

CSRT Annual Report & Achievements

January to December 2016

■ ADVOCATING AND PROMOTING THE PROFESSION

Communication and Advocacy with the Federal and Provincial Governments

Since the federal election in the fall of 2015 of Justin Trudeau's Liberal Party, it has become easier to communicate with federal government officials. The CSRT has been consulted on many issues, including during the implementation of the legislation on Medical Assistance in Dying.

In addition, the CSRT keeps the relevant federal and provincial ministries informed on many issues facing the profession. For example, when several education programs from the province of Quebec withdrew from accreditation, a letter was sent to all provincial Ministers of Health and Higher Education to inform them of the changes in the national landscape of respiratory therapy education. Another example was a letter with a copy of the CSRT Position Statement on e-cigarettes which was disseminated to the federal Minister of Health, the members of the federal government's Standing Committee on Health as well as to the provincial Ministers of Health.

The CSRT also works in close collaboration with HEAL (Health Action Lobby), a national coalition of health providers, health regions and facilities. Through HEAL initiatives we meet representatives from the federal government, present briefs to Standing Committees and release a series of policy papers covering a range of health policy issues. More information on HEAL is available on their web site at <http://www.healthactionlobby.ca/>

Respiratory Therapists Week

Every year, the last full week of October is dedicated to the celebration of the RT profession – RT week is dedicated to raising awareness on the value of the RT profession. The CSRT provides promotional material and a "how-to" guide on-line. Respiratory therapists across the country take pride in celebrating their profession through education, promotion and special initiatives. In 2016, the CSRT invited students to use their creativity to participate in a video contest – we received five submissions from RT education programs across the country on the topic ***"Celebrating your profession"***. CSRT members were invited to vote for the best video and Michener students were selected by the membership and received a cash prize of \$500.

Missed the RT week videos?
Check them out on the CSRT
YouTube channel!

[https://www.youtube.com/
channel/UCX-
l38va3V6CWeieVe8uu8w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCX-l38va3V6CWeieVe8uu8w)

Six webinars and an on-line journal club were presented during RT week. Also, CSRT industry partner Sleepedu.org gave all CSRT members one free course of their choice during RT Week 2016, a gift of \$60 000 in total value!

Degree as entry-to-practice

Working with the President of each provincial regulatory body, the CSRT has been involved in several initiatives to raise awareness with governments and other stakeholders on the value of degree as entry-to-practice to enhance patient care. Because there has never been a national discussion on the topic, a national roundtable discussion for RT stakeholders was held on Wednesday, May 25 during the 2016 Conference in Ottawa to discuss the question: ***Is Degree as Entry to Practice the Right Thing to Ensure the RT Profession Provides Optimal Patient Care?*** A literature search was completed by Andrew West to find evidence on the value of degree as entry to practice. At this time, each provincial RT organization is moving forward at its own pace within the framework of their strategic activities. It is anticipated that this initiative will require comprehensive national and provincial consultations and several advocacy activities on an on-going basis. The CSRT continues to support degree as entry-to-practice and believes it will provide RTs with more professional opportunities while enhancing patient care and outcomes.

Position statements

In 2016, the CSRT issued two positions statements.

- (1) A position statement on “*The Use of Electronic Cigarettes*” was necessary as there is no conclusive evidence as to the safety and efficacy of these products which are often used as smoking cessation tool.
- (2) The CSRT also updated its position statement for the practice of anesthesia assistance in order to incorporate the achievements made in 2016 for “*Anesthesia Assistant Education and Certification*”. CSRT will continue to acknowledge anesthesia assistants through its *Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant (CCAA)* program. Information on this program can be located on the CSRT website: <http://www.csrt.com/aa-certificate/>.

■ SETTING THE STAGE FOR RRTs IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

The CSRT has been working to prepare respiratory therapists for private practice since February 2015 when Medavie Blue Cross announced a new disease management approach that allows patients with asthma and/or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) to consult with RTs to manage their symptoms. RTs who have a Certified Respiratory Educator (CRE) or Certified Asthma Educator (CAE) credential are now reimbursed from this private insurer.

