



College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta

Suite # 370, 6715 – 8th Street N.E., Calgary Alberta T2E 7H7

Telephone: (403) 274-1828 • (403) 274-1829 • 1-800-205-2778 • Fax: (403) 274-9703
Website: www.carta.ca

English Language Proficiency Information for Prospective Respiratory Therapists

Date: November 1st, 2010

Section 10 of the *Respiratory Therapist Profession Regulation* specifies that respiratory therapists must be reasonably proficient in the English language when providing professional services to patients and/or clients. The Council of the College and Association of Respiratory Therapists of Alberta has approved a policy whereby language proficiency to the Canadian Language Benchmarks (CLB) at level 9 is required for each of the following skills, speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Please refer to the attached self assessment tool for level 9. This tool should help you understand what the language proficiency expectations are for registered respiratory therapists. Please note that other language proficiency assessment tools do exist, however, only the CLB is accepted for purposes of application of the *Regulation*.

The reason for this practice is that the CLB level 9 involves administration of the enhanced language training placement assessment (ELTPA). This assessment involves an assessment of integration of communicative abilities which is very important for safe and successful practice of respiratory therapy.

The ELTPA is free for new comers to Canada and is available at one of two language assessment centres in Alberta (please note a waiting time of 21 days to be assessed is not uncommon):

In Edmonton contact the language assessment referral and counselling centre (LARC C) at Catholic Social Services 10709-105th Street, Edmonton, Telephone # 780-432-1137 or visit www.catholicsocialservices.ca

In Calgary contact the immigrant language and vocational assessment referral centre (ILVARC) at Immigrant Services Calgary #1200, 900-7th Avenue S.W., Calgary, Alberta T2P3N8, Telephone # 403-262-2656 or visit www.immigrantservicescalgary.ca

For more detailed information;

About the Canadian Language Benchmarks please visit www.language.ca;

About the *Regulation* and Council policy contact the Registrar of the College and Association bryan.buell@carta.ca ;

About supports available to newcomers visit the Ministry of Employment and Immigration www.employmentalberta.ca .



Canadian Language Benchmarks

LEVEL **9**

Name	Date
------	------

- Needs assessment Goal setting Self-assessment _____

Speaking 9

- I can provide and exchange important information in social and academic situations or at work.
- I can prepare a 15-30 minute formal presentation.
- I can help to manage a discussion or debate in a work meeting or academic seminar.
- I can participate in business meetings, discussions, and debates on complex, abstract, conceptual and detailed topics to analyze, solve problems and make decisions.
- I can provide clear, multi-step instructions for familiar technical or non-technical processes.
- I can ask questions to get detailed and complex information and respond to questions with needed information.
- I am comfortable speaking face to face, in groups, and on the phone, with managers, professors and other authority figures.
- I speak at a normal or fast rate with only occasional errors in grammar, vocabulary or pronunciation.

Listening 9

- When someone speaks clearly and in a familiar accent, I can understand a broad range of general interest topics and technical topics in my field. I sometimes miss some details and may not always understand humour, infrequently-used idioms, and cultural references.
- I can separate facts from opinions and identify a speaker's purpose and point of view; sometimes I can understand a speaker's personal attitudes and emotions.
- I can identify the roles, relationships and status of speakers in formal business and academic settings.
- I can understand key information from 15-30 minute complex discussions, presentations and training sessions at work or in academic and social situations.
- I can understand information and paraphrase or summarize the key facts and details at work or at school.
- I can understand lengthy suggestions, recommendations and proposals for solutions to problems.
- I can combine a few pieces of detailed oral information to follow multi-step instructions for a familiar process or procedure.

Notes





Reading 9

- I can read a wide variety of authentic multipurpose texts: newspaper articles, short stories, novels, academic materials, manuals and business documents.
- I can read clearly-written texts of 3-5 pages on abstract, conceptual and technical topics.
- I can identify and explain a writer's intent and point of view.
- I can read formal advisory, instructional texts on familiar processes and procedures: policy and procedure manuals, equipment installation manuals, user product guides and health and safety advisories.
- I can locate and integrate information across paragraphs or sections of text to correctly interpret and follow instructions for a familiar process or procedure.
- I can understand flow charts, graphs, pictographs and diagrams and explain them to others in an alternative way.
- I can use several complex sources of information (reports, charts, graphs, emails) to complete academic or business tasks.
- I can find a specific piece of information through a complex search using on-line search engines and libraries.

Writing 9

- I can write formal and informal notes or emails to schedule, cancel or reschedule business or academic appointments.
- I can write a coherent essay or report of 3-5 typed pages to present information on a researched topic.
- I can summarize and convey the main ideas of an article and support them with details.
- I can fill out complex and detailed forms with over 40 pieces of required information.
- I can write summary reports of data, lab inspections or meetings.
- I can write outlines or summaries of material taken from several sources.
- I use paragraphs but my writing still lacks flexibility in tone and style; occasionally I still make errors in grammar and spelling.
- I use accepted formats for formal and informal documents such as letters, essays, reports, emails.
- I can proofread and make revisions to my own work; sometimes I need input from others.

