



Jamie Laws was a gentle giant within Ontario health care as both an Athletic Therapist and a Chiropractic leader. He graduated from York University with an Honours BA in Physical Education and Geography in 1973. He went on to graduate from the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College as a Doctor of Chiropractic in 1979. He then became a Fellow of the Royal College of Chiropractic Sport Sciences in 1981. Dr. Laws was a founding member of the Acupuncture Council of Ontario in 1995 and a Fellow of McLaughlin College, York University in 2004.

Prior to his untimely passing in June 2020, Jamie took the time and made a heartfelt effort to personally prepare a letter of support crafted to the CKO – College of Kinesiologists of Ontario – to advance the AT specialty/class submission. Jamie wanted to see Athletic Therapy achieve RHPA standing during his lifetime.

Following a football injury in 1967, Jamie was sent to Mert Prophet, the head trainer of the Toronto Argonauts Football Club, to learn how to tape ankles. In 1969, Jamie was recruited by Mert and the coach, Nobby Wirkowski, to become the first student assistant Athletic Trainer at York University. Jamie was also the first Lab Assistant in Athletic Training when York introduced an academic credit course in 1972.

In 1973, Jamie was appointed Head Athletic Trainer at McMaster University. He developed and taught both introductory and advanced courses in athletic injury management for the physical education students at McMaster. Jamie was also a member of the Interdisciplinary Study Group for Human Performance and part of the medical team at the sports injury clinic at MUMC. In 1976, Jamie was acting Head Athletic Therapist at York University. He continued as an assistant Athletic Therapist and as a guest lecturer for many years.

In 1979, when Jamie became the first Athletic Therapist in Canada to become a Doctor of Chiropractic, he was appointed to be the Chiropractor for the Toronto Argonauts Football Club by Fred Dunbar, the Head Athletic Therapist. He held this position for nearly 20 years.

Jamie worked at 3 Olympic Games; Montreal '76, Calgary '88 and Seoul, South Korea '88. He also worked at the Pan Am Games Winnipeg '99, the Para-Olympic Games Toronto '76 and

many major Games including: FISU Games, Ontario Games, Pan-Pacific and Masters Games. Jamie has served as Athletic Trainer/Athletic Therapist/Chiropractor for Canadian national and provincial teams in athletics, basketball and rowing among others.

Jamie was the Secretary-Treasurer of the CATA 1975-77. He chaired the Constitution Committee in 1976 when the CATA changed its name to Canadian Athletic Therapists Association and revised its function to become a National AT certification and professional Association. Jamie was chair of the organizing committee for the National Convention Olympicare '84 in Toronto. He served on the editorial board of the CATA Journal, the Certification and Education Committee, the Ethics Committee and as Chair of the Financial Advisory Committee, and a special Presidential Advisory Committee. Jamie was a long-time leader within the Ontario Athletic Therapist Association (OATA) and never missed an annual conference or an Annual General Meeting. Jamie worked with Joe Kenny, Wendy Hampson and OATA Board Liaison at the time, Frances Flint, in researching and publishing the first OATA White Paper on the Athletic Therapy profession (2015).

Jamie was a founding member of the Ontario Sport Therapists Association [OSTA], the predecessor of the OATA. Jamie was a founding member of the OSTA Education committee that developed the Level 1 and Level 2 seminars for Volunteer Minor Sports Athletic Trainers. Jamie hosted the first Level 2 Seminar at McMaster University in 1975. Jamie was a professor at the CMCC from 1975 to 1987 and was the principal author and editor of a textbook titled "Chiropractic Treatment of the Lower Limb" [1983].

Dr. Jamie Laws will be long remembered and forever respected. His legacy will be sustained with his name attached to the OATA annual academic scholarships at the Sheridan and York AT programs reminding all of the character, competence and leadership of this exceptional health care professional.