The CSRT has developed a three-prong approach: (1) prepare RTs for private practice through workshops and private practice toolkit; (2) increasing public awareness on the role of the RT; (3) increase awareness of family physician on the contribution of RTs in managing patients with asthma and COPD.

In 2016, Medavie Blue Cross added an additional managed care module for smoking cessation and again this provides RTs with private practice opportunities.

The private practice toolkit is available on the CSRT website: <http://www.csrt.com/private-practice-toolkit-for-rt/>.

■ RESPONDING TO HEALTH CARE ENVIRONMENT AND KEEPING HEALTH CARE STAKEHOLDERS INFORMED

The CSRT collaborates with key stakeholders (governments, health organizations, industry) and communicates with them by distributing on a regular basis information to stakeholders. The CSRT strives to keep the RT profession and its key stakeholders informed through the dissemination of position statements, best practice guidelines, as well as information and data about the profession. This remains an essential element of CSRT's advocacy strategies.

■ PARTNERING WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS ON IMPORTANT REGIONAL, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL INITIATIVES

Health Action Lobby (HEAL)

Working within the Health Action Lobby Group (HEAL), the CSRT participated in several meetings with the federal MPs and federal Ministers of health on issues outlined in the following national inter-professional consensus statement: ***The Canadian Way – Accelerating innovation and Improving Health System Performance***. There were many activities and programs to ensure this document was brought to the attention of health care leaders across the country.

Choosing Wisely Canada

The CSRT is involved in this inter-professional national initiative that aims to identify and reduce unnecessary tests and treatments thereby improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health services. The CSRT is working with CWC to identify areas of practice of interest to respiratory therapists as well as other members of the health care team. The activities include discussion groups, recommended behaviours and activities, webinars and conferences to encourage health care professionals to become proficient stewards of health care resources.

Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) – New MIS Standards for Respiratory Services

The CSRT actively participated in the development and implementation of the new MIS standards for respiratory services in the spring of 2016. The CSRT was instrumental in informing RTs of the changes through our various communication and social media channels. Two webinars were offered in March 2016 to provide practice implementation information to RTs and these webinars are available on the CSRT website. A panel was included in the 2016 conference to discuss implementation strategies.

Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI)

The CSRT continues to participate in the development of the CPSI Patient Safety Education Action Plan. As a participating organization, the CSRT implements some action items to achieve the collective goal of integrating patient safety into all aspects of health education. We are also actively involved in working groups and a patient safety network, including a working group to improve educational content, design and delivery on patient safety and quality improvement.

Algonquin College

CSRT participates in a Task Force and Advisory Panel to assist Algonquin College in developing plans for their Healthy Living Education initiative. This is a very exciting initiative that will provide Ottawa and the Ottawa Valley with the graduates and programs required so that the changing needs of the work force are addressed and includes a component to promote healthy living.

Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society (CAS)

The CSRT worked in close collaboration with the CAS to develop a certification process for RTs and other health professionals who have enhanced their education and work exclusively in anesthesia. The CSRT has put all the elements in place to move forward with full certification and has established an interprofessional AA Certification Workgroup. By the end of 2016, the CSRT had led the validation of the AA national competency framework and the establishment of an Interprofessional AA Exam Committee. It is anticipated that the first AA exam will be held in March 2018.

National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB)

The CSRT is an active member of the NARTRB and participates in discussions to enhance the regulatory environment for the RT profession. One of the key activity of the NARTRB is the development of a national competency framework (NCF) that includes competencies for entry-to-practice as well as throughout the various career stages. The national competency framework was finalized and disseminated in the fall of 2016.

Canadian Critical Trials Group

The CSRT provided support for a CIHR planning and dissemination grant entitled: "*A national strategy on quality of care research and evaluation – with the patient for the patient*". Led by Dr. Paul Hébert the funding will facilitate the development of a comprehensive research and evaluation strategy around the quality of care for Intensive Care Units.

