



Speaking Notes

Honourable Chris d'Entremont, Minister of Health

Bill Briefing

Respiratory Therapists Act

March 20, 2007

1:30 p.m.

Red Chamber, Province House

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delivery

I am very pleased to be here today to introduce the Respiratory Therapists Act.

Respiratory Therapists throughout the province are committed to providing Nova Scotians with high-quality respiratory care.

Respiratory Therapists are health care providers who assist in the diagnosis, treatment and health promotion of patients with cardiorespiratory disorders.

They perform respiratory assessments of patients, test and monitor cardiopulmonary function and assist with the transport of high-risk patients.

There are approximately 200 Respiratory Therapists practicing throughout Nova Scotia.

Our government is able to introduce this much needed legislation due to the collaborative effort and hard work of Respiratory Therapists as well as the Respiratory Society of Nova Scotia.

This legislation will regulate the practice of respiratory therapy by ensuring that practice standards are established and maintained.

The act will establish a complaints and discipline process to enforce the standards and requirements and deal with concerns from the

public.

The legislations protects the public by requiring that Respiratory Therapists meet standards set out by a self-regulated professional body.

This is similar to how nurses, doctors, pharmacists, paramedics and many other health professionals are regulated in our province. It is our belief they are in the best position to regulate their own professions.

Nous voulons protéger le public de la prestation inappropriée de soins de santé respiratoires, et nous voulons nous assurer que la loi appuie les organismes de réglementation qui prennent les mesures appropriées lorsque des plaintes sont effectuées.

We want to protect the public from improperly performed respiratory health care, and we want to ensure that the legislation supports the governing bodies to take action when complaints are brought forward.

The Respiratory Society of Nova Scotia has worked very hard with the Department of Health to develop this legislation that will improve accountability to the public, improve

disciplinary processes, and allow more flexibility in the practice of their professions to better serve Nova Scotians.