

2023 INTERIM REPORT

Registration

- On April 1, 2023, there were 306 Active-Practicing members (increase of 14 from April 1, 2022), 17 Non-Practicing members and 1 Temporary Graduate.
- Currently, there are 320 Active-Practicing Members, 15 Non-Practicing members and 5 Temporary Graduates.
- 5 internationally educated healthcare professionals (IEHP) have applied for licensing with the NSCRT and are currently in various stages of the competency assessment process. The NSCRT has seen a significant increase in the number of both IEHP inquiries and applications. Applicants are referred to the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario for the competency assessment process.
- The Registrar and Deputy Registrar completed the 2022-2023 Professional Practice Portfolio Audits in August – 3 portfolios were referred to the Credentials Committee for review.

Operations Updates

Strategic Planning

3-day Strategic Planning Session was held April 29-May 1, 2023 with One Page Plans. In alignment with the new Strategic Plan, project planning was completed by the NSCRT President and Registrar. In November, the Board of Directors will be meeting to review the project outlines and prioritize initiatives.

Committee Updates

Professional Practice Committee (PPC)

The PPC committee was working on updating the Standards of Practice as part of a national project; however, the project is currently on hold secondary to the revision of the NCF. The committee presented the national working group with a list of possible new standards for review.

The PPC is currently working on a Transfer of Accountability (TOA) Guideline. The chain of communication is a crucial aspect of patient care. The TOA guideline, the Documentation guideline, and standards of practice guide members on their professional responsibility and what the public can expect. Committee members performed an environmental scan of the RT profession and other healthcare professions across Canadian jurisdictions and international policies for information related to the transfer of care. A guideline draft has been completed and is ready to send to stakeholders for feedback.

Complaints Committee

The Complaints Committee has one ongoing complaint received in 2022 which is expected to wrap up this Fall.

Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee completed updates to the International Educated Health Professional Applicant manual and published it on the NSCRT webpage.

The Registration and Licensing Policy manual has been updated and is awaiting final approval.

Nominations Committee

Based on a completed Board competency matrix, the NSCRT launched its first targeted call for nominations for a Director-at-Large. The Call for Nominations went out on April 1, 2023. Last year, the NSCRT adopted an appointment process rather than an election process for new Board members. This was the first year that the approved competency matrix was used to identify gaps in knowledge, skill and values in Board composition which helped inform the Call for Nominations. Several notices were sent out to the membership regarding the upcoming vacancy and the committee reached out to members who identified interest in sitting on the Board of Directors in their renewal application. The committee has 1 nomination for the upcoming vacancy.

Monique Richard will be completing her second and final term as a Director-at-Large. The Board thanks Monique for her contribution over the last 4 years.

Provincial Updates

Department of Health and Wellness (DHW)

The DHW introduced and subsequently passed Bill 256, “The Patient Access to Care Act” (PACA). The purpose of the Act is to improve patient access to care by reducing barriers to licensing and ensuring all health professionals can work to their full scope of practice. Regulations under the Act are currently being drafted – specifically with regards to Respiratory Therapy profession specific Regulations, the NSCRT is working together with the DHW on an expanded scope of practice for RTs to grant limited prescribing rights.

Fair Registration Practices Act (FRPA)/Review Office

The NSCRT FRPA review and action plan was uploaded to the public FRPA website on August 1, 2023. The FRPA action plan reflects any areas of non-compliance. The NSCRT has a single noted action item, an alternative documents policy, that will be required by July 18, 2024. The policy was drafted prior to the review and requires final approval from the Board at which point it will be posted to the website.

The FRPA office continues to hold quarterly meetings aimed at educating and assisting regulators on the Act. The NSCRT Staff attend these meetings when available.

Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (Network)

The NSCRT continues to be a member of the Network and collaborates on a variety of projects/information sharing. Following the public inquiry and subsequent release of “Turning the Tide Together”, the Mass Casualty Commission Report, significant discussion occurred on the role and obligation of regulators in understanding the connectedness of domestic violence with systems and how to identify and provide support in a valuable way. The report contained recommendations for regulatory bodies and is considered a blueprint for making communities safer for all Canadians. The

Network is exploring what education is required so regulated health professionals recognize and report suspected issues. The Network will also be releasing a statement on the report.

The Network deliverables include “Supporting education opportunities for Board members on best regulatory practices”. A working group has been established to develop a Network online training program, this will be inclusive of training for Registration Appeal Committees which is a requirement under the Fair Registration Practices Act and has been a struggle to establish for many regulatory bodies. The NSCRT Registrar is a member of the working group. The working group is currently developing a list of required learning and seeking platform providers. The project completion date is the spring/summer of 2024.

National Updates

National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB)

The focus of the NARTRB has been the revision of the National Competency Framework (NCF). In April a national validation survey was launched to obtain essential feedback on the current entry to practice requirements, inclusive of emerging areas of practice. Thank you to all RTs who completed the survey.

The revised NCF is in the final stages of development and is expected to be approved and distributed to all Canadian Respiratory Therapy programs in November. It will be a condensed, more user-friendly version of the last iteration. Schools will be expected to implement the new document by September 2024.

Following completion of the NCF, the NARTRB will resume work on development of a National Standards of Practice.

Health Professionals Testing Canada (HPTC)

The last exam writing occurred in July – there were 337 writers. 291 writers were successful. There were no significant issues with the exam. The HPTC will be continuing with the online format with virtual proctoring, twice per year.