

For Immediate Release
Calgary

Respiratory Therapists in Canada will now find it easier to gain employment across the country, following the signing and ratification of a Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA), the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO), the Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Therapists (MARRT), the Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec (OPIQ) and the Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT). The Respiratory Therapy Labour Mobility Consortium is pleased to report that a tentative agreement was signed November 17th in Toronto, and has now been ratified by each jurisdiction. This agreement covers the approximately 7,000 respiratory therapists working across the country. The MRA has now been forwarded to the Labour Mobility Coordinating Group for governmental review and approval.

The ratification of the mutual recognition agreement concludes 4 years of discussions and negotiations to reach the best agreement possible. Consortium chairman Patrick Litwin, RRT appreciated the high level of collaboration and cooperation of all participants. Mr. Litwin said, "the agreement was created through mutual respect, trust and understanding between all of the participants involved."

Background

Respiratory Therapists are multifaceted healthcare professionals who work in the cardiorespiratory field. The incidence of pulmonary diseases, such as chronic obstructive lung disease, continues to rise and the need for information on treatment and prevention of these conditions is growing. Respiratory Therapists have daily contact with those with lung disease: asthma, chronic bronchitis, emphysema, lung cancer, and cystic fibrosis. Their multifaceted background qualifies them to work with adults, neonates and children. RT's are influential in the education, treatment, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic cardiorespiratory disease. They provide essential services in emergency rooms, intensive care units, home care, anaesthesia, cardiopulmonary diagnostics, and cardiovascular care. They play an important role in community care, asthma management, health promotion, disease prevention, pulmonary rehabilitation, environmental protection, research and education.

The Labour Mobility Coordinating Group (LMCG) was established by the Forum of Labour Market Ministers to implement the Labour Mobility Chapter of the *Agreement on Internal Trade*. Representatives from each of the federal, provincial and territorial governments are members of the Group, which is co-chaired by Human Resources Development Canada and the Ministry of Skills, Training and Labour of the Government of British Columbia.

The *Agreement on Internal Trade* states that any worker qualified for an occupation in one province or territory should be granted unimpeded access to employment opportunities in that occupation in any other province or territory. The deadline for full

compliance with the Labour Mobility chapter of the Agreement on Internal Trade in Canada was July 1st, 2001.

Contacts

Mr. Patrick Litwin, RRT
Chair, Respiratory Therapy Labour Mobility Consortium
c/o 18305-72 Avenue
Edmonton AB T5T 3Z3
780-231-0940
Email: plitwin@interbaun.com

College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta (CARTA)
Suite #370, 6715 - 8th Street NE, Calgary, Alberta T2E 7H7
Telephone (403) 274-1829
Toll-Free (in Alberta): 1-800-205-2778
General E-mail: carta1@telusplanet.net
Website: www.carta.ca

College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO)
180 Dundas Street West, Suite 2103
Toronto, Ontario M5G 1Z8, Canada
Telephone: (416) 591-7800
Toll-Free (in Ontario): 1-800-261-0528
Fax: (416) 591-7890
General E-mail: cart@crto.on.ca
Website: www.crto.on.ca

Manitoba Association of Registered Respiratory Therapists (MARRT)
Box 2087 Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3R4
Telephone: (204) 944-8081
E-Mail: marrt@marrt.org
Website: www.marrt.org

Ordre professionnel des inhalothérapeutes du Québec (OPIQ)
1440, rue Ste-Catherine Ouest, bureau 320
Montréal (Québec) H3G 1R8
Tél. : (514) 931-2900 1 800 561-0029 Téléc. : (514) 931-3621
Email: dg@opiq.qc.ca
Website: www.opiq.qc.ca

Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT)
102 - 1785 Alta Vista Drive,
Ottawa, Ontario K1G 3Y6
Tel: (613) 731-3164 Toll Free 1-800-267-3422 Fax: (613) 521-4314
Email: info@csrt.com
Website: www.csrt.com