

CRTO Communiqué regarding Bill 179  
The Regulated Health Professions Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009

The Ontario government introduced a Bill on May 11, 2009 that will amend a number of pieces of legislation including many profession-specific acts (such as the *Respiratory Therapy Act*, *Nursing Act* and *Midwifery Act*), the *Regulated Health Professions Act*, the *Drug and Pharmacies Regulation Act* and some 20 other statutes. If passed, the amendments will result in:

- changing the rules for administering, prescribing, dispensing, selling and using drugs in practice for chiropodists and podiatrists, dental hygienists, dentists, midwives, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, physiotherapists and respiratory therapists;
- expanding the services provided by dietitians, medical radiation technologists, midwives, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and physiotherapists; and
- provide the legislative platform for remote dispensing in Ontario.

Other highlights of the proposed legislation include:

- requiring health colleges to work together to develop common standards where their professions provide the same or similar services;
- making team based care a key component of health college quality assurance programs; and
- requiring all regulated health professionals to have professional liability insurance.

Of particular interest to the CRTO and the Respiratory Therapy profession is an amendment to section 4 of the *Respiratory Therapy Act*, adding a new controlled act as follows:

**5. administering a prescribed substance by inhalation.**

If passed this will give RTs the authority to independently administer certain prescribed substances as identified in regulation. The regulation may designate individual substances or categories of substances. Currently, the CRTO anticipates listing oxygen as a "prescribed substance" but the addition of others could follow.

In the coming weeks the College will be releasing bulletins as the implications for this legislation are examined further. The entire Bill can be viewed at [http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39\\_Parliament/Session1/b179.pdf](http://www.ontla.on.ca/bills/bills-files/39_Parliament/Session1/b179.pdf)

In the interim, Members should be aware that this is proposed legislation and there will be no changes in practice until such time as the Act and regulations come into force.