

New Agreement for the Registration of Respiratory Therapists from Unregulated Jurisdictions in Canada

Since 2002 the CRTO has been a signatory to a *Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA)* that permits Respiratory Therapists to move across the country in accordance with Chapter 7 Labour Mobility of the federal *Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)*. The AIT was recently amended and therefore both the MRA and the CRTO's Registration Regulation must be changed as well.

Under the amended AIT, any worker certified (registered) to practice an occupation by a regulatory authority (e.g., health regulatory college) in one province or territory shall be registered in another province or territory without material additional training, experience, examinations or assessments, unless an exception has been granted (the profession of respiratory therapy has not applied for any such exceptions).

Since the AIT only covers Respiratory Therapists from regulated jurisdictions (Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Québec, Saskatchewan), the MRA needed to be revised in order for labour mobility principles to apply to RTs in non-regulated jurisdictions (British Columbia, Newfoundland and Labrador, Nunavut, Prince Edward Island, Yukon and Northwest Territories).

The new *Agreement for the Registration of Respiratory Therapists from Unregulated Jurisdictions in Canada* will allow RTs moving from unregulated jurisdictions to be registered and work in regulated jurisdictions if they meet the following requirements:

The applicant must,

- (a) be a registered member of the CSRT practising in an unregulated jurisdiction;
- (b) be permitted by the CSRT to use the title "Registered Respiratory Therapist";
- (c) have graduated from a Canadian respiratory therapy education program approved by all of the signatories or has demonstrated through a mechanism approved by all of the signatories that he or she has the competencies equivalent to a graduate of an approved educational program;
- (d) have passed an examination approved by all of the signatories;
- (e) be in compliance with a program of continuing education established by the CSRT that meets the accepted requirements set by all of the signatories;
- (f) have practised the profession within that unregulated jurisdiction for a minimum of 750 hours within the previous two years while holding a current registered membership with the CSRT;
- (g) provide a letter of reference from their last or current employer(s) in a form prescribed by the signatories; and
- (h) provide a letter from the CSRT confirming that the applicant has been a registered member in good standing for the past two years.

The new Agreement was presented to representatives of the unregulated jurisdictions at a meeting in St. John's Newfoundland in May, and is expected to be signed by all of the regulators and the CSRT this October.