CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

May 26, 2022

Dear CSRT members,

Canadian Respiratory Therapists have unequivocally highlighted the importance of the respiratory therapy profession during the pandemic and played a critical role in its transition towards the endemic phase. Concurrently, RTs have leveraged CSRT for evidence-based tools and resources to respond to workplace and professional queries. Balancing RTs' competing workload priorities with a focus on professional development, the virtual 2022 CSRT annual education conference was a success demonstrating strong session attendance, engagement, and member connections.

The virtual conference represented diverse speakers and topics which offered a seamless and equitable platform for RTs to display their work while fostering a culture of learning, empowering, and celebrating with fellow colleagues. The CSRT and its members continue to grow stronger and thrive, supported by meaningful connections that help us understand and meet the evolving needs of RTs.

Mental health issues are on the rise as depicted by the World Health Organization and is rapidly becoming the top health priority at Ministry levels globally. Aligning with its vision and being well positioned with other reputable organizations, the CSRT will be prioritizing the integration of mental health within the upcoming Strategic Plan renewal to support RTs with advocacy initiatives and resources in this important area of focus.

Respiratory Therapists have tirelessly given and endured the heavy burden of care during the pandemic. The resilience and character built during this journey have strengthened our ability to withstand its effects as we continue our global health watch of other emerging health issues. We will precisely work to leverage established partnerships and knowledge of safety measures to collectively deliver quality care and conquer any future infectious outbreaks or global health concerns.

As my own journey as the President of the CSRT Board of Directors draws to a close, I reflect on the many pivotal priorities that I undertook during my tenure to offer innovative and creative leadership, guidance, and advocacy to the CSRT during one of the most challenging times in the history of healthcare. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute and honored to serve my profession through the CSRT. I immensely appreciate the support I received from the CEO, Staff Colleagues, and the Board of Directors at the CSRT; the guidance from my mentors and close friends; and the unwavering love from my family. These contributed to my success as the CSRT President.

As I continue to support CSRT’s mission and vision as Past President, I look forward to propelling CSRT on the national and international platforms in exemplifying excellence in respiratory therapy practice across Canada. I offer my ongoing commitment to the CSRT and our diverse communities of practice along the continuum of care. Kudos to each RT who has made a world of difference in the lives of others, and I thank you for what you do every day. I have never been prouder to belong to this professional community as I do now, and I wish you my very best for continued success and perseverance.

Respectfully,

Chitra Gnanasabesan, CSRT President
[Pronouns: She | Her]

CSRT Vision

Empowering Respiratory Therapists to provide exemplary leadership and care

CSRT Mission

The CSRT provides leadership that advances the profession, practice and understanding of respiratory therapy nationally and internationally by supporting environments that foster innovation and knowledge translation, and by promoting excellence in evidence-based care.

Message from the CEO

Respiratory therapists are all too aware of the many challenges that were brought on and exposed by the pandemic. Whether it be those impacts that were common amongst all Canadians, or those more specific to clinicians on the front lines, RTs have remained a steadfast pillar to this country and others throughout COVID-19. This is the level of commitment and dedication we have always seen from RTs and the CSRT is proud to support RTs and the system within which they work each day.

While much focus has been placed on responding to the evolving needs of RTs related to COVID for the past two years, the CSRT's focus has not been singular. Substantial effort has been made to ensure the CSRT continues to achieve the transformative goals set out in our strategic agenda established in 2018. Through the guiding principles and aims set out at that time, the CSRT has been renewed and modernized into an association that is able to flexibly respond to whatever challenges our community is faced with. Through it all, the CSRT has established itself as the definitive voice for RTs across the country, and one that is able to ensure the concerns and expertise of RTs are carefully and effectively represented to decision makers at the highest level.

