



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS

SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

April 26, 2020

The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario.  
Legislative Building, Queens Park  
Toronto, Ontario  
M7A 1A1

**Re: Respiratory Therapists on the Front Lines of Ontario's COVID-19 Response**

Dear Premier:

The Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) would like to take this opportunity to commend the provincial government on its well coordinated response regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, including the April 25, 2020 announcement regarding pandemic pay for frontline workers fighting COVID-19 in Ontario.

According to the information provided in the announcement, Ontario's respiratory therapists have been omitted from the list of those eligible for the pandemic pay. Recognizing this omission may simply be an oversight, this letter is to request that it be corrected immediately and that respiratory therapists be added to this list of those eligible for pandemic pay for frontline workers.

The CSRT is the voice for Canada's growing community of respiratory therapists at local and national levels, including in Ontario. The CSRT advocates for respiratory therapists, patients and families, and for the respiratory therapy profession in local communities, across Canada, and globally. Ensuring respiratory therapists receive recognition for their contributions to the healthcare system is a top priority of the CSRT.

Ontario respiratory therapists are an essential part of the frontlines of Canada's healthcare response to COVID-19. Today, over 3400 respiratory therapists are providing safe and effective care to Ontarians of all ages in long-term, acute and critical care. They are experts in the management of ventilators and in airway management, in the provision of oxygen therapy and respiratory medications, and in emergency life supports measures. They are on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic, assessing and treating Ontarians from the moment they present to the healthcare system.

Respiratory therapists are essential members of the Ontario health care workforce, working alongside doctors, nurses and other interprofessional colleagues to assure safe and effective respiratory care for those affected during this time of unprecedented challenge. It is imperative that the essential

contributions and expertise of Ontario's respiratory therapists be recognized alongside those of their colleagues listed in the April 25th announcement.

On behalf of the CSRT, I would like to thank you in advance for your consideration of this matter. Should you like to discuss this further please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew West". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Dr. Andrew West, CEO  
Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists

Cc: The Hon. Christine Elliot  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health