



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What are OAMFT's plans moving forward?

OAMFT will continue to serve as your local association committed to our MFT community here in Ontario. Your Board has been strategizing ways to meet your needs more effectively as we transition to an independent affiliate of AAMFT. We are pleased to announce that in 2018 we will offer not only some of your most valued benefits, but will be introducing even more including:

- New lower membership dues
- More professional development activities including a new webinar series starting in January 2018
- Annual conference featuring key MFT speakers and topics
- Advocacy efforts impacting MFTs in Ontario
- Access to reduced cost professional liability insurance coverage
- Advocacy on insurance coverage and HST exemption
- Promotion of MFT profession and its professionals in Ontario
- Support for supervisors including an annual retreat
- Networking opportunities to support our growing professional community

How will these plans look for members?

In addition to the immediate impacts of lower dues and new benefits, members can look forward to many positive changes for the OAMFT. Your Board and the AAMFT have been strategizing at every level to ensure that MFTs in Ontario can be confident that their professional association is hard at work for them. Some important initiatives in the works:

- Development and introduction of new services to ensure MFTs in Ontario are benefiting from their local association
- Changes to the AAMFT application process to ease barriers to membership for Canadians by creating additional pathways to meet the qualifying degree requirements for Clinical Fellow membership through the evaluative track
- Dedicated membership support specialist at AAMFT for Canadians

What is OAMFT's relationship with CAMFT now that CAMFT is autonomous from AAMFT/OAMFT?

As CAMFT has recently announced, it has decided to become autonomous from AAMFT and its affiliates. The OAMFT strives for MFT presence across Canada and is also committed to the MFT community in Ontario and being the support resource for Ontario members. While we will be separate associations, we will collaborate with CAMFT to best support our Ontario members.

OAMFT is a long-time partner of AAMFT – previously as a division and moving forward as an independent affiliate. In addition to membership benefits such as the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy and advocacy support, the partnership provides OAMFT with association services such as dues collection and renewals, membership and association management support staff, and access to discounted support programs. These activities can be costly and overwhelming for small associations. Our partnership with AAMFT helps to ensure our volunteers and small staff can focus more energy and attention on delivering member benefits in Ontario.

What happens to my RMFT designation now?

The CAMFT has communicated its plans to continue to offer the RMFT designation. We cannot answer specific questions about the RMFT designation, but would direct you back to the CAMFT for clarification on specific questions around your RMFT credential. Your OAMFT Board is investigating the best ways to protect your MFT identity. For example, in other Canadian provinces, insurance companies work directly with the divisions to obtain lists of Clinical Fellows for reimbursement purposes.

What would have happened to our reserves of OAMFT dissolved instead of becoming an Independent Affiliate of AAMFT?

If we opted to dissolve, our funds would still be designated for use exclusively within Ontario but instead of the OAMFT Board directing their usage for the independent affiliate, it would be Ontario members in AAMFT's Family TEAM directing their usage for advocacy related work. The money would be used exclusively within the borders of Ontario though. The funds were given as dues (or conference revenue) for the purpose of benefiting Ontario which is why it is restricted in such a way.

Are there changes in financial and other forms of management for an Independent Affiliate in comparison to a Division?

Independent Affiliates are intended to be more operationally independent than divisions. Rather than requirements in the charter agreement which spell out a uniformity to how they are run, there are instead minimum benchmark requirements (such as a minimum number of Board members). Beyond that Independent Affiliates have more flexibility in deciding how to operationally manage their associations. The requirements that remain in place (membership benchmarks, financial ratios, reporting) are all the key elements to ensure that the Independent Affiliates are positioned for success, that members' interests are protected, and that AAMFT is best positioned to be a strong partner in the process – all without unduly taxing the volunteers with onerous requirements.

How can I get involved with the OAMFT?

Along with new benefits and strategic direction, comes a need – and an opportunity – for you to get involved in the future of our MFT community. Run for the OAMFT Board or serve on an ad-hoc committee. Volunteer leadership is a rewarding way to give back to our professional home and it looks great on a résumé or CV! We want to launch a number of new initiatives to help raise our visibility with systemically-minded professionals, students, and those new to the profession. Contact us if you want to get involved!

Can I become a member if I am not a family therapist?

The AAMFT/OAMFT welcomes professionals from many disciplines who are interested in systemic practices. All members must join AAMFT in order to become a member of the OAMFT. Please contact us for more information on becoming a member.

How can I renew my membership?

OAMFT Members must renew through the AAMFT in the same way it was done in the past. OAMFT members have to be a member of the AAMFT in order to be a member of the OAMFT, so you must renew your AAMFT membership and then add Ontario to your renewal with the new reduced dues for the OAMFT.

For more information please contact us:

Toula Kourgiantakis
President
president@oamft.com

Jenny Glozman
Secretary
secretary@oamft.com