

Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) Annual Report (2015)

Message from the Chair of CoARTE – Christina Sperling, RRT, BKin, MScCH

This has been my first year as Chair of CoARTE and I must express how thrilled I am with the work that we have accomplished over the past 12 months. First and foremost I would like to thank the enthusiastic members of CoARTE Council and the CSRT Board of Directors, who support this work and dedicate their time to our profession. I would also like to express my gratitude to the many volunteers who allowed us to complete four accreditation visits this past year. This important work ensures that standards are maintained and the educational institutions continue to produce high quality professionals. Finally, I would like to thank the Director of Accreditation Services and the CSRT Executive Director for supporting the CoARTE Council and the work that they do.



This year was very exciting for CoARTE, with many activities to highlight. We implemented a new reporting process for the educational programs which was very well received. This new process allows CoARTE to receive immediate notification of changes that might affect their conformity with accreditation requirements. We also had key members of CoARTE participate in the pre-validation workshop for the new National Competency Framework 2016, a very important document that will support respiratory therapy education moving forward. This past year, CoARTE also supported the development of the CARTA/CSRT Consensus Statement on Patient and Family Centered Respiratory Care, a very significant message outlining key core principles.

The Council continues to evaluate our own practices, while benchmarking and collaborating with other national accreditation organizations. We are committed to ongoing development and integrating quality improvement initiatives.

In conclusion, I would like to once again express my appreciation to all those that support and contribute to the ongoing success of CoARTE. I am very excited about the work ahead and the many achievements that we will be proud to report next year!

Purpose of the annual report

The purpose of the Annual Report is to provide a progress report of the Council's activities to the CSRT Board of Directors, the CSRT membership, the education programs who are accredited by CoARTE and the Canadian respiratory therapy regulatory bodies. This report covers the activities of CoARTE in 2015.

It is also an opportunity to thank the volunteers who form the foundation of the accreditation process, putting their knowledge, time and energy to work for continuously improving the respiratory therapy education.

Statement of Purpose

The Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) is a committee of the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT). CoARTE ensures respiratory therapy education programs meet the profession's national accreditation standards.

CoARTE endeavors to provide accreditation services characterized by:

- A focus on quality education
- A supportive, collaborative, instructive and transparent processes
- Evaluation of programs by qualified reviewers with a variety of perspectives relating to respiratory therapy education
- Continual quality improvement
- Efficiency and cost-effectiveness

Council composition

CoARTE Council is composed of eight to ten voting members, plus two non-voting *ex-officio* members. Its linguistic make-up must reflect that of the accredited programs. Council members are:

- Christina Sperling, RRT, BKin, MScCH., (Chair) *Employer perspective*
- Louise Michaud, RRT, B.Ed., Educator (Vice-Chair) *Clinical Education perspective*
- Nicole Boudreau, RRT, B.Ed., *Senior Educational Administrator and Employer perspectives*
- Irina Charania, RRT BScH, *National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies representative, Clinical Education Perspective*
- Amy Gillespie, RRT BSc, *New Graduate Perspective*
- Michael Iwanow, RRT MBA *Clinical education perspective*
- Peter Murray, DipSpEd, B.Ed., Edmonton, AB - *Public perspective*
- Catherine O'Brien, RRT, – *Didactic education perspective*
- Sharon Peters, MD, MPH, FRCPC, *Physician perspective*
- Christiane Ménard, (member ex-officio), Executive Director of the CSRT, Ottawa, ON – *CSRT perspective*
- Carolyn McCoy, (member ex-officio), Director of Accreditation and Professional Practice Services

Susan Dunington completed her time on Council at the end of the 2015 CSRT Annual Education Conference and was replaced as Chair by Christina Sperling, Christina joined CoARTE in 2010 and was chosen by Council to serve as Vice Chair in 2013. Christina is the Senior Manager, Respiratory Therapy at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario.

CoARTE Staff

The Executive Director of the CSRT oversees the staffing of CoARTE. CoARTE staff provides all administrative support for the accreditation committee and serves as a resource to council members and program review team members in regard to accreditation processes and policies. Carolyn McCoy is the Director of Accreditation and Professional Practice Services. She was a past Chair of CoARTE, an experienced Program Reviewer, and had been a Respiratory Therapy and Nursing and Health Sciences

educator at the New Brunswick Community College and University of New Brunswick in Saint John. CoARTE also receives administrative support from other CSRT staff.

