

Council on Accreditation for Respiratory Therapy Education Annual Report (2017)

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.

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. Recently the CSRT Board of Directors made the decision to refocus CSRT Accreditation Services to post-diploma education programs effective 2019.

Refocusing of Accreditation Services

The CSRT has administered the accreditation process for the evaluation of entry-to-practice respiratory therapy education programs since 1998, when only four provinces were regulated. Since that time, the respiratory therapy regulatory environment has evolved substantially. Because of this evolution in the profession and because the accreditation of entry-to-practice of RT education programs is a regulatory requirement, the Board made the decision to refocus its accreditation efforts elsewhere.

The Board also recognized that accreditation of entry-to-practice RT education programs does not directly support the CSRT mandate as a national professional association for the RT profession. The decision to refocus will allow the CSRT to use its resources on activities that better supports its mandate.

These changes to accreditation services come into effect on August 31, 2019, resulting in a 22-month period for regulatory bodies to prepare for the transition. This decision does not impact the work of CoARTE during this period. The CSRT will continue to offer accreditation services for entry-to-practice RT education programs and will ensure that effective and efficient processes are in place. CoARTE and the CSRT remain fully committed to ensuring the effective and efficient transition to the selected accreditation process for entry-to-practice RT education programs and to maintaining a stakeholder/advisory role as required in the future.

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:

Current Members of CoARTE Council (Note: All terms expire in 2019.)

- **LOUISE MICHAUD, RRT, B. Ed., (Chair)– Cégep de Sainte-Foy, Sainte-Foy, QC - Clinical education perspective**
- **MICHAEL IWANOW, RRT MBA, (Vice-Chair) - Supervisor, Interprofessional Practice, Toronto East General Hospital - Toronto, ON – Clinical education perspective**
- **NICOLE BOUDREAU, RRT, B. Ed., Sectorial Advisor - health and social services programs, CCNB, Moncton, NB - Senior Educational Administrator and Employer perspectives**
- **PETER MURRAY, DipSpEd, B.Ed., Edmonton, AB - Public perspective**
- **CATHERINE O'BRIEN, RRT, Educator – Techniques d'inhalothérapie, Collège de Rosemont, Montréal, QC – Didactic and Clinical Education perspectives**
- **AMY GILLESPIE, RRT BSc, Respiratory Therapist, Edmundston Regional Hospital, NB, Grand Falls, NB – clinician and new graduate perspective**
- **LORI PEPPLER-BEECHEY, RRT BSc MHS, Manager, Governance and Quality, College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario – NARTRB Representative**
- **STEPHEN CHARD, RRT FCSRT, Director, Practitioner Staff Affairs, Regina General Hospital – Administration perspective**

CoARTE Staff

CoARTE is supported by the Director of Accreditation Services, Carolyn McCoy, who reports to the CEO 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 2017 Annual Meeting occurred on April 22-23, in Ottawa, ON. Council worked on proposed revisions to the CoARTE accreditation standards and reviewed its existing policies to identify any necessary updates or revisions. Note: The work to revise accreditation standards and policies has been suspended due to the decision to refocus accreditation services.)

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 three teleconferences in 2017. Business discussed during these teleconferences included the proposed revisions to the CoARTE accreditation requirements and templates, the outcome of an accreditation visit and the decision of the CSRT Board of Directors to refocus accreditation services.

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 four accreditation site visits in 2017:

- *College of the North Atlantic - Doha, Qatar February 19-22, 2017*
- *College of the North Atlantic, St John's, Newfoundland: June 11-13, 2017*
- *Collège de Rosemont, Montréal, Québec : September 24 – 27, 2017*
- *Vanier College, Montréal, Québec, November 4-7, 2017*

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 Susan Dunnington, Patricia McClurg, Mark Murray, Nicole Boudreau, Kathy Spurr, Mark Zarembo, Jackie Bernard, François Maltais, Sébastien Tessier, Joanne Tignanelli, Sandra Annett, Cori Stadler and Catherine Sidney for their dedication and hard work on these visits.

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 in 2017 were:

- Programs with fewer than 100 students: \$5 412.00;
- Programs with between 100 and 200 students: \$6 494.00
- Programs of more than 200 students: \$7 576.00
- International programs: \$10 824.24

Upcoming accreditation visits

2018: Thompson Rivers University (September 15-19, 2018)

List of Accredited Programs by Status (December 31, 2017)

(Note: Some statuses have changed since December 31, 2017. 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 Valleyfield
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: Collège de Rosemont
College of the North Atlantic – Qatar

Probation: None

Unaccredited: Cégep de Chicoutimi
Cégep de Sainte-Foy
Cégep de Sherbrooke
Collège Ellis: Trois Rivières
College of the North Atlantic – NL

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn McCoy, Director of Accreditation Services