

President's Message

It is with great honor and pride that I submit this report as President of the Canadian Society of Cardiology Technologists.

The Board of Directors and Provincial Education Coordinators as well as committee members are a dedicated group of volunteers who strive to make this society one with outstanding professionalism and integrity.

Over the past year and a half the CSCT has become increasingly bilingual with the French language. The website www.csct.ca, as well as both the theory and interactive exams are now available in both official languages.

In October 2009, in Edmonton at the Annual General Meeting the board will be presenting a business and budget plan with our members. This was a directive from the membership at our last AGM in Toronto and the board has once again heard your requests and responded. Thank you to Karen Schaus and Gretchen Dunn for helping to educate the Board with their expertise to see this project through.

Our National Occupational Competency Profile document has been updated and approved. Due to the increasing role of cardiology technologists in pacemaker/device clinics, a significant change has been the upgrading of the pacemaker and device content in this document. The schools involved in meeting the requirements set out in this document will be revising their programs accordingly. Many thanks to Lynn Zinger, Irene Williamson and Gretchen Dunn for all their efforts towards achieving this goal.

Many members voiced concerns over last years missing atrium. The reason for the lapsed year was due to lack of content. This newsletter belongs to all of us and we are responsible for the content. Thanks to Polly Pachu who once again has taken on the role of Editor in Chief of our newsletter. In closing I look forward to seeing many of you in Edmonton in October, 2009. Get involved with your Provincial bodies and remember this Society is only as progressive as we make it.

Respectfully submitted
Lynn Douglas, President
CSCT



**CSCT / CCS
CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 24 TO
OCTOBER 28, 2009
EDMONTON
ALBERTA**

**Board of Director's Meeting
Friday October 23, 2009 at 0900
Salon 13 Boardroom Shaw Conference Centre**

**Education Board Meeting
Friday October 23, 2009 at 0830
Salon 14 Boardroom Shaw Conference Centre**

**Joint Board/Education Meeting
Saturday October 24, 2009 at 0900
Salon 13-14 Boardroom Shaw Conference Centre**

**Annual General Meeting and Post AGM
Sunday October 25, 2009 at 0800
Wedgewood Room at the Fairmount Hotel MacDonald**

**Preceptor's Workshop
Monday October 26, 2009 at 0900
Salon 07 Shaw Conference Centre**

**The Congress Advisory Committee (CAC) for
intertask service for Canadian Cardiovascular
Congress has reclassified our profession at
(Emerald) level.**

	Full Registration	One day Registration
Early	\$215.00	\$120.00
After early date	\$245.00	\$125.00
On site	\$285.00	\$130.00

EDUCATION & EXAMINATION REPORT

2008 - 2009

2008 and the first few 2 months of 2009 continue to be busy on the education front.

As you are all aware, our National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP) was revised in 2007 and now includes entry level pacemaker competencies. All cardiology technology programs have to meet the 2007 NOCP as they prepare for accreditation and it is expected that programs will be expanded to meet or exceed the stipulated performance environments as well as the additional competencies. All members are encouraged to view the 2007 NOCP on the website www.csct.ca

A validation survey of the NOCP was conducted in 2008 via an online survey and the results of this survey have been used in the development of a new blueprint for the CSCT certification exam. The first exam based on this new blueprint will be Sept 2009.

The CSCT exam committee continues to put long hours into aligning the existing exam questions with the new blueprint and identifying any gaps which need new questions written. The provincial education coordinators are also involved in the question writing process and are assisting in the development of new questions for the CSCT certification exam.

The 2008 CCC continued on a similar format to 2007 in that there was not a specific education day organized by CSCT. GE once again showed their support by sponsoring a dinner presentation while Wendy Wilson, Colleen Greeley-Coffin and Linda Gregory raised the bar on their always excellent and stimulating preceptor workshop. The AGM was preceded with a summary of the NOCP validation survey presented by Marg Mount followed by a pacemaker information session facilitated by Lynn Zinger (CSCT exam chair) and Blair Arnold-Eitzen

Over the past year, 180 candidates wrote the CSCT certification exam for the first time as well as 7 ETT Post Certification exam and 1 Implantable Cardiac Devices and Therapies Specialty exam.

