

2022 INTERIM REPORT

Registration

- On April 1, 2022, there were 296 Active-Practicing members, 25 Non-Practicing members and 2 Temporary Graduates.
- Currently, there are 314 Active-Practicing Members, 26 Non-Practicing members and 1 Temporary Graduate.
- The Registrar and Deputy Registrar completed the 2021-2022 Professional Practice Portfolio Audit in August - 4 members have been flagged for audit next year secondary to portfolio issues.

Operations Updates

Guild Software Inc./Electronic Playground Media (EPM)

- The Registrar met with Guild to discuss the final work on the Self-Assessment Tool. The platform was piloted and requires only minor changes. The Self-Assessment Tool is the last piece of the new CCP, released in 2020, and will be implemented at renewal in 2023-2024. Overview and instruction will be provided at an education session following AGM and through email communications.

Bylaw Change

- Historically, at the Annual General Meeting (AGM), the College opted for election by the membership to fill Board positions. Following a review of the composition of the Board and the elections process, and in consultation with legal counsel, the decision was made to proceed with a competency-based appointment process to fill Board vacancies, with the rationale being to attempt to ensure a diversity of perspectives, experiences, and skills. The Nominations Committee will target the call for nominations toward any identified gaps and areas where additional perspectives, skills, and/or background knowledge may be required.
- The NSCRT sought input from the membership and a 60-day open consultation was held on the proposed change. No feedback or concerns were received.
- The new appointment process will be implemented in April of 2023 with the Call for Nominations.

Committee Updates

Professional Practice Committee (PPC)

- Following legal review and Committee approval of a final draft of the revision of the NSCRT Position Statement on AAs, the document was sent to relevant stakeholders in the province for review. The feedback is being collated and the Committee will be presenting a final draft to the Board of Directors for approval this fall. The document will then be posted to the NSCRT website under “Professional Practice” and circulated to the membership and stakeholders.
- The PPC continues to work on the development of new Standards of Practice, a project which began in 2021. The new Standards of Practice is a national initiative that will be supported by this Committee. Last year the PPC completed an environmental scan of standards across multiple medical professions across Canada. The intent of this work was to develop a comprehensive list of possible new standards. This work was forwarded to the national working group for review. Once a finalized list of standards has been decided upon, the committee will be tasked with doing research to develop the Standards.

Complaints Committee

- The Complaints Committee dismissed one complaint related to allegations of professional misconduct and conduct unbecoming. The Committee received a complaint related to capacity that it is currently processing.

Credentials Committee

- The Committee continues to work on the finalization of the Self-Assessment Tool which has been approved by the Board of Directors as a mandatory component of the NSCRT Continuing Competency Program. The Self-Assessment Tool will assist members in identifying their learning objectives by promoting reflective practice. The platform has been piloted by the Committee and final changes are being implemented by the development team. Communication with the membership will commence this Fall.
- The Committee will continue to work on the new international applicant guide and update the registration policies.

Governance Committee

- The Committee has focused on reviewing and revising the Operations Policy Manual. Most policies have been updated and are ready for review and approval by the Board this Fall.

- Committee priorities for 2022-2023 are ongoing reviews of existing policy manuals and drafting a policy review schedule.

Nominations Committee

- Nominations for President-Elect and two Directors at Large opened on April 1, 2022. Several notices were sent out to the membership and the Committee reached out to members who identified interest in sitting on the Board of Directors in their renewal application. In July, an open forum was held to allow members the opportunity to ask questions about the upcoming vacancies. The Committee has received nominations for all upcoming vacancies.

Provincial Updates

Department of Health and Wellness (DHW)

- There is continued consultation with the DHW regarding the provincial initiative to modernize regulation in Nova Scotia and create shared legislation for healthcare regulatory bodies. A series of theme-based discussions were held between the DHW and the Regulated Health Professions Network (Network) regarding the currently termed “Common Foundations Legislation”. The Registrar participated in all consultation meetings. Additionally, the Network undertook a joint legal review of the information provided on the new legislation thus far and submitted it to the DHW following review by individual Boards. The NSCRT will continue to engage in discussions with the DHW on this important proposed legislation.
- In June, the Registrar met with workforce planning to discuss the supply of RRTs in Nova Scotia and to review the 2021-2022 RT Profile. There have been discussions with the DHW regarding an increase in the number of seats in the Dalhousie program. Still, thus far, there is no confirmation of any increase.

Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA)/Review Office

- The Office of the FRPA hosts quarterly learning sessions on labor mobility requirements. The NSCRT Staff attend when available. The most recent meetings reviewed the legislated requirements of the Act and the FRPA review process which takes place every 5 years for regulatory bodies. The NSCRT’s most recent FRPA review was 2018 and another review will be scheduled for next year.

Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (Network)

- In 2022, much of the work of the Network has been focused on the proposed “Common Foundations Legislation” and evaluating the roles of the Network once the legislation is passed,

as it is likely that it will require changes be made to the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network Act. There have been several discussions with legal council regarding the proposed legislation and a business plan working group was formed. The Registrar sat on this working group. Going forward, a consultant will likely be hired to assist with the development of a new business plan.

Employers

- The Deputy Registrar (DR) reached out across the province to employers, managers and team leads (both public and private) that work with/oversee the practice of RRTs. An invitation was extended for increased, ongoing communication and collaboration. They were encouraged to contact the DR when clarification or interpretation of legislation is required or with any scope of practice questions. A close working relationship and open communication will help the NSCRT achieve its public protection mandate.
- Feedback was requested from employers regarding the practices of RRTs to gather information to assist with the revision of the NCF and Standards of Practice. Employers were asked to identify:
 - Emerging areas of practice for RRTs and practices that are declining in the frequency performed.
 - If there were any issues repeatedly brought forth by RRTs related to a specific area of practice/professional activity that is not addressed by the current Standards
 - If there were issues that required frequent clarification of the current Standards

National Updates

National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB)

- In PEI, Respiratory Therapists officially became regulated under the newly formed PEI College of Allied Health Professions. Six health professions fall under this legislation. BC remains the only province where RTs continue to be unregulated – new legislation is on hold secondary to political change and changes to regulation.
- The NSCRT Registrar is the acting chair for the National Alliance Standards of Practice Working Group (SoPWG). The SoPWG is working closely with the NSCRT Professional Practice Committee on the Standards of Practice project as stated in the Committee Reports.
- The Harmonization Working Group, chaired by the NSCRT Registrar, continues to work on the following projects:
 - Language Benchmarking review – last developed in 2012
 - Revision of the Registration Verification form used for labor mobility applicants

- Review of provincial application disclosure statements with an intention of harmonization.
- Data collected related to virtual practice was reviewed and discussed. Approximately 15% of registrants across the country are participating in intra-provincial virtual care. 0-2% are participating in cross-jurisdictional virtual care. There was a discussion on risks to patients. Each province is bound by their own legislation. The decision was to develop a virtual care Standard of Practice as part of the ongoing work in this area. Given the low rates of cross-jurisdictional virtual practice, the NARTRB does not feel a national guidance document is currently required but will continue to evaluate the situation.
- The focus of the NARTRB moving forward will be the revision of the National Competency Framework (NCF). The NARTRB met in Montreal in July. An NCF Steering Group, comprised of the Registrars, met to discuss the project, developed draft contract deliverables, and set a budget for the revision. The NARTRB contracted the services of CamProf, a company specializing in developing competency frameworks, in completing the revision. The revision is expected to be completed in June of 2023.

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)

- Currently the NSCRT has no ongoing projects with the CSRT but continues to keep communication channels open. The CSRT is a valued stakeholder, and their feedback will be sought on the Standards of Practice Project.

Canadian Board for Respiratory Care Inc. (CBRC)

- In July, the exam was offered online with virtual proctoring. There were no issues with the exam. Next examination date: January 2023, offered online with virtual proctoring.
- The CBRC Board of Directors has requested to permanently offer the exam in an online format with virtual proctoring as opposed to returning to in person proctoring at physical exam sites. The NSCRT Board of Directors and the NARTRB will be considering this request and how best to move forward pending these discussions.

EQual Program Council – Accreditation Canada

- There are 83 educational programs across 18 health professions and 24 health disciplines enrolled with Accreditation Canada. There remains a need for survey team members, particularly bilingual individuals.
- Three strategic priorities were identified related to standard development. They were to improve patient and workforce safety, advance integrated care, and increase the health of communities.