



## **2018 Interim Report**

November 16, 2018

### ***Registration***

There were 9 new members licenced since registration renewal was completed. There are currently 317 members. 28 members were randomly selected for audit this year following registration renewal. All audited members were compliant with the NSCRT Continuing Competency requirements.

### ***Board Nominations***

The NSCRT Board had only one vacant position for the upcoming election. The Nominations Committee put forward one individual's name to the Board for the position of President Elect. Noel Pendergast, as the only nominee, was approved by the Board and has been acclaimed as the new President Elect. Having served 10 years on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Board of Respiratory Care, he is experienced in Board governance and will be an asset to the NSCRT.

### ***Statutory Committees***

To fulfil legislative committee requirements, public member Andrew Mott was appointed to the Credentials Committee by the Board. Donna Young recently resigned as Chair of the Professional Practice Committee after many years of dedicated service. We thank Donna for her time, her experience and valuable input. She will be missed. The Board approved the addition of Chastity Bennett to the Professional Practice Committee. She brings the perspective of the AA to the table. The Board of Directors has yet to appoint a new Chair to the committee. No additional statutory committees have required changes to members.

### ***Operations Update***

#### ***Internal***

**Competency Assessment:** The NSCRT has an ongoing competency assessment of an applicant who has been out of the practice environment for several years and no longer meets the legislated requirements for licensure. Competency Assessments consist of 3 evaluations: a behavioural descriptive interview to assess “real life” practice experiences; a written exam; and a clinical skills assessment in a lab setting. The competency assessment will be completed in early 2019.

### **Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA) Review:**

The NSCRT is undergoing a review of registration practices to ensure compliance with the FRPA. This is the first review for the College and it will recur every two years going forward. The process will be completed in December and the report will be published on the FRPA website. The report will include an action plan from the review officer and a timeline for completion.

### **Canadian Board for Respiratory Care (CBRC):**

On July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the CBRC exam was interrupted and then subsequently cancelled for approximately 388 candidates due to a system failure of the online platform. The online platform is administered by Yardstick, a 3<sup>rd</sup> party service provider. All progress was lost and a rewrite was required by all candidates. The CBRC and Yardstick worked quickly to reschedule the exam for two separate dates in August. Writers received a partial refund of fees and a free rewrite of the exam. The two rewrites occurred without issue and results were released within the original 90 day waiting period of the July writing.

### **Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (NSRHPN):**

- **Complaints Navigator:** In collaboration with the Department of Health and Wellness, the NSRHPN is exploring hiring a complaints navigator. A complaints navigator would provide support to complainants by way of guiding them through the complaints process and directing them to appropriate supports. The idea was brought forward by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia (CPSNS). Similar positions exist in Ontario and Alberta. The working group is tasked with defining the role and creation of a proportional funding model. Currently the goal is to initially limit the navigator to sexual boundary and trauma related complaints, with a possible larger role in the future.
- **Cannabis Legislation:** On October 17, the Bill C-45 or the “Cannabis Act” came into effect legalizing the recreational use of cannabis. NSRHPN members have met on several occasions to discuss the possible implications of this new legislation for regulatory bodies and their respective memberships. The provincial government has also launched a public awareness campaign where members of the public can access information and resources. The website, [www.novascotia.ca/cannabis/](http://www.novascotia.ca/cannabis/) will be updated regularly as new information becomes available.
- **Policy Templates:** Members of the NSRHPN are collaborating on creating and sharing policy templates to facilitate policy development for all Colleges. This is of great benefit to newer and smaller Colleges, like the NSCRT, who rely on part-

time staff and volunteers to accomplish policy development. Policy templates currently available include: Criminal Records Check/Vulnerable Sector Checks; accommodation in assessments; and policy templates related to registration practices/requirements.

