



CRTC Twentieth Anniversary

1994 to 1999

In [last month's Timeline Series](#) issue, we explored the decades before the CRTC was formed – up to 1994. This month focuses on Respiratory Therapy (RT) practice and the early years of the CRTC during the period of 1995 – 1999. But first, let's go back in time...

In 1994 a lot happened in the world, Canada and RT practice itself. Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa, Canada named hockey and lacrosse as official winter and summer sports and John Candy died. The CRTC was officially born, along with many changes to the health care system and RT practice at the legislation level. For example, the *Tobacco Control Act* and *Smoke-free Ontario Act* both came into effect in 1994, marking a new chapter in public health and awareness around respiratory diseases caused by tobacco use.

In 1995, Mike Harris is premier of Ontario and Jean Chretien is Prime Minister of Canada. The trial of Paul Bernardo has begun, a Quebec Referendum on separation is held and a Canadian wins the Indy 500 for the first time in history. Full House sadly ends its eight-year stint on television, while Pixar and Disney's future animation hit *Toy Story* opens in theatres across North America. In RT practice and respiratory care, a study is released on the value of heliox therapy in patients with airway obstructions.

During 1996, patients are enrolled in the first four large multi-centre ARDSNet trials. This initiative leads to the implementation of lung protection strategies in respiratory therapy clinical practice. Also, 1996 marks the last show for Canada's beloved children's show Mr. Dressup and both the Barenaked Ladies and The Tragically Hip release new albums. The Toronto Argos win the 84th Grey Cup against the Edmonton Eskimos in Hamilton, while the Winnipeg Jets leave Canada to become the Phoenix Coyotes.

In 1997 Ottawa passes the *Tobacco Act*, replacing the *Tobacco Sales to Young Persons Act* and the *Tobacco Products Control Act*. The new legislation provides standards for tobacco products, regulates access to tobacco, sets rules for labeling and promoting tobacco products, and puts rules in place for enforcing tobacco laws. Although not technically an RT practice achievement, these developments in regulation targeting harmful smoking directly impact RT endeavours such as smoking cessation initiatives and patient/public education on the topic. Elsewhere in Canada, the Confederation Bridge linking PEI to mainland New Brunswick also opens in 1997. The Titanic premiers as the highest-grossing film ever (until Avatar) and the world mourns the tragic death of Princess Diana on August 21, 1997.

The following year, 1998, the first video laryngoscope is developed – the precursor to the Glidescope™. This tool drastically improves the process of tube placement and intubation for RTs by providing a real-time and unobstructed view of a patient's airway. In 1998 there are 15 Respiratory Therapists per 100,000 people in Ontario, compared with 29 in Quebec, 26 in New Brunswick and 28 in British Columbia. Our neighbours to the south impeach President Bill Clinton during this year and Seinfeld ends after 9 seasons on TV. At the 1998 Nagano Olympics Canada wins the fourth most medals, while back at home Ontario and Quebec are hit by the worst ice storm in history.

The year 1999 sees many developments in RT practice including the introduction of the LTV Series ventilator. In research, a consensus report is released on the indications for nocturnal nasal intermittent positive pressure ventilation (NIPPV) in chronic respiratory failure. A landmark study is also published in 1999 on the use of partial and total liquid ventilation in the paediatric population. There's an increase in the prevalence of administration of surfactant for preterm infants in RT practice as well. Elsewhere in Canada, Nunavut officially becomes Canada's third territory and Julie Payette boards the International Space Station – the first Canadian in history. Wayne Gretzky retires from the NHL, the PanAm Games are held in Winnipeg and Eaton's files for bankruptcy. Finally, now critically-acclaimed TV shows *The Sopranos* and *The West Wing* make their debut, along with film favourites *The Matrix* and *American Beauty*.



CRTO: 1995 - 1999

After the CRTO was officially formed in 1994, Respiratory Therapists were adjusting to being a self-regulated health profession. In the CRTO's first few years many communications such as newsletters, meetings, emails, etc. were circulated explaining the rationales for policies and establishing processes. We thought we'd highlight some of these inquiries, as we still get some of the same questions 20 years later!

Four CRTO Myths

1

Why can't I pay by instalments?

- The idea for the legislation is that the professional receives a certificate of registration for life. The certificate may be removed for a number of reasons, but failure to pay the annual fee is the most common.
- With the premise of "lifetime certification" there is an annual fee to maintain registration. Instalments are not consistent with this model.
- If an instalment payment was not submitted, notification about the pending suspension of a certificate of registration would also have to be sent to the Member. All-in-all, you can imagine that this would be an administrative nightmare! Not to mention that with one consistent annual renewal date about 2.5% of the membership already pays the late fee.



2

Why is the CRTO located in downtown Toronto?

