

**The Certification Task Force has been receiving questions in regards to certification and the vote. Following is a compilation of those questions and our responses. Please read through as you may have similar questions.**

## **CTF QUESTIONS & ANSWERS**

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### **QUESTION #1**

I got the CTRA stuff in the mail about Certification and have a question for the task force.

If Certification goes through is CTRA looking at changing the membership criteria to include only those who are CTRS?

As a professional working I am aware that to supervise practicum students you require CTRS status for the placement to be valid. I guess from a CTRA membership point of view I wonder where I stand if I choose not to follow either equivalency path. I am uncomfortable at taking the exam as I am over 40 and have not written an exam in many years. Just unneeded stress when I am faced with other job related stress. Secondly, the courses required were not offered when I completed my Bachelor of Recreation Studies in Manitoba in the late 80's. I have stayed current with the field by attending TR conferences such as the National CTRA conference as well as have presented at this conference. I am published in the TR Journal as well. I have worked in the field for over 15 years and have been an active member in my provincial association and long standing CTRA member and wonder where CTRA is going next.

I look forward to a response as this will impact my vote.

I believe certification is necessary in the long run for future professionals. This will encourage Educational institutions to produce graduates at a desired competence to enter the field. I am just wondering about current professionals in a different place in life who would not be able to easily upgrade schooling.

Again my question is from a CTRA membership point of view, I wonder where I stand if I choose not to follow either equivalency path. Will my current membership be enough to remain in good standing as a full member in good standing?

### **QUESTION #2**

Hi, I've been working as a Recreation Therapist for the past 17 years. I have a diploma in Leisure Services with a major in Recreation Therapy which I obtained in 1988 from Mount Royal College. My question is would I now have to complete a degree before I could get certified? Is there any consideration of grandfathering?

## RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS & CONCERNS #1 & 2:

As of today, to be certified in NCTRC, a degree is required to write the exam for certification. Although we have been informed that NCTRC is considering other levels of certification that may be implemented in the future, however, we do not have a timeline for this. Also, as of yet a proposed timeline has not been established for our own certification system and certifying at that time will be voluntary unless required by your employer.

From a membership perspective, CTRA will maintain all levels of membership so even if you do not become certified, you can still maintain your membership with CTRA. If CTRA chooses in the future to increase its membership requirements, because CTRA is a membership organization not a certification organization, CTRA would definitely have the option to grandfather in members.

CTRA plans to work with educational institutions across Canada to provide educational requirements throughout all the regions to make it feasible to attain the requirements of NCTRC certification.

## QUESTION #3

Good Afternoon:

I am writing with regard to the recent newsletter that I received. I appreciate the national update on the certification initiative, however I am quite concerned about the recommendation and the proposed action plan associated with the recommendation.

I recognize the great amount of time and effort that has been put into the certification initiative over the past three years, as stated several times in the update. I do believe that the amount of time or energy spent should however have any bearing on the recommendation being put forth.

I am surprised that CTRA has not provided any other options for members to review in order for us to make an informed decision about what is best for TR practitioners in Canada regarding certification. You are asking us to endorse (through a vote) an "International/American" plan without actually knowing the full details of the proposal, and without knowing what other options are available.

It would seem to me that the vote is too "all encompassing" and should really be asking members if they are interested in a Canadian model vs. an existing model such as NCTRC. If members vote to support the pursuit of the NCTRC model, then negotiations can begin about the details of that model, which in turn should be brought back to the members for endorsement.

As for the action plan listed at the bottom of the certification update regarding making your vote count, the action plans seem a bit backwards to me. If the vote is "no", then CTRA will need to find out what the members want? Do you not feel this should be done before a vote is taken? All of the bullet points/action steps listed under the "no" vote section seem to be very biased in their presentation, encouraging members to vote "yes", especially the points

regarding "go back to square one\*", and \*make the members aware that if the vote is no that "we have lost a lot of time what we have been talking and dealing with NCTRC".

As a CTRA member, I am disappointed in the lack of professionalism surrounding this particular mailing. I am also disappointed in the lack of apparent organization to this entire endeavour, appearing as though CTRA will deal with the "no vote" issues only if necessary, rather than actually providing members options and a complete picture of what is available to TR practitioners regarding certification.

