

Candidate Statement

Jason Nickerson, RRT

District 3

Reasons for running in the election

I have been a Respiratory Therapist since 2005 and have worked clinically across four Canadian provinces. I know and understand the role of Respiratory Therapists in Ontario's health system through experience, and I see the need for an effective regulatory body that is supported by a Council that is engaged, thoughtful, open, and guided by the best evidence and informed discussion and debate. I am running to be a member of the CROTO Council to continue to contribute to the profession through the important work that the CROTO does in protecting the public interest and supporting my RT colleagues in their delivery of high-quality, safe, and ethical care to patients in Ontario. I am personally and professionally interested in the work of the CROTO and the evolution of provincial health policy in Ontario, and I am bringing my experience as a clinician, researcher, and expert in health policy to this important work.

Relevant skills and experience

I have held several senior leadership positions in Canadian and international healthcare and not-for-profit organizations and have sat on national and provincial advisory and scientific committees for the respiratory profession. I completed my BSc in Respiratory Therapy, a Masters degree in Adult Education and a Ph.D. in Population Health, which have given me the skills and knowledge I need to critically evaluate evidence and information to help guide discussion and make informed choices. I currently lead a high-impact team that focuses on, among other things, health policy and critical incident management, giving me experience and expertise in how relevant policy and legislation impact healthcare delivery, including for Respiratory Therapy, as well as the management of challenging scenarios that require careful consideration and ethical decision-making. As a Manager, I am experienced in human resources and budget management in the not-for-profit sector, as well as governance, collaborative leadership and organizational oversight, all of which have been identified as an asset for prospective CROTO Council members. In addition to my current professional work, I am also a member of the University of Ottawa's Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics, where I have participated in research, dialogue, and debate related to health policy in Ontario, giving me a nuanced insight into current issues and proposed solutions related to the regulation of health professions in Ontario and Canada. I currently work in an environment that is guided by ethical

principles and decision-making, and I am firmly committed to bringing a fair and impartial perspective to Council to ensure that our work is done in an open and transparent manner to ensure accountability to the public and Respiratory Therapists in Ontario.

In your opinion, what are the key issues facing the profession today, as they relate to the public interest?

Canada's health systems are in crisis as our population's health needs exceed the health human resources, including the Respiratory Therapists available to meet them. Ontario has taken steps to both increase the number of health professionals and to expand some scopes of practice, both of which require careful consideration from regulators such as the CRTC to ensure that we, as regulated health professionals, are able to deliver high-quality and safe care. This is an important moment for Ontario's RTs as it appears that many professions could be asked to take on larger roles in the clinical and leadership environment to better meet Ontario patients' needs. With this, it will be essential for the CRTC to ensure that appropriate educational, professional, and other standards are in place to manage any changes that come for RTs. As a member of Council, I am committed to ensuring that the potentially large changes in Ontario health policy affecting Respiratory Therapists are reviewed and implemented in a way that protects our patients and the public and provides support to Respiratory Therapists who are being asked to take on new and larger roles. I understand the role of the CRTC in protecting the public interest and in supporting Ontario RTs, and I look forward to contributing to this work as a member of the CRTC Council.