McMaster University

The CSRT is a collaborator in the application of a CIHR grant a CIHR funded project to develop Canadian Guidelines for Developing Patient and Family-Centered Intensive Care Units. Led by Dr. Simon Oczkowski and Dr. Alison Fox-Robichaud and their research team, this initiative will include the participation of respiratory therapists and will focus on: 1) family visitation and access to the ICU; 2) ICU supports for families of patients dying in the ICU; 3) family participation in bedside care.

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)

The CSRT has been working with the RCPSC to expand their Acute Critical Events Simulation Course (ACES Program). This course features on-line simulations, supported by an electronic textbook and optional face-to-face simulations, and will be open to CSRT members. Authorship opportunities were available to CSRT members who contributed by co-authoring chapters of the electronic text, or to assist in writing some of the simulations.

The College of Family Physicians of Canada

The CSRT continues to be involved in a second phase of the Air Quality Health Index (AQHI) Train the Trainer Program which is a project funded by Health Canada. The CSRT identified respiratory therapists who participated in the program and became AQHI Champion. The objectives of the project include the

education of family physicians and other health professionals about the health effects of air pollution and about the Air Quality Health Index, so that they will incorporate its use into their clinical practice.

St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto

The CSRT supported applications for funding for the WE Succeed Trial, which stands for WElcoming Surrogate and CritiCally ill Patient's EngagEment in Discontinuing mechanical ventilation. The scope and purpose of the WE Succeed trial will enhance safe and evidence-based practice of respiratory therapy.

The CSRT also supported the CIHR funding application of Dr. Karen Burns for the FAST Trial (Frequency of Screening And SBT Technique Trial). The FAST Trial will compare the effects of two different screening frequencies and two different spontaneous breathing trial techniques on important clinical outcomes such as the time to first successful intubation, time to first passing on SBT, total duration of ventilation, ICU and hospital length of stay, and mortality.

REPRESENTING THE PROFESSION AT PROVINCIAL, NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Provincial conferences

Every year, the CSRT makes efforts to participate at as many provincial conferences as possible. In 2016, the CSRT participated in the conferences of the Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Therapists (MARRT), the New Brunswick Association of Respiratory Therapists (NABRT), l'Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec (OPIQ) and the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists (NSCRT).

National conferences and meetings

In 2016 CSRT President Jeff Dionne; Past President Jessie Cox and Executive Director Christiane Menard, were actively engaged with key stakeholders and participated regularly in several national meetings including: National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB), the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI) and the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society (CAS). The Executive Director is also an active participant in meetings of the Health Action Lobby Group (HEAL); Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; and other relevant national organizations.

International conferences and meetings

Represented by CSRT President Jeff Dionne, the CSRT participated in the 2016 annual conference of the American Association of Respiratory Care (AARC) in San Antonio, Texas. In addition, the CSRT President actively participated and provided updates of the Canadian RT environment at the annual meeting of the International Council for Respiratory Care on October 15, 2016, a meeting held each year to coincide with the AARC.

ENHANCING MEMBERSHIP SERVICES

Improvements to membership communication

Being able to communicate in an effective and timely manner is the most important and challenging aspect of our membership services. The CSRT has effectively enhanced membership communication through social media which represent great tools to enhance communication – Facebook now has over 4

400 followers and some posts have been viewed and shared over 100,000 times. We also are active on other social media platforms such as Twitter, Instagram and Linked in. We continue to disseminate the e-newsletter at the end of each month. (We encourage you to follow us on social media as we share exciting news, fun stories and relevant research articles on a regular basis.)

Enhanced benefits for CSRT members

The membership survey conducted in early 2015 provided some suggestions on new member benefits. In 2016 CSRT members were provided access to discounted rates from Park’N Fly in airports in Vancouver, Toronto, Montréal, Edmonton, Ottawa and Halifax. Since 2015, the CSRT has added several new membership benefits including: a 10% discount from Scrubs Canada; exclusive travel discount program on all hotels and car rental suppliers around the world; extended health care benefits, dental benefits and longer term disability from LMS Prolink; gym membership at \$499 to GoodLife Fitness; preferred mortgage rates through Street Capital Bank of Canada and preferred groups rates on home and auto insurance.