- At first the CRTO used office space on Bay Street in Toronto, provided by the Government for free.
- After a comprehensive review of the implications around a location in downtown Toronto or elsewhere, the Transitional Council found:
 - Council and Committee members travelling from across the province to attend meetings would have the greatest access to transportation in downtown Toronto (GO or Via train, airfare, subway, roadway, etc.).
 - Locating outside of Toronto would likely require many people to travel into Toronto and then onto the other location by taxi, rental car, train or other means.
- A large proportion of Ontario's population is located within driving distance of Toronto – an implication for Council, Committee members and staff.
- All of the other health regulatory Colleges are located in Toronto, as well as the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. Both locations are factors for staff and Committee members who must attend meetings with these organizations.
- Leasing rates in Toronto are comparable to other centres – Mississauga, Oshawa, London, Hamilton, Kingston and Ottawa.



3

Why do I have to do QA?

- The CRTO has a mandate to protect the public interest. An important factor in this concept is public confidence. There have been many studies highlighting the public's belief that healthcare professionals should be – and are – required to participate in ongoing professional development to maintain skills and knowledge.
- The Quality Assurance Program is the legislative tool put in place by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to monitor healthcare professionals' agreement with these values.



4

Why is the fee so high in comparison with other professions or other provinces?

- It's a matter of scale in many cases. All health regulatory Colleges in Ontario have the same mandate and therefore the same administrative responsibilities. The cost to implement those processes is spread across the membership – that's why 156,820 nurses only pay \$175.15, and 639 midwives pay \$1,685¹.
- Ontario legislation is different than the laws governing Respiratory Therapy in other provinces, although there are some similarities. For example, consider the Quality Assurance Program: in Ontario we're required to have self, peer and practice assessments, while in Saskatchewan RTs have to obtain 48 credits over two years. The cost of developing and implementing tools and assessment processes differ greatly between the two jurisdictions.



¹ Based on 2012-13 annual reports of these two professions.

CRTO



Twentieth Anniversary

1994 - 1999

- Tobacco Control Act becomes law
- Smoke-free Ontario Act becomes law

- Study released on the efficacy of heliox therapy in patients with airway obstructions

- Patients enrolled in the first of four (4) large, multi-centre ARDSNet trials, leading to the implementation of lung protection strategies in clinical practice

- Anti-tobacco advertising law passed
- Ottawa passes the Tobacco Act. The new legislation provided standards for tobacco products, regulates access, rules for labeling & promoting tobacco products - influencing smoking cessation & respiratory disease conversations

- The first video laryngoscope developed, the precursor to the Glidescope™

- Introduction of the LTV Series ventilator
- Consensus report released on the indications for NIPPV in chronic respiratory failure
- Landmark study released on the use of partial and total liquid ventilation in paediatric population
- Increased prevalence of the administration of surfactant for pre-term infants

1994



Television: ER, Friends, Chicago Hope & Party of Five
Movies: Pulp Fiction, Lion King & Shawshank Redemption
Music: Janet Jackson, Ace of Base & Céline Dion
Sports: Canada names Hockey official winter sport & Lacrosse official summer sport
Events: Nelson Mandela elected president of South Africa & North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was established linking Canada, USA and Mexico

1995



Television: Star Trek: Voyager, JAG & Drew Carey Show
Movies: Apollo 13, Toy Story, 007 Golden Eye & The Usual Suspects
Music: Hootie and the Blowfish, Shaggy, Sheryl Crow & Coolio
Events: Trial of Paul Bernardo begins, Mike Harris becomes Ontario premier & Quebec Referendum held on separation

1996



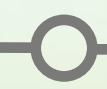
Television: Nash Bridges, X-Files, Everybody Loves Raymond & Mr. Dressup does his last show
Movies: Jerry Maguire, Twister, Mission Impossible & The English Patient
Music: Tragically Hip, Barenaked Ladies, Alanis Morissette & Jann Arden
Events: France tests the last atomic bomb & approximately 45 million people are now using the Internet (30 million in USA and Canada)

1997



Television: Ally McBeal, Dharma & Greg, South Park
Movies: Titanic, Goodwill Hunting & Men in Black
Music: LeAnn Rimes, Backstreet Boys, Hanson & Savage Garden
Events: Confederation Bridge opens linking PEI to New Brunswick, CTV News channel starts broadcasting & Princess Diana dies in a car crash

1998



Television: That '70s Show, Dawsons Creek & Sex and the City
Movies: Saving Private Ryan, Armageddon & There's Something About Mary
Music: Shania Twain, Usher, Third Eye Blind & N' Sync
Events: Toronto & six communities merge to form the new megacity we have today; worst ice storm in Canadian history & President Bill Clinton is impeached.

1999



Television: The Sopranos, Family Guy & The West Wing
Movies: Matrix, Sixth Sense, Star Wars: Episode I
Music: Britney Spears, Goo Goo Dolls, Christina Aguilera & Enrique Iglesias
Events: Nunavut becomes a territory, Julie Payette is 1st Canadian to board International Space Station, John F. Kennedy Jr. dies in plane crash & EURO becomes Europe's new currency