



CRTO and RTSO

The College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO) is one of 23 health regulatory colleges regulating 25 health professions in Ontario. The mandate of the CRTO is the safety of the Public.

CRTO MISSION STATEMENT

The College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO), through its administration of the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) and the Respiratory Therapy Act (RTA) is dedicated to ensuring that respiratory care services provided to the public by its members are delivered in a safe and ethical manner.

The Respiratory Therapy Society of Ontario (RTSO) is a non-profit organization devoted to the promotion of Respiratory Therapy in the province of Ontario.

RTSO MISSION STATEMENT

Represent, Advocate and Advance the Professional Interests of Respiratory Therapists in the Province of Ontario.



www.crto.on.ca



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Respiratory Therapists



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What are Respiratory Therapists?

Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) are an integral part of Canada's health care system.

When people experience respiratory difficulty, RRTs are often the first health care professionals involved. RRTs are health care professionals who monitor, evaluate and treat individuals with respiratory and cardio-respiratory disorders.

Where are RRTs Found?

RRTs work in areas such as:

- ICUs
- Operating Rooms
- Diagnostics
- Emergency
- Neonatal Units
- Home Care
- Research
- Government
- Hospital Administration
- Pulmonary Rehabilitation
- Family Health Teams
- Educational Institutions
- Medical Sales/Services
- Patient Education
- Chronic Ventilation
- Sleep Labs

Becoming a Respiratory Therapist

Registered Respiratory Therapists are graduates of a three-year diploma, or four-year joint diploma/degree programs. These programs are offered at colleges and universities, in conjunction with teaching hospitals, and other health care organizations.

In order to work in Ontario, Respiratory Therapists must pass a registration examination to become Members of the College of Respiratory Therapists of Ontario (CRTO). Registered Respiratory Therapists (RRTs) must participate in on-going quality assurance activities. This ensures high professional standards and is required for Respiratory Therapists to maintain their licenses to practice.

RRTs are regulated and licensed professionals like physicians and nurses.



Stats and Facts

- 1 in 5 Canadians has some form of lung disease.
- There are approximately 2,700 Respiratory Therapists in Ontario. Approximately 150 RT graduates join the profession each year.
- RRTs were on the front-line during the Influenza A (H₁N₁) and SARS crises'.
- Canada has one of the highest incidences of asthma in the world with an estimated 3 million Canadians living with the disease.
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the only chronic disease with an increasing number of deaths, especially in women.
- Canada is facing a wave of acute and chronic respiratory diseases.
- Poor indoor and outdoor air quality can significantly increase the risk of respiratory problems, especially in children.
- Cigarette smoking is the single most preventable cause of death, and yet 1 in 4 Canadians smoke on a daily basis.
- Lung cancer is the most preventable of all cancers. The incidence and mortality rates are increasing in women.
- RRTs have expertise in airway management and mechanical ventilation.

History - How We Got Here

Respiratory Therapy has been an established health care profession in Canada since 1964.

Respiratory Therapists once served a highly technical role in the health care system. Over the past 45 years the profession has evolved to include patient assessments/diagnostics and therapeutic treatment for those with respiratory/cardiac diseases.



What's New . . .

Registered Respiratory Therapists are at the forefront of caring for patients in our rapidly changing health care system. The new Family Health Team model and Infection Control are a few examples of areas where RRTs are expanding their roles.

Respiratory Therapists can further their training and become, for example, Anesthesia Assistants, Asthma and COPD Educators, Smoking Cessation Counselors, Hyperbaric and ECMO Specialists.

The experience gained in the profession of Respiratory Therapy provides an excellent background for further advancement in areas of health care such as Infection Control, Quality and Risk Management, and Health Care Promotion. The specialized training makes RRTs natural leaders in the developing field of international education.