Restructuring the CSRT web site

The CSRT web site continues to be modernized to facilitate access to our services from tablets and smart phone technology, including:

- **Better file management** (update a file in one spot and it will update every link around the site automatically, great for when membership forms get updated since they are linked in multiple places)
- **Better menu structure** – has drop downs with columns separating content
- **Better front page** (animated text segments on image, fade in content)
- The **French content** is now on the same site. If they page exists in French, then the visitor just has to click “Francais” at the top right menu to reload the current page in French (rather than sending to a different site homepage like it does now)
- Much better **mobile experience**.

In December 2016 we registered 161,048 page views from 49,253 users. If you have not been on the CSRT web site recently, please take a look at www.csrt.com. A special thank you to Tom Piraino who is an outstanding RT and the “ultimate” professional in everything he does.

Engaging students in their profession

Every year we see an increase in student engagement in their profession thanks to initiatives created by Dave Sahadeo and his predecessors who provides the student perspective on the Board of Directors. In 2016, the CSRT provided an education stream and social events specifically for student within the framework of the Annual Education Conference. Contests and activities have been created within each RT education program and there is very active participation of students on the student Facebook page. We are thrilled to have so many students engaged in the activities of the CSRT as they are the future of the profession.

Enhancing professional liability insurance (PLI) for RTs

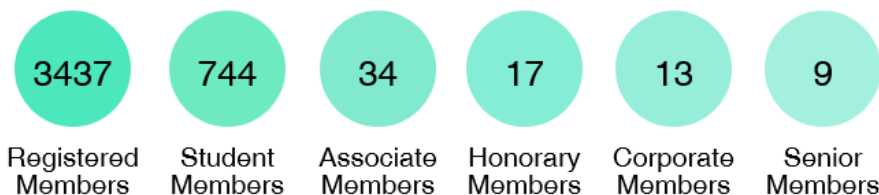
In December 2016, the CSRT enhanced the coverage at lower cost - \$45 for \$2 million coverage. When compared to other providers of professional liability insurance, the CSRT personal PLI insurance package is the most comprehensive coverage at the lowest price available to respiratory therapists across Canada. It is also unique in the breadth of coverage that it provides.

On-Line Job Bank Listings

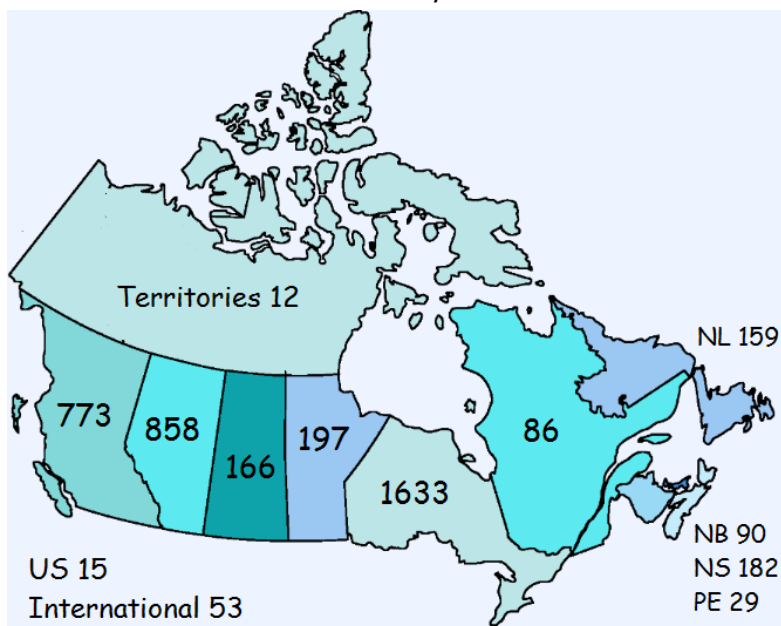
The CSRT provides access to its members of an on-line job listing to assist members looking for employment. Several employers avail themselves of the advertising opportunities on the CSRT web site. The job bank is available on the CSRT website (<http://csrtjobbank.com/>) and new postings are shared on social media.