Accreditation Categories

Although respiratory therapy education programs are visited on a six-year cycle, accreditation statuses are conferred annually by CoARTE. Programs must demonstrate annually that they continue to conform to CoARTE's 43 accreditation requirements. The current status of each program is always available to the public on the CSRT website (<http://www.csrt.com/accredited-programs/>).

CoARTE will confer one of four accreditation categories:

Accreditation: accorded to an existing program when the accreditation review process verifies that the program is in conformity with the requirements of accreditation.

Accreditation with Progress Report: accorded when programs are required to submit one or more progress reports to address recommendations in the Program Review Report. Progress Reports must be submitted with the next annual report or sooner at the discretion of council. Accreditation with Progress Report may be deemed necessary at other times by council to ensure continuing conformity with the requirements of accreditation. Satisfactory reporting that demonstrates conformity will progress to the Accreditation category. Failure to submit a satisfactory Progress Report that demonstrates conformity is grounds for Probationary Accreditation.

Provisional Accreditation: accorded to programs that do not have CoARTE accreditation status but are working towards Accreditation. These programs must subscribe to CoARTE requirements and must update the council on their progress through annual reports until a site visit has occurred. For new programs, a site visit must occur prior to the first graduating class

Probationary Accreditation

Probationary Accreditation is accorded to a program after the accreditation visit when deficiencies are so serious that the capability of the program to provide acceptable education is threatened. The program must address the identified deficiencies within one year. Failure to address the deficiencies in a sufficient manner may result in a follow-up visit at the expense of the program. Alternatively, Probationary Accreditation is accorded when a program fails to submit a Self-study Report, Progress Report, or Annual Report of Current Status as required by council. Finally, Probationary Accreditation is accorded when a program fails to pay accreditation fees within a reasonable time as determined by council.

The council will withdraw a program's Probationary Accreditation if the program has failed to correct deficiencies within a one year period. Once accreditation is withdrawn, a program must reapply for Provisional Accreditation to re-enter CoARTE's accreditation process.

CoARTE Meetings

CoARTE has one annual meeting, where the annual reports from the respiratory therapy programs are discussed and accreditation statuses are conferred. Program Review Reports (those reports resulting from accreditation site visits) and Progress Reports are also reviewed at the annual meeting.

The CoARTE 2015 Annual Meeting occurred on April 11th and 12th in Toronto. Council worked on three new policies which were approved by the CSRT Board of Directors in 2015: Request for Extension, External Reporting, and Report of Substantive Change. These new policies were developed in response to emerging accreditation trends.

Teleconferences are scheduled throughout the year to review Analysis of Self-Study Reports, Program Review Reports and Progress reports. Council will also confer accreditation statuses during these teleconferences following an accreditation visit. CoARTE had three teleconferences in 2015 to discuss reports and confer accreditation statuses and to discuss emerging issues. In 2015, other issues discussed at the teleconferences were a new Conflict of Interest policy, new program reviewer applications and the withdrawal of some Quebec programs from the CoARTE accreditation process.

Accreditation Visits

CoARTE completed four site visits in 2015:

- *Conestoga College*: February 8-11, 2015
- *College communautaire de Nouveau-Brunswick* : March 22-25, 2015
- *New Brunswick Community College*: October 25-28, 2015
- *Southern Alberta Institute of Technology*: November 22-25, 2015

An accreditation visit is a complex process, which begins long before the visit and does not end on the day of the preliminary report. The visit itself is very intense and needs all the attention and close collaboration of the team members. We thank our program reviewers who participated in 2015:

- *Conestoga College*: Jocelyn Forseille (team lead), Kathleen Frame, Michael Lemphers, David Swift
- *College communautaire de Nouveau-Brunswick*: Jackie Bernard (team lead), Caroline Gagnon, Etienne LeDuc, Catherine O'Brien
- *New Brunswick Community College*: Micheline Courtney, Joan Degan, Adrienne Leach, Patricia McClurg (team lead),
- *Southern Alberta Institute of Technology*: Anabela Ferreira, Katie Reise, Catherine Sidney, Mark Zarembo (team lead)

Katherine Nollet performed accreditation administrative duties on the New Brunswick Community College visit as the Director had been an employee of this college until 2013. The Director was available to answer questions relating to policy and process but was not otherwise involved in this visit.

