

# January Newsletter



## CEO Message

As we welcome the new year, I want to take a moment to wish each of you a fantastic start to 2025! This is a time for fresh perspectives and renewed energy, and I am excited about what this year holds for our association and the physiotherapy profession.

Reflecting on the past year, I encourage you to review our Annual Report, which showcases our achievements and the collective efforts that have advanced our profession.

[2024 Annual Report](#)

As you will read below, January has been a busy month on the advocacy front as we continue to ensure that physiotherapy is represented at various tables from insurance reforms to the healthcare refocus.

Looking ahead, we are already in the planning stages for the 2024 AAP Connect Conference. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks, as we aim to create an engaging and informative event that will continue to support our growth and development in the field.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to physiotherapy in Alberta. Together, let's make 2025 a year of continued innovation and excellence! As always, please feel free to reach out at any time ([ceo@albertaphysio.com](mailto:ceo@albertaphysio.com)).

Best,  
Jen

# Advocacy Update

As we continue to advocate for our profession, we will look to provide monthly updates to our members so that you are aware of the many conversations taking place behind the scenes to enhance the future of physiotherapy in Alberta.

## AB Government Budget Submission

For the first time, we submitted a budget proposal to the Government of Alberta as they prepare for the upcoming fiscal year. In line with Protaea's recommendations, we shared this submission with supportive MLAs, which has already resulted in positive responses. We've had meetings with both MLA Weibe in Grande Prairie and MLA Petrovic in Edmonton who were very supportive of our asks including access to Netcare for physiotherapists and consideration for better integration of physiotherapy.

## Insurance Reform Initiatives

In mid January, representatives from the Association and College had a productive meeting with representatives from the Treasury Board and Finance Ministry regarding their technical consultation paper. Key takeaways from our discussion include:

- Ambitious timelines to finalize protocols by summer 2025 for introduction during the fall legislative session, targeting a January 2027 implementation for the new insurance system.
- Consideration of Dr. Cote's report for protocol development. While they acknowledge the need for an update, time constraints may pose challenges. We have also shared the newly launched Australian Clinical Practice Guidelines for consideration.
- Aspirations for a consistent system across insurance providers (same form, centralized database), but there remain questions about executing these plans within tight timelines.

The government is in the process of hiring an implementation team and will be looking to form working groups with both health care and insurance representation. As an Association, we will be looking to host a townhall in February to share any additional information that we may receive, as well as hear from our members so we can continue to represent the profession in conversations moving forward.

## Continuing Care Engagement

We recently connected with key individuals in Continuing Care to discuss access to Netcare. The conversation was encouraging, and they have invited us to be stakeholders in future consultations to ensure better physiotherapy representation.

## Additional Meetings

We have started conversations with the Alberta Medical Association around team-based care and potential opportunities for our two professions to work together. Conversations are in the early stages, but we will share more information as they continue.

Together, we are making strides in ensuring that physiotherapy remains a cornerstone of healthcare in Alberta. Thank you for your continued support and engagement.

## Upcoming February Professional Development

### Post Stroke Spasticity Virtual Education Sessions delivered by AbbVie Institute of Health Education

**Part One: "Early Identification, Referral and Management of Post-Stroke Spasticity"**  
February 3rd, 7-8pm MST (Zoom/Virtual)

**VIRTUAL EVENT INVITATION**

**February 3rd, 7-8pm MST: Early Identification, Referral and Management of Post-Stroke Spasticity**

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Describe the incidence, prevalence and risk of spasticity in post-stroke patients, as well as the clinical manifestation of spasticity and the importance of early identification of post-stroke spasticity (PSS).
2. Identify which patients should be treated for post-stroke spasticity and why.
3. Foster early identification approach and management strategies for patients with PSS while adopting a timely referral for appropriate treatment approach.

**Speaker(s):** Dr. Geoff Frost, MD, FRCPC, CSCN (EMG)  
Alberta Neurologic Centre  
Calgary, Alberta

**Part Two: "Post-Stroke Spasticity Toolkit for Therapists"** February 24th, 7-8pm MST  
(Zoom/Virtual)

**VIRTUAL EVENT INVITATION**

**Part 2: Post-Stroke Spasticity Toolkit for Therapists (Zoom)**

**Learning Objectives:**

1. List and describe various spasticity evaluation and assessment tools used in post-stroke spasticity and describe goal setting and treatment methods.
2. Select and make use of the tools and scales that are most appropriate for their patients.
3. Utilize the toolkit and Traffic Light tool to make an appropriate timely referral of patients.

**Speaker(s):** Brittany Marcoux (OT)  
GF Strong Spasticity Management Clinic  
Vancouver, BC

## Automobile Insurance Rate Board Webinar




The AIRB is pleased to announce the 2nd event in their webinar series, "Road to Learning". This is an opportunity to get caught up on Alberta's transition to Care First Automobile Insurance System.

We invite you to join this free webinar on March 7th to learn more about this important topic.

Online

# ROAD TO LEARNING

Alberta's Transition to Care First Auto Insurance System

	FRIDAY MAR 07, 2025
	TIME 12 PM - 1 PM MST
	TICKET PRICE FREE



[REGISTER NOW](#)

 Zoom Webinar



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