

## **Certification Task Force Update**

**March 2004**

The Certification Task Force (CTF) has continued to meet monthly via tele-conference. The focus of the group is to meet the objectives in the CTF Strategic Plan Document. The CTF continues to have a member representing each province, where available. Please refer to the contact information for your current representative.

### **Scope of Practice**

We continue to have many discussions regarding the "Scope of Practice", "Scope of Service" and "Standards of Practice" for TR Professionals. We have found some working definitions for these terms, however are still investigating defining these terms further for future work and discussions within this task group.

### **Educational Requirements**

This semester, a group of Dalhousie University students has taken on the challenge of investigating and reporting the membership requirements for each provincial association. This work is almost complete and a report will be provided in the near future on the findings this group.

### **Job Analysis**

We have had a request out across the country to gather job descriptions and position titles for TR Professionals. Ontario is currently gathering job descriptions. British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec are working on summarizing their information. Alberta has completed a summary document however is still seeking further position descriptions for analysis. Newfoundland/Labrador is in a process of finalizing their Standards for a Recreation Specialist in their province.

### **Resources**

The CTF has looked into a number of Certification Resources and is excited about ordering and reviewing several documents. The National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA), has several interesting documents regarding the process of Certification that we have ordered. Also we have received the NCTRC Certification Standards for our review.

### **How other disciplines Certify?**

The CTF is beginning to investigate the process that other disciplines have in Certifying their members. We hope to look into Physiotherapist's, Occupational Therapist's, Speech Pathologist's, Social Worker's, Psychologist's, and Registered Dietician's certification programs. As well, examine the NCTRC certification program and other applicable certification programs.

### **Communication**

Recently there was an article published in the Winter Edition of the TRibune, "Why doesn't Canada have an established Certification program for Therapeutic Recreation". I hope that members found this article interesting and thought

provoking. It identified some of the issues that we are facing in developing a National Certification Program in Canada.

Also on behalf of the CTF, I have been accepted to present at the CTRA Conference in Montreal, Quebec. The presentation is titled "Certification in Canada: An Update on the Progress of the Certification Task Force". I encourage members to attend this session and stay informed on the process and progress of the CTF.

### **Certification Director Position**

CTRA recently had a call for nominations to the CTRA Board of Directors. The Director at Large – Certification position was up for re-election. The nominations closed February 15, 2004 and I am happy to report that I will be continuing in this capacity for the period of 2004-2006. I look forward to the opportunity and challenge of working to develop a National Certification Program for TR Professionals in Canada