2015 Consensus Workshop

On March 15, 2015, members of the CSRT Board of Directors and of the Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education (CoARTE) met with members of the National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies to come to consensus on some accreditation issues, including (but not limited to) the reporting of the competency attainment, the inclusion of regulatory observers on accreditation visits and the use of simulation to assess competence. This meeting was facilitated by Lisa Brazeau, a consultant with experience in accreditation and consensus-building.

Prior to participating in the Consensus Workshop, CoARTE compared its processes to those of other accreditation bodies. The actions agreed to by CoARTE and the CSRT are consistent with the processes of these agencies. The outcomes of the workshop were presented to educators at the 2016 annual meeting and a copy of the report was sent to each respiratory therapy education program and to each workshop participant. The report is available by request to coarte@csrt.com.

Withdrawal of some Quebec programs from national accreditation process

Three programs withdrew from CoARTE accreditation in 2015: College Ellis: Trois Rivières, College Ellis: Longueuil, and Cégep de Sherbrooke. Graduates in Quebec are not required to graduate from an accredited program in order to obtain a license to practice in Quebec. The decision to withdraw from accreditation was not made at the respiratory therapy program level and extends to other accredited programs in professions taught across the Quebec Cégep system. The CSRT will continue to communicate with these non-accredited programs to keep them informed of national trends and developments in respiratory therapy education and the continue collaboration among respiratory therapists nationally.

Communication with Educators

The Chair represented CoARTE at the 2015 Canadian Advisory Council for Education in Respiratory Therapy (CACERT) Annual General Meeting in Calgary, AB. At this time, she provided an update on new accreditation policies and the outcomes of the 2015 Consensus Workshop.

Collaboration with other Accrediting Agencies

CoARTE is a member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada. As a member, the committee is able to share best practices with other accrediting bodies. The Director participated in some benchmarking activities while allowed CoARTE to compare its policies with those of other accreditation bodies. The information obtained through the benchmarking process was used when developing new policies outlined earlier in this report.

Accreditation fees

Accreditation fees were increased by 2% to reflect inflation. Programs are subject to a base fee based on program size, and a per-student fee of \$6.00. Base fees are:

- Programs with fewer than 100 students: \$5 306;
- Programs with between 100 and 200 students: \$6 367
- Programs of more than 200 students: \$7 428
- International programs: \$10 612

Accreditation Calendar:

Although accreditation statuses are accorded annually, accreditation visits follow a 6 year cycle. Upcoming visits for the next three years are planned as follows:

2016: College of the North Atlantic (April 3-6)

Cégep de Chicoutimi (October 23-26)

- 2017: College of the North Atlantic - Qatar (February 19-22)
Collège Rosemont (September 24-27)
Vanier College (November 5-8)
- 2018: Thompson Rivers University (February – date to be determined)
Cégep de Outaouais (March 26-29)
Algonquin College (October – date to be determined)

List of Accredited Programs by Status (December 31, 2015)

(Note: Some statuses have changed since December 31, 2015. Current accreditation statuses are available on the CSRT website: <http://www.csrt.com/accredited-programs/>)

Accreditation: Algonquin College of Applied Arts and Technology
Canadore College of Applied Arts and Technology
CCNB-Dieppe
Cégep de Ste-Foy (*Unaccredited as of March 2016*)
Cégep de Chicoutimi
Cégep de l'Outaouais
Collège de Rosemont
Collège de Valleyfield
College of the North Atlantic (CNA)
College of the North Atlantic – Qatar
Fanshawe College of Applied Arts and Technology
La Cité collégiale - Collège d'arts appliqués et de technologie
The Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences
New Brunswick Community College (NBCC)
Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
QEII Dalhousie University School of Health Sciences
Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT)
St. Clair College
Thompson Rivers University
University of Manitoba
Vanier College

Accreditation with Report: Conestoga College (moved to *Accreditation*, March 22, 2106)

Probation: None

Unaccredited: Cégep de Sherbrooke
Collège Ellis: Trois Rivières
Collège Ellis: Longueuil