Membership data

In 2016 the CSRT reached its highest membership ever with a total of 4,254 members. The following is the breakdown in each membership category:



Over the years, the CSRT has benefitted from increased membership various jurisdictions across Canada. The CSRT will continue to strive to offer value for money to all RTs across Canada.



Membership data by province (as of December 2016)

■ PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR RTs

Tracking tools for CE/CPD credits

The CSRT provides an on-line tool to track continued education and professional development credits. As of December 31, 2016 there were 463 members using this on-line tool on a regular basis – this is up from 347 on the same date in 2015. This on-line tool was upgraded and we will continue to monitor and improve as required.

Improving impact factor of the Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapists (CJRT)

The managing editor continues to work with the CJRT Editorial Board to enhance the quality and quantity of published articles in the CJRT. In August 2016, the CSRT was informed that its current publisher (Pulsus) had sold its publishing company to an ill-repute publisher in India. The CSRT took over self-publishing of the journal effective with the Fall 2016 edition of the CJRT. More information on the CJRT is available from the CJRT annual report.

Access to the CJRT continues to increase on prominent databases including: Google Scholar, PubMed Central, HINARI, CINAHL, EMBASE, SCOPUS.

Fellow of the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (FCSRT)

The FCSRT professional designation was established to recognize registered members who have made a significant and consistent contribution to the development of the science and profession of respiratory therapy. CSRT Fellows also make a commitment to lifelong learning by completing 25 CE/CPD credits per year. As of December 31, 2016 there was a total of 154 RRTs who had achieved the FCSRT professional designation. The full list of FCSRTs is available on the CSRT web site.

2016's new FCSRT Holders

Carlie Ann Brown (ON)
Cory Campbell (MB)
Gino Luigi DePinto (ON)
Sarah Enriquez (ON)
Elizabeth French (AB)
Pamela Hall (ON)
Seana Martin (NB)
Priya Patel (ON)
Francine Stadler (ON)

Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant (CCAA)

The AA certificate, launched in May 2014, recognizes CSRT registered and associate members who have completed additional education and training in the field of anesthesia to become an anesthesia assistant. In the Fall of 2016, the Board of Directors approved a change of the professional designation from AA-CSRT to CCAA (Certified Clinical Anesthesia Assistant). RTs and eligible associate members must have completed an approved AA education program or must demonstrate that they have achieved the competencies in the 2016 AA National Competency Framework. As of December 31, 2016, there were 32 members who had achieved the CCAA professional designation. The full list of CCAAs is available on the CSRT web site.

2016's new CCAA Holders

Colin Antenbrink (BC)
Jill Collins (NL)
Lucie Desrochers (QC)
Susan Dunington (ON)
Pietur Fridriksson (BC)
David Gilette (AB)
Sheila Kay (AB)
Melissa Kooperberg (AB)
David Moga (ON)
Manon Rousseau (QC)
Julie Stapleton (NL)
Candina Thompson (SK)
David Toth (ON)
Peter Triantafillou (NB)
Terri Tryon (AB)

Certification in Anesthesia Assistance

The CSRT continues to work with the Canadian Anesthesiologists Society and other stakeholders to establish a full AA certification process. Over the past 15 years, the

CSRT has provided leadership in the development of a foundation knowledge document, an Educational Framework for AA Education, an AA Competency Framework.

In early 2016, the CSRT worked with its inter-professional AA Certification Workgroup to finalize the validation of the AA Competency Framework, to establish a national AA certification exam process and a

national accreditation process for AA education programs. As of December 31, 2016 the validation process had been completed, and the exam development and the accreditation processes were finalized.

Journal Clubs, Webinars, Directed Reading

The CSRT offered a selection of journal clubs, webinars and directed readings for continuing education and professional development of its members. These are stored on **resource section** of the CSRT web site.