### **RESPONSE TO QUESTION & CONCERN #3**

Thank you for your e-mail and your expressed concerns about the motion. I guess we should clarify some things further.

What we are asking for with this motion is that the CTRA can further proceed to working with the NCTRC to meet the certification needs of Canadians. Right now we are at a standstill. The details of that proposal have not been developed, and if we can not meet Canadian's expressed needs (have a look at the 2006 Spring Edition of the Tribune for details in this matter as well as the minutes that are posted on the CTRA webpage [http://www.canadian-tr.org/CTF\\_update.html](http://www.canadian-tr.org/CTF_update.html)) with the NCTRC that we will continue this process down another route. At this stage we are limited because we need to know if Canadians will even allow us to go the route of the NCTRC for certification; that is the question. If they are willing to take this leap, then we will continue to represent the specified needs of Canadians from what the CTF has heard in the past and what they will continue to hear for presentations and the TR certification e-mail messages.

We are also limited to two known models at this time regarding TR certification; they are the Mosaic model and the NCTRC model. I realize that TRO is working on a Canadian Model for Certification; however this is in the early stages.

When investigating possible certification systems in Canada, it is important to reflect what exactly are we looking at for in a certification process (does this differ from what the NCTRC offers and if it does, what is that difference?), what is the feasibility of financially being able to create and maintain a certification process (I should also mention, that we have only 1100 members of provincial association groups across all of Canada), and the estimated costs of developing a certification system and maintaining one are really significant to this process of making a choice for certification in Canada bearing in mind that at this time we only have 1100 people who may certify. It has been estimated that it would cost a minimum of \$500 000 to develop a certification examination, make it electronically available to members, testing, upgrades and administration costs and \$1 000 000 to maintain this system annually. So bearing in mind that we have 1100 people in Canada who are practicing therapeutic recreation professionals, and we'll say 30% of those certify (liberal estimate), in the first year, we would have to charge \$1515.00 per person just to recover the first year costs. As well, with each year we would have to charge enough to recover the annual maintenance costs that have been estimated at \$1 000 000. I do not have the number of students that graduate from TR programs annually in Canada, but I will estimate it at 250 people (again another liberal estimate), we would have to charge \$4000.00 per person to recover those costs each year. The financial costs are beyond our capacity. As well, when discussing this

possibility of developing a certification exam with a psychometric testing agency, we would need hundreds of volunteers to help with the question development of the examination.

The CTF is comprised of members from each province in Canada, and after investigating the issue of certification they have come to the consensus that the NCTRC is currently our best option; however we need to further develop the details. Please have a look at the minutes that are on the website, and if you have any further questions or concerns, write us again. We really want to hear from CTRA members. We understand that this is a significant vote and could influence a huge change for the future TR in Canada.

I should also mention that the CTF members have been touching base with members from each of the provincial associations and have been doing so for almost 5 years now and reporting to the CTF about what is going on in their provinces, again you can have a look at the minutes from our meetings to verify this.

Thank you very much for your expressed concerns, I hope I shed a bit of light on the subject and explained our recommendation further.

Tanea Goncalves  
CTRA Certification Director

## IT'S NOW UP TO CTRA MEMBERSHIP!!!

The certification task force has examined the certification issue for Canada several years now, and we unanimously recommend that membership votes "Yes" to the motion

***"We move that the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association (CTRA) membership endorse official negotiations with the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC) with the intent of developing a cooperative arrangement to establish certification for Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Specialists."***

The decision is now up to you, CTRA membership. A voting package will be arriving on your doorstep May 1, 2007. The CTF hopes that you consider the future of TR in you decision. All minutes, updates, report documents and a presentation will remain on the CTRA website for your perusal at [http://www.canadian-tr.org/CTF\\_update.html](http://www.canadian-tr.org/CTF_update.html) as well, if you have any further questions, please forward them to [trcertification@yahoo.ca](mailto:trcertification@yahoo.ca), we look forward to hearing from you. As well, if you are attending the CTRA conference in June, 2007, members of the CTF will be holding an open forum session specific to Certification in Canada titled "Raising the Bar". We hope to see you there!

Tanea Goncalves  
CTRA Certification Director