

The CTRA Certification Task Force Update on On-going Projects

- 1. National Council of Therapeutic Recreation Certification Discussions:**

After an initial presentation from the NCTRC, the CTF is interested in pursuing discussion with the NCTRC to determine if the current program can be modified to reflect Canadian Therapeutic Recreation professionals. Some issues that have been identified include: Canadian Nationalism, US legislative practice questions, bilingual examination and process, NCTRC competency requirements, Canadian based Job analysis, varied educational curriculums in Canada, development if long range plans to ensure Certification is feasible for Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Professionals. It is important to stress that discussions with NCTRC are one of the options being considered by the CTF, and membership will have the ultimate say in any decisions regarding a certification program. To date, a letter has been sent to NCTRC outlining the issues/concerns regarding aligning ourselves with NCTRC. You can find this letter in the current edition of the Tribune.
- 2. Job Competency Study:** A small working group within the CTF is developing a system to research competencies of the Therapeutic Recreation Professional. This is an important pre-step to developing any certification or regulation process. Presently consideration is being given to the development of a survey/questionnaire to gather pertinent data regarding what does the position of the Recreation Therapy Professional entails.
- 3. Marketing Plan:** A working group within CTF is developing a plan to promote and educate members to the work of the task group and providing pertinent information regarding Certification for Therapeutic Recreation Professionals. The mandate being to keep members updated as to the progress of the work of the Task Group. If there are members at large interested in assisting this working group, please contact Helene Driscoll, at helene.driscoll@viha.ca
- 4. National Standards of Practice:** CTF members assisted CTRA in identifying an expert panel of practitioners and educators across Canada to review the draft National Standards of Practice. With the assistance from a technical writer and the expert review panel, the draft can be found in this edition of the TRibune.
- 5. The Status of Therapeutic Recreation in Canada:** We are working on a last revision of this document. The revision of this document will be available on the website.
- 6. MDS (Minimum Data Set) definition of Therapeutic Recreation:** CTF contacted the developers of the MDS (Minimum Data Set) regarding the definition of Therapeutic Recreation, a current definition reflecting Canadian practice can be found in this edition of the Tribune.
- 7. Pertinent Research regarding Certification:** Members of the CTF recently reviewed and discussed position papers from Therapeutic Recreation Educator Conference held in Chicago for pertinent research regarding Certification. We are constantly looking for articles and research that will assist in our endeavor.

8. **Student Inquiries:** CTF members continue to get a number of inquiries from students, members and interested individuals regarding certification. These inquiries are welcome, and we are currently tracking the number and variety of questions received. We hope that these inquiries will assist in the development of a Certification 101 presentation/display board.