

NATIONAL RESPIRATORY THERAPY WEEK

For immediate release

TORONTO (October 2, 2008): National Respiratory Therapy Week is set for October 26 – November 1, 2008.

Respiratory Therapists are available to talk about:

- **Air Quality**
- **Aging population facing** Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (**COPD**)
- **Asthma**
- **Smoking Cessation**
- **Effects of second hand smoke**
- **Emergency Response**
- **Lung health**
- **Pandemic Planning**
- **SARS**

There are approximately 2,600 Respiratory Therapists working in Ontario with 150 new graduates joining the profession each year. As the population ages, Canada is facing a wave of chronic respiratory diseases. RTs can be found in the ER and ICU departments in all hospitals, in home care and teaching settings and on transport teams.

During Respiratory Therapy Week 2008, the CRTO and the RTSO would like to share our knowledge with the general.

The College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO) is one of 22 health regulatory colleges in Ontario. The safety of the public is the mandate of the CRTO. The Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario (RTSO) is a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of Respiratory Therapy in the province of Ontario.

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Respiratory Therapists

Background

Respiratory Therapy has been a regulated health care profession in Canada since 1964 providing Canadian patients with respiratory and cardio-respiratory care.

RTs are often the first health professionals called onto the scene. For example during the SARS crises, many RTs were on the front-lines treating patients in the Emergency Department.

There are approximately 2,500 Respiratory Therapists (RTs) currently working in Ontario with the majority working in acute/critical care. RTs are found in an ever increasing number of other health care settings such as home care, diagnostics, research, rehabilitation, medical sales/service, patient education, hospital administration, family health teams, educational institutions, chronic ventilation and government. Respiratory Therapists treat people of all ages from newborns to seniors.

One in five (approximately 600,000) Canadians suffers from some form of lung disease. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis, as well as asthma are two of the most common chronic respiratory illnesses.

Diseases/Illnesses/Accidents Treated by RTs

- Asthma
- Chronic bronchitis
- Emphysema
- Pneumonia
- Respiratory distress
- Croup
- Chest trauma – broken ribs, etc.
- Pulmonary fibrosis
- Heart failure
- Drowning victims
- Car accident victims
- Spinal cord injured individuals
- Strokes
- Head injuries
- Premature infants with underdeveloped lungs

College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO)

Since 1994, the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario has been one of 22 health regulatory colleges in Canada. The CRTO's role is to ensure that respiratory care services provided to the public by its members are delivered in a safe and ethical manner. The CRTO sets out requirements for entering the practice, standards for the practice and carrying out disciplinary action against registrants who fail to meet the standards of practice for the profession.

Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario (RTSO)

The RTSO represents, advocates and advances the professional interests of RTs in Ontario by providing leadership and direction. They encourage the professional growth of members by supporting educational opportunities. Participating in the planning and delivery of high quality health care, the RTSO promotes the profession of Respiratory Therapy and represents the professional interests of Respiratory Therapists in Ontario.