackell Martine	Katherine Deane	
Létourneau	Xi Chen	

20-Year Milestones Certified in 2006

Ruth Roberts
Lawrence Keats
Pierre Gagné
Anna Plaskett

Cheryl Farris – Manning
Katie Hampton
Emily Finnigan
Ruth Eliason

Carolyn Neapole
Jeffrey Smith
Darrel Cameron

25-Year Milestones Certified in 2001

Megan Gibson
Nadine Hollett

Andrea Lamont
Shannon Robinson

Jeffrey H. Hatcher

30-Year Milestones Certified in 1996

Kerry Byers
Lynnette Postman
Eudora Ng

Melanie Keyes
Melissa Jessop
Chrystine Bouchard

Laura Unger
Laurel Young

35 Year Milestones Certified in 1991

Noele Bird

Noreen Donnell

Guyline Vaillancourt

45 Year Milestones Certified in 1981

Kerry Burke

Mary Reher

Claire Lefebvre

In Memoriam

Valerie Ann Bird (1951–2025)

Valerie grew up in Squamish, BC, displaying innate musical talent from an early age. Following high school, she received a BEd from UBC and taught at West Vancouver Secondary. Valerie later found her calling as a Music Therapist, devoting the later chapter of her life to making music, healing others, and meditation. Valerie graduated from Capilano University in 2009 with her BMT and worked for several years in long-term care sites, including Providence Health Care and Royal Arch.

In 2010, she founded the Intuitive a Capella Singers with Karin Roberts, LaRee Mohr, Susan Summers, and Shannon Ingersoll, with whom she sang and chanted for 10 years until a year before her death. Even though she could no longer actively and audibly sing, her lips mouthed the words of her songs two days before her passing.

Valerie's song, *When We Meet in the Music*, was chosen as the 2014 CAMT conference theme and was shared by delegates at the opening of the conference.

