



## WFMT BUZZ

From the desk of Dr. Anita L. Swanson



# March 2023

Dear WFMT members,

The excitement is building as we register and make our travel plans for the 17<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Music Therapy. This month we will hear from one of our spotlight speakers in *The Future of Music and Music Therapy in Healthcare* strand. Jennifer is also on the organizing committee for the congress and has spent numerous hours preparing a fantastic event for you to enjoy!



**Jennifer Buchanan, MBA, MTA**  
**Executive Director of the Canadian Association of Music Therapists**

The CAMT board, staff and members have been speaking the words 'World Congress' for well over 3 years and as we shift into the fullest time as July 2023 gets closer and closer, the excitement continues to grow.

There is so much that I am personally looking forward to – being back in my hometown (I moved from another province of Canada post-education over 30 years ago), feeling inspired by the words, diverse stories, and advancements of practice shared by my esteemed colleagues from around the world, and know that I will again feel that deep sense of connection to a profession I have engaged in for my entire adult life.

I am honoured (Canadian spelling 😊) to have been asked to be a Spotlight Speaker on the Future of Music and Music Therapy in Healthcare. Much of my most recent professional portfolio falls under community education, administration, and promotion of wellness through music – while working clinically just one day a week in corrections and mental health. This varied work has grown and been strengthened through partnerships that span private, public, government, NGOs [non-governmental organization]– as well as diverse industries. As the Executive Director of CAMT, partnerships are essential – with the board of directors, committees, the operations team, the members of CAMT from students to retired, and the many public partnerships who help us ensure the citizens of Canada know about, and can access, music therapy when they need and want it.

I am anticipating I am going to learn so much when the global community comes together. I am excited to learn about the latest research in practice including the use of technology, firsthand. I am also looking forward to connecting with those who are starting associations in a country for the first time, opening a region's first education program, and those who are re-imagining music therapy practice and education.

What I know for sure is that we will not be bored. The location, the program, and the activities that will make up the congress will be rich in Canadian culture, music, and music therapy. We cannot wait to welcome you all.