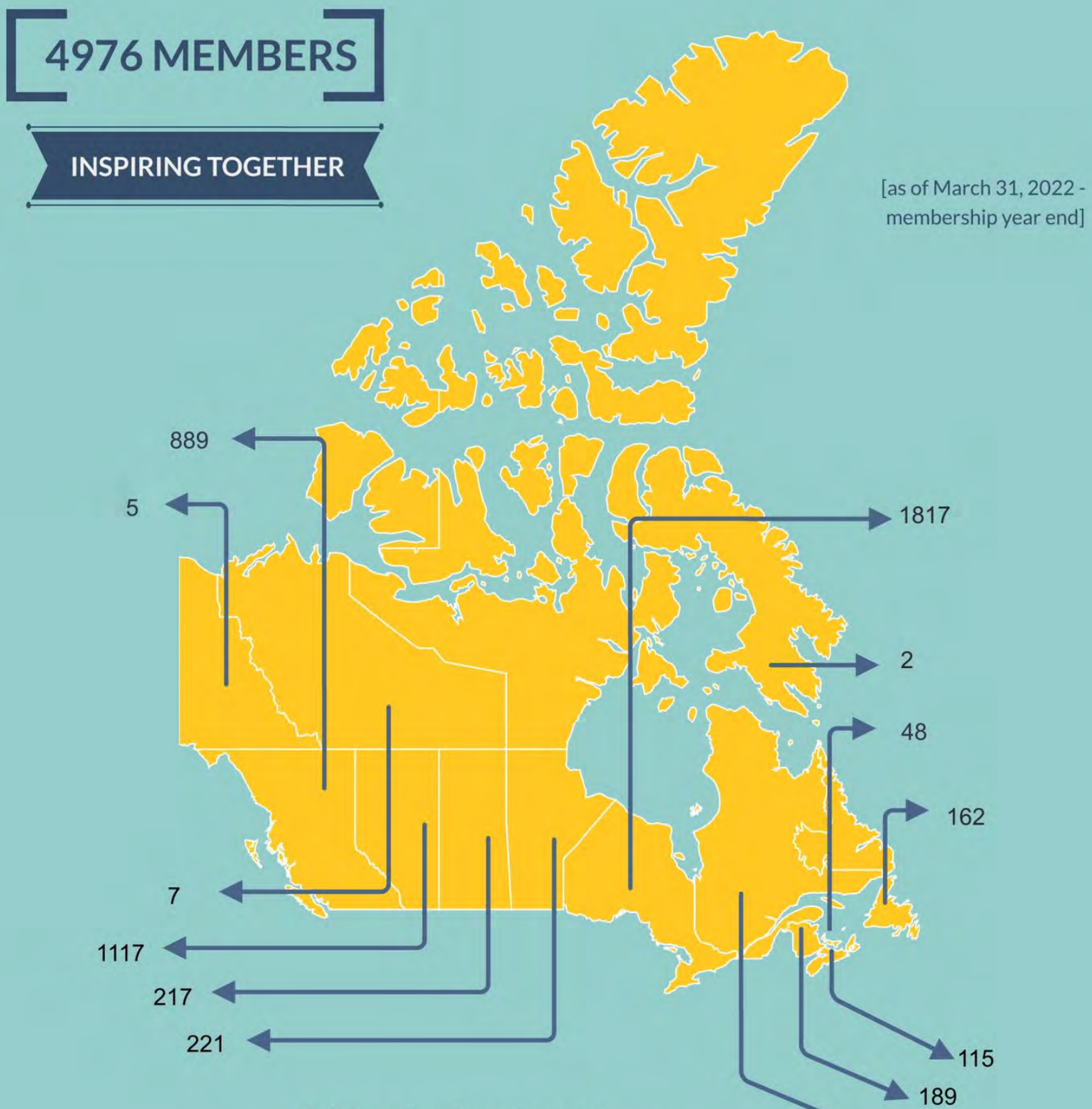
Building on recent achievements, the CSRT is now embarking on a process of developing its next strategic agenda to further guide the organization over the coming years. Several priorities for the CSRT now and into the future will no doubt be driven by the experiences of RTs from all jurisdictions during the pandemic. These experiences draw necessary attention to work environments that are supportive of mental health and wellbeing, recognition for the important work that is done by RTs each day, and assuring continued leadership by the profession in planning for any transformation within Canada's healthcare systems.

