



CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

**Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education
Annual Report (2016)**

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

As a committee of the CSRT, CoARTE advises the Board on accreditation policy and standards. The Board sets accreditation policies including accreditation standards, and ratifies Council members. The CoARTE Council determines programs' accreditation statuses independently of the Board of the CSRT.

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* (term ended May 2016)
- 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*
- Lori Pepler-Beechey, RRT BSc MHS *National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies representative* (term began September 2016)

- Sharon Peters, MD, MPH, FRCPC, *Other healthcare profession 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

Christina Sperling completed one year of her two-year term in 2016. Her final year on Council will end after the CSRT Annual Education Conference in May 2017 when Louise Michaud will assume the Chair position. Sharon Peters' term will also expire in 2017. Recruitment for both positions occurred in early 2017.

CoARTE extends its appreciation to Irina Charania (College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta) who left CoARTE as the representative of the National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies in May. She was replaced with Lori Peppler-Beechey (College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario).

CoARTE Staff

CoARTE is supported by the Director of Accreditation Services, Carolyn McCoy, who reports to the Executive Director of the CSRT. As Director, Carolyn provides 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. CoARTE also receives administrative support from other CSRT staff.

Accreditation Categories

Although accreditation visits occur every 6-7 years, the accreditation status of the 19 accredited programs in Canada and one international program is reviewed and conferred each year.

CoARTE adopted a Report of Substantive Change in 2016 which requires programs to report program changes to CoARTE within 30 days of their approval or of the time when the program is made aware of them. If CoARTE is made aware of a change that may impact a program's ability to remain in conformity with any one of 43 accreditation standards, the program will be required to provide a follow-up report and evidence that they meet the accreditation standard in question, and its accreditation status may be changed.

The current accreditation status of each program, and definitions of each accreditation category are always available to the public on the CSRT website, under the 'Accreditation' tab.

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 2016 Annual Meeting occurred on April 30 and May 1 in Moncton, NB. Council worked on two new policies. These policies address program failure to submit required reports and prolonged partial or non-conformity with accreditation requirements. Council also reviewed and updated the policies regarding program appeals and third part complaints. (All CoARTE policies are available on the CSRT website, under the "Accreditation" tab.) Other business discussed at this meeting included the

results of a comparison of CoARTE accreditation standards with those of other healthcare accreditation bodies, the implementation of the upcoming 2016 National Competency Framework as an accreditation standard and the recommendations of the Advisory Workgroup on the Use of Clinical Simulation.

Teleconferences are scheduled throughout the year to review Reports of Substantive Change and other program reports including those relating to recent accreditation visits. Ongoing or emerging issues are also discussed during these teleconferences. Council will also confer accreditation statuses during these teleconferences. CoARTE had five teleconferences in 2016. Business discussed during these teleconferences included the accreditation of Anesthesia Assistant programs and revisions to the CoARTE accreditation requirements and templates.

Conflicts of interest are declared at the outset of each meeting. A Council member is considered to be in conflict if they are or have been employed by the educational institution being discussed, if they are a graduate of the education institution being discussed, or if they are closely related to the education institution being discussed. If a member is in a conflict of interest, they are excluded from this part of the meeting and do not vote on the accreditation status of the program in question.

Accreditation Visits

CoARTE completed one site visit in 2016:

- *College of the North Atlantic, Newfoundland: April 3-6, 2016*

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 Kathy Spurr, Costa Voutsinas, Marlene Raasok and Kirby Peterson for their hard work in 2016.

Two other accreditation visits to programs in Quebec were scheduled for 2016, but did not occur when these programs withdrew from accreditation (see below).

Withdrawal of some Quebec programs from national accreditation process

Two programs withdrew from the national accreditation process in 2016: Cégep de Chicoutimi and Cégep de Sainte-Foy. 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 will continue to offer them opportunities for collaboration among respiratory therapists nationally.

Collaboration with other Accrediting Agencies

CoARTE was a member of the Association of Accrediting Agencies of Canada in 2016. 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 and when proposing updates to the accreditation requirements.

Accreditation fees

Accredited programs pay an annual accreditation fee. 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

Upcoming accreditation visits

2017: College of the North Atlantic - Qatar (February 19-22)
Collège Rosemont (September 24-27)
Vanier College (November 5-8)

2018: Cégep de Outaouais (April 8-11, 2018)
Thompson Rivers University (September 15-19)

List of Accredited Programs by Status (December 31, 2016)

(Note: Some statuses have changed since December 31, 2016. 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 l'Outaouais
Collège de Rosemont
Collège de Valleyfield
College of the North Atlantic – Qatar
Conestoga College
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: None

Probation: College of the North Atlantic - NL

Unaccredited: Cégep de Chicoutimi
Cégep de Sainte-Foy
Cégep de Sherbrooke
Collège Ellis: Trois Rivières
Collège Ellis: Longueuil

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn McCoy, Director of Accreditation Services