

The legislation being introduced today is a milestone for Respiratory Therapists across Nova Scotia.

Over the past fifty years, the Respiratory Therapy profession has developed from the breakthroughs in technology to the diagnosis and treatment of cardio-respiratory disorders.

Respiratory Therapists are health care providers who are highly trained in these specialized procedures and equipment. . They are an integral part of the cardiac arrest team and perform many invasive procedures such as arterial blood sampling, endotracheal intubation and mechanical ventilatory support. Respiratory Therapists provide diagnostic services including Pulmonary Function tests and sleep studies to assist family physician in diagnosing potentially debilitating or fatal illnesses.

From the emergency room to the operating room, from the neonatal intensive care to the adult palliative care and in the homes of Nova Scotians, Respiratory Therapists work in all aspects of health care

Recognizing the importance of maintaining the highest standards of practice and continuing competence, Respiratory Therapists across Nova Scotia support the move to self-regulate and see it as a coming of age for their profession.

For almost forty-five years, Respiratory Therapists have relied on the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists to certify that they meet the standards required by the profession for entry to practice.

As of 2008, the Canadian Society will no longer be providing this certification. In order to ensure the safety of the Nova Scotians, we as members of the Respiratory Therapists Society of Nova Scotia have been working with the Nova Scotia Department of Health to put in place legislation that will maintain these high standards of practice.

We are very pleased to be here today to share in the introduction of the Respiratory Therapists Act. On behalf of the Respiratory Therapists of Nova Scotia, I would like to thank the Honourable Minister of Health Chris d'Entremont, the Department of Health and

especially Dennis Holland and Robert Fitzner for their vision,  
guidance and support