Just as the pandemic thrust RTs into the public spotlight and created opportunity for growing public awareness about the profession, a post pandemic openness to reimagining ways to address issues has occurred. There exists a unique opportunity to ensure the challenges you have been forced to overcome are understood, heard, and ultimately addressed. The CSRT is the organization poised to ensure that RTs are providing leadership that addresses the complex health systems issues that have been exposed across Canada's network of integrated healthcare systems. The CSRT will continue to be there for you.

Respiratory therapists, thank you for providing exemplary leadership and care.

Dr. Andrew West, Chief Executive Officer
[pronouns: he/him; pronom: il]

CSRT Members



82 International members

92

533 Student Members - welcome to the profession!

514 Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants

6	16	170
CSRT Staff Members	Corporate Members	Amazing Volunteers

2372 VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Benefits that are career empowering and that support personal well being

The CSRT recognizes that all individuals have the right to respect and acceptance without bias. In early 2021 it was announced that the CSRT had adopted a **new Position Statement on EQUITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSIVITY.** Through implementation of the statement, CSRT commits to value and respect all members, volunteers, and employees, and to ensure that its members, volunteers and employees are supported and continue to benefit from, participate in, and contribute fully within their practice domains.

CSRT FELLOWSHIP (FSCRT)

The CSRT provides recognition to registered members who have made a significant contribution to the science and profession of RT, and who demonstrate lifelong learning by awarding the FCSRT.

There are currently 187 CSRT registered members who have been awarded the FCSRT!

New member benefit! CSRT members can now purchase a package to access unlimited telephone legal advice for any personal and professional matter, have access to a legal documents library and ID theft case management services.

The CSRT also continues to ensure that members receive exceptional value and exclusive access to the most comprehensive and competitively priced Professional Liability Insurance available.

CSRT updated its health benefits plans available to members. Members who do not have benefits through their employer, are self-employed, retiring, etc., have access to comprehensive benefits plans covering health, dental, and prescription medications. Members can also choose to enjoy simple access to care through virtual physician's visits and an easy-to-use online portal.

SUPPORTING THE WELLBEING OF RTs

In January 2021 a **MENTAL HEALTH HUB** was launched and made openly accessible on the CSRT webpage. Two webinars addressing mental heal were made openly available to members, in addition to a stream of content in the 2021 Annual Conference that focused on 'Coping and Caring'. The CSRT continues to develop new practice supports that target the challenges being confronted by RTs each day.

Advocacy for RTs, patients and families, and for the RT profession in local communities, across Canada, and globally

The CSRT continues to advocate for RTs and better healthcare across Canada alongside our partners, including as a member of several respected collaboations

Choosing Wisely Canada™

HEAL
Organizations for Health Action

CANADIAN THORACIC SOCIETY

BCSRT
BC Society of Respiratory Therapists

ICRC™

Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada
La Coalition pour des soins de fin de vie de qualité du Canada

WE SEE YOU. WE HEAR YOU. AND WE CARE.

