

Certification Task Force Update March 2005

The Certification Task force continues to meet regularly in attempts to determine the best possible route for a National Certification Program for Therapeutic Recreation Professionals in Canada. We have recently welcomed three new members to our Task Force – Helene Driscoll (British Columbia), Anne Robbins (Saskatchewan) and Dawna Sylvestre (Manitoba). They will be replacing Liz McCarter, Gary Georgeson and Cindy Greenlay Brown as representatives for their respective provinces on the Task Force. We would like to wish Liz, Gary and Cindy Good luck in all their future endeavors and thank them for their dedication and work on the task force over that past couple of years.

Other important business. Dr. Jerry Singleton (Nova Scotia) is finalizing two important documents. The first is the research document regarding the Educational Requirements of TR Professionals across Canada and the second is a document that identifies Issues in TR within each province. Both documents are very enlightening and provide current information regarding the field of TR in Canada.

The CTF has also updated the document that Identifies and Compares Canadian Post Secondary Institutions that offer TR. This can be found on the CTRA web page (www.canadian-tr.org) in the Resources Section. We hope that future students and those interested in the various TR curriculums across Canada take a look at this document. We will continue to annually update this document and post it on the website.

I have also begun a preliminary comparison document regarding the TR standards of practice and scope of practice statements for TRO and NLTRA. The CTF has also recruited members to begin preliminary work to develop a National Standards of Practice document. We hope to be meeting shortly to begin this task.

The Task Force continues to investigate the possibility of conducting a Job Analysis within Canada. This is a huge task and we hope to have a plan in the next year as to how to accomplish this task. It is incredibly important to determine what the TR job competencies include in the development of curriculum standards as well as development of a certification examination.

The Certification Task force recently met with Bob Riley, the Executive Director of the NCTRC. The members were very impressed with the presentation and very interested to hear that the NCTRC is open to discussions regarding Canadian issues regarding a National Certification Program for Canada. We hope to discuss and investigate this further.

It is also very exciting that we are generating so much interest in Certification for Recreation Therapy Professionals. Recently, I was contacted by a couple of students from Douglas College requesting to interview me regarding Certification in Canada. The students were tasked in investigate and present on Certification for Recreation Therapy in Canada. I am also happy to report that over the past year, I have presented in Montreal, Alberta and Newfoundland regarding Certification in Canada and I am scheduled to present in Saskatchewan and at the CTRA conference being held in British Columbia in May 2005. I hope to meet many of you at those conferences.