### **Lung Association of Nova Scotia (LANS):**

The LANS approached the NSCRT in the spring of 2018 to discuss two research projects:

1. Smoking in Nova Scotia
2. COPD Asset Map

Nova Scotia has the highest smoking rate in Canada and the highest rate of COPD. Both research projects are in the interest of improving lung health in the province.

Along with the College participation, the NSCRT also assisted the LANS in seeking out member volunteers for participation in these projects to offer the RT perspective.

Collaboration on these projects is specifically related to our strategic plan as LANS was identified as a strategic partner. This is essential research as there is a lack of continuity in respiratory care in NS. Pharmacists and Nurses are also participating in these projects to ensure a complete picture of care across the province occurs.

### ***External***

**National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB):** The NARTRB held its AGM and Fall business meeting in St. John's, NL on November 2-3, 2018. On November 2, registrars attended a full day of meetings where strategic priorities were reviewed, planning for updating of the National Competency Framework was discussed, and an accreditation update was given by each province. Both the NSCRT President and Registrar attended the AGM and Business meeting on November 3, 2018.

- **Accreditation:** The primary focus for the NARTRB continues to be securing a contract with a new accreditation service provider. Two providers responded to a Request for Proposal (RFP) last spring. Health Services Organization (HSO), a branch of Accreditation Canada (AC), met all the requirements of the RFP. The NARTRB is currently reviewing and negotiating the contract with a goal of signatures in December 2018. Once the contract has been signed, the next step will be development of a transition plan from our current accreditation service

provider, Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Educators (CoARTE), to HSO accreditation services.

- **Update on status of BC and PEI becoming regulated:** BC is in the process of completing their Regulations and will soon have a functioning Board. A formal invitation was extended to BC to join the NARTRB and they have accepted. They expect to have approximately 1000 members. PEI continues to work towards regulation of the profession under the Regulated Health Professions Act. Under umbrella legislation they will be regulated with two other groups, Medical Laboratory Technologists and Medical Radiation Technologists.
- **National Competency Framework (NCF):** The NCF was released in 2016 and outlines the entry to practice requirements. All necessary competencies for entry to practice are listed in this document. Preliminary feedback from educators has been positive regarding the NCF. This document will be updated every five years and will evolve along with the profession, environment, and technology. The NARTRB is in the planning stage for the update and is discussing what will be required in terms of stakeholder feedback and survey requirements.

### *Committees*

**Complaints Committee:** To fulfill its mandate to protect the public, the College must investigate concerns raised regarding the conduct or competence of its members. Under the Respiratory Therapists Act and Regulations, the Complaints Committee is responsible for assessing the complaint and gathering information during the course of an investigation. The College aims to be fair, impartial, and objective in conducting an investigation into a complaint. The College received and investigated one complaint in 2018. No licensing sanctions were imposed.

**Professional Practice Committee:** The Professional Practice Committee has not been active since September 2017 following the finalization of the Social Media Guideline. This was secondary to other more urgent College work members were involved in. The committee will reconvene this winter once the Board of Directors appoints a new Chair. The committee will then develop a list of priorities for the upcoming year.

**Credentials Committee:** In June 2018, the Credentials Committee approved the creation of two working groups, each focused on a major project the committee members were working on: the development of a Jurisprudence/E-Learning Module and a revised Continuing Competency Program (CCP).

The Jurisprudence/E-Learning Module working group is in collaboration with the Manitoba

Association of Registered Respiratory Therapist (MARRT). The work primarily focused on question development. The College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO), having recently released an E-Learning module, provided support with regards to question review to ensure consistency and fairness. The work on this project is complete and the NSCRT is currently in the process of developing policies related to the module and setting up the online platform through which it will be delivered.

The Continuing Competency Program working group is also collaborating with the MARRT. This working group has been meeting regularly to work on the project, which has included extensive research into what other professions and provinces are using for their continuing competency programs and how best to engage the members in ongoing learning. The new CCP will be offered through an online platform where members can log their continuing education and professional development throughout the year.

The membership will receive further information about both of these exciting projects as they completed and prior to initiation.