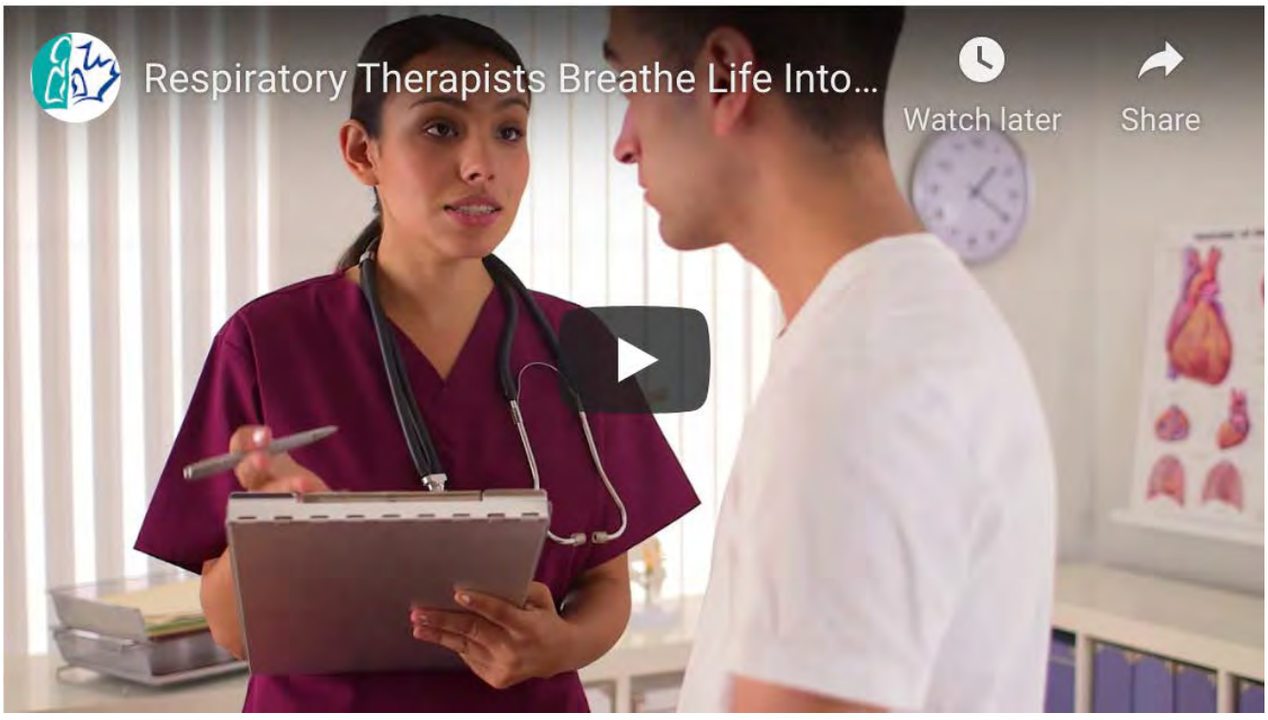
CSRT has been working tirelessly since the outset of the pandemic to increase awareness of who you are, what you do, and the challenges you are facing. CSRT advocacy efforts have occurred in both the public realm, and also more quietly behind the scenes over the past two years.

In the work the CSRT does each day, we are noting a substantially increased awareness of the profession amongst politicians, media, and the public – the narrative is shifting. It continues to be more commonplace to see RTs in the media now, and government ministries are more familiar with the profession than ever. But there is more work to do.

4 MILLION PEOPLE

In 2021 the CSRT launched the first ever national respiratory therapy promotion campaign using digital platforms aimed at the general public.

The campaign reached over 4 million people in Canada alone!



Find more information about CSRT advocacy initiatives at:
http://www.csrt.com/advocacy-healthcare/

UNDERSTANDING THE NEEDS OF RTs

We know you don't always receive the recognition you deserve, and this is a top priority for the CSRT.

CSRT surveying has shown in real time that over 95% of RTs are concerned about the toll the past two years have placed on their mental health. We hear reports of health professionals leaving practice due to these issues, and for the first time seeing significant numbers (33%) of RTs questioning the profession as a career choice. These are sobering trends that are of concern to us as individuals, and to the healthcare system as a whole. Most recently 80% of RTs surveyed indicated that they are concerned about the availability of sufficient numbers of RTs to provide necessary patient care in their workplace.

Regular CSRT surveying of RTs across Canada is informing current advocacy work – and helping to establish advocacy plans for the future.

Since in 2021, the CSRT has been collaborating with the **Canadian Medical Association** and **Canadian Nurses Association** to demand immediate supports for health professionals, and for long term system wide changes that can safeguard and strengthen our healthcare system.

This advocacy work is impactful and has opened doors to new opportunities for improving the healthcare system and the environments in which RTs work everyday.