Catalogue of Guidelines

The CSRT maintains and updates on a regular basis its catalogue of guidelines. This resource, which is available on the CSRT web site, provides an efficient location for CSRT members to find guidelines in each area of practice.

CSRT CE/CPD Credits awarded to external education events

In 2016, the CSRT assessed professional development opportunities from seven organizations: AdvancingIn.com, Bunnell, the Canadian Association for Cardiopulmonary Technologists, Mallinckrodt, the NL Alliance for the Control of Tobacco & NL Smoker's Helpline, the PEI Tobacco Reduction Alliance and Sleepedu.org. As a result of this process, CSRT members are able to claim completion of approved activities for continuing education/professional development credits.

RECOGNIZING ACHIEVEMENTS – CSRT 2016 AWARDS



2016 Colya Kaminiaz Professional Achievement Award - Sponsored by Medtronics

Tom Piraino, RRT (Ontario)

This award recognizes Tom Piraino for the significant contributions to professional practice and who has influenced others toward high level of achievement in professional practice.

2016 Robert Merry Award for Excellence in Education

Paul Williams, RRT, Professor and Program Coordinator, Fanshawe College (Ontario)

This award recognizes Paul Williams for his contributions to education and who has influenced others toward high level of achievement in RT education.



2016 Excellence in Pulmonary Function Award

— sponsored by Cardinal Health

Karen Peabody, RRT (New Brunswick)

was recognized for her significant contributions in the field of pulmonary function testing and who has influenced others toward higher levels of achievement in pulmonary diagnosis.

2016 Honorary Life Membership Award

Dr. Sharon Peters, Intensivist, Critical Care Program, Professor of Medicine, Memorial University, Eastern Health (NL) who provided meritorious services to the CSRT and distinguished service to the profession of respiratory therapy.



2016 President's Award - Sponsored by Trudell Medical Marketing Limited

(from left to right) **Shannon McDonald (NSCRT)**; **Josée Prud'Homme (OPIQ)**; **Troy Denton (NBART)**; **Christiane Ménard (CSRT)**; **Roger Cook (NLCRT)**; **Stephen Chard (SCRT)**; **Bryan Buell (CARTA)**; **Shane McDonald (MARRT)**; **Dave Jones on behalf of Kevin Taylor (CRTO)**; **CSRT President Jessie Cox**. These individuals, who are all members of the Registrar Committee of the National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies, were recognized by the CSRT President for their contributions to the profession during the development, validation and publication of the 2016 National Competency Framework for entry to practice in the profession of respiratory therapy.



2016 Volunteer Award of Excellence
Jason Nickerson, RRT, PhD (Ontario)
for meritorious service to the CSRT, the Canadian Journal of Respiratory Therapy (CJRT) and to the respiratory therapy profession.

CBRC / CSRT Gold, Silver, Bronze Medal Awards

The Gold, Silver and Bronze Student Achieve Awards is conferred to individuals who have received the three top marks at the CBRC exam.



Gold Medal – Kaitlyn Schmidt, RRT –
Southern Alberta Institute of
Technology (SAIT) - Alberta
*Sponsored by Respiratory Therapists
Without Borders and Mo Shariff*



Silver Medal (1) Kyle Mikoliew,
RRT – University of Manitoba -
Manitoba



Silver Medal (2) Tyler Laird, RRT –
Thompson Rivers University -
British Columbia

52nd CSRT Annual Education Conference

The 2016 CSRT Annual Education Conference was held at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa. This was the largest CSRT conference with 788 participants and featured over 90 speakers involved in enhancing the knowledge and skills of respiratory therapists through 72 presentations and 3 workshops.

Thank you to CSRT industry partners

The CSRT is proud to acknowledge the generous contributions of the following industry partners towards the success of our conference, and for their continued commitment to the profession of respiratory therapy. These non-restricted financial contributions support the overall program development and delivery of the education sessions at the annual conference.

2016 Elite



2016 Platinum



2016 Gold



2016 Silver