Opportunities for networking, mentorship, and knowledge sharing

CSRT Networks
Advancing Practice Through Community

Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistants

Network Chair:
Robert Bryan
Richmond Hill, ON

Clinical Simulation

Network Chair:
Dave Wall
London, ON

Home Mechanical Ventilation

Network Chair:
Véronique Adam
Montréal, QC

Primary Care

Network Chair:
Christina Dolgowicz,
Ottawa, ON

447 Networking Community Members!

NEW CSRT COMMUNITY!

New Brunswick Special Interest Group

Chair: **Gene Breau, Moncton, NB**

#CSRT2021

Due to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CSRT Annual Conference was delivered virtually in 2021. Once again, the CSRT made sure that members had access to the educational and networking opportunities traditionally available through the conference.

The **CSRT 2021 CONFERENCE** was a great success, with over 34 hours of educational programming, as well as engaging networking and social events!

The event came together in no small part due to the work of CSRT staff, sponsors, and the Scientific Program Committee. A very special thank you to **MEREDITH PATEY, 2021 Scientific Program Committee Chair.** 👍👍👍

4 new member-only e-courses and directed readings articles added to the **repository of CPD offerings**

103 continuing education offerings are now freely accessible to members available through their personal CSRT member portal

6 new CPD educational offerings made designed for and made **openly accessible for colleagues in INDIA and NEPAL** - all by CSRT members

$13,050

Applications were received in 2020 for the first **CSRT Research Grant** allocation process. The first two grants were awarded in 2021 to Dr. Mika Nonoyama (Ontario Tech University) and Marco Zaccagnini (McGill University).

10,228

CE Credits awarded to members for completing CSRT educational activities

The **CANADIAN JOURNAL OF RESPIRATORY THERAPY** continued to inform the practice of RTs globally, under the leadership of a new **Editor-in-Chief, ELIZABETH RHORS.**

The Journal was pleased to select *'The Respiratory Therapy Practice-Based Outcomes Initiative (RT-PBOI): Developing a framework to explore the value added by RTs to health care in Alberta'* as CJRT's 2021 article of the year. Congratulations to the authors Roberta Dubois, Rena Sorenson, Bryan Buell, Tracey Tolenko and Andrew West!

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In collaboration with partner organizations including the CANADIAN THORACIC SOCIETY and the CANADIAN SLEEP SOCIETY, the CSRT provided important practice guidance on a number of issues that arose during 2021.

Position statements were established relating to:

- Resumption of pulmonary function testing during the post-peak phase of COVID-19
- Mandatory COVID-19 vaccination for respiratory therapists
- Philips Respironics device recall

2021 Financial Reports

Total Revenue

$1,130,743

Total Expenditure

$975,585

In 2021 revenues once again supported increasing investments in continuing professional development opportunities, advocacy initiatives, and investments into initiatives that support achievement of the CSRT strategic agenda.

The complete 2021 CSRT audited financial report is available at:
https://www.csrt.com/about/#annualreports

A snapshot of 2022 CSRT activities

2022

As RTs continue to respond the need for patient care in unprecedented ways, the CSRT is steadfast in its support . CSRT initiatives planned for 2022 are carefully aligned with top priorities that have emerged in the RT community.

- The CSRT continues to fervently **advocating for solutions to the existing health human resources crisis** that exists in the Canadian healthcare system. This work is actively happening and includes focused collaboration with partner organizations spanning the health professions, as well as direct consultations with all levels of government including Health Canada.

- The CSRT Board of Directors and Staff have initiated **a comprehensive strategic planning process** to chart the course for the CSRT from 2023 and beyond. The current strategic plan has been an integral tool is guiding the CSRT's renewal and redirection since 2018. The CSRT is very well positioned to continue to positioned the provide more and more service to members and supports to RTs in the years to come.

- The CSRT 2022 Annual Conference was held virtually from May 12-13 2022, providing exceptional educational and engaging networking and social events. A special thank you to all conference participants, sponsors and presenters for making this year's conference another successful and memorable one. Planning is already underway for **CSRT 2023 to be held in beautify Charlottetown, PEI from May 11-13, 2023.**

www.csrt.com