CEU non compliance continued to be a focus last year. In order to facilitate some growing pains over this policy, the deadline for submission of delinquent CEUs was extended to October 2008 with the first reinstatement exam being offered in April 2009 and at every standard exam sitting henceforth. To date there are 2 reinstatement exams being written in April. The current CEU triennium is from Jan 1 2008 to Dec 31 2010 during which all members must obtain and submit 30 CEUs as one of the criteria to maintain their membership in good standing.

Congratulations to CCNB Campbellton for becoming accredited with CMA conjoint accreditation. All colleges which offer CSCT approved cardiology technologist programs are in various stages of the accreditation process. Current accreditation information can be found at <http://www.cma.ca>

Irene Williamson continues as the CSCT representative to the Assembly of Health Science Professions (ASHP). This group provides input to the Committee on Conjoint Accreditation (CCA) on behalf on the health science professions. As such she also continues to liaise with the various programs as they go through the accreditation process.

Respectfully submitted

Gretchen Dunn
CSCT Education Director

Lynn Zinger
CSCT exam Chair

CSCT Examination fees (as of Jan 1 2009)

Examination	Applicant pays	Province keeps	Province sends to CSCT
Certification	\$500.00	\$100.00	\$400.00(\$150.00 goes to JI)
Certification Rewrite P1 or P2	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$200.00(\$150.00 goes to JI)
Certification Rewrite both	\$450.00	\$100.00	\$350.00(\$150.00 goes to JI)
Post Certification/Specialty	\$250.00	\$125.00	\$125.00
Reinstatement exam	\$300.00	\$150.00	\$150.00

CSCT Examination Administration fees

Situation	Applicant pays	Notes	CSCT receives
Certification hand rescoring	\$50.00	To exam chair	\$50.00
Post certification hand rescoring	\$25.00	To exam chair	\$25.00
Extenuating Circumstances	\$50.00	Stays in province	
Replacement certificates	\$25.00	To CSCT registrar	\$25.00
Replacement results	\$25.00	To exam chair	\$25.00



PROVINCIAL NEWS

B.C.

I bring you all greetings from the members of British Columbia.

There are presently 450 members in British Columbia:

Active Registered Members	360
Inactive Members	32
Life	2
Student Members	56

46 members are not in good standing for either owing dues or CEUs.

The 2009 CTABC AGM will be a one day event, with the AGM and education sessions. This year's AGM Education Seminar is being organized by Stenberg College slated tentatively for May 24, 2009 with the location to be confirmed shortly. Check the CTABC website for more updated information as it is confirmed.

It is planned that the next application for regulation will be submitted by CTABC in conjunction with other allied health professionals under an umbrella approach for consideration for regulation.

Wishing you all a wonderful and safe Spring and Summer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ina Adams, Provincial Director

ALBERTA

Greetings everyone:

Alberta's AGM and elections were held in Edmonton on May 10, 2008 with a Preceptor's workshop on May 9, 2008. The Edmonton organizers did a tremendous job and we are grateful for their efforts. We welcome Christine Williams as our new President. All other positions remain the same.

CEU triennium was completed on December 31, 2007 and we are very proud to report that Alberta was successful in obtaining the required CEU's and reminded that it is never too early to start collection for the new triennium January 1, 2008-December 31, 2010.

We are fortunate in Alberta to have a committee of very dedicated cardiology technologists proceeding with steps necessary for consideration of our profession under the Health Professions Act Legislation. This is being lead by Murtaza Amirali and along with

committee members Larry Leduc, Ashley Stoyles and Kimberly Barink will keep us informed on their progress.

The Alberta Executives current work is on revision to update our bylaws. Our 2009 AGM will be held in Calgary on May 9th with the preceptor's workshop the evening of May 8th. CCC conference 2009 will be in Edmonton October 24-28, 2009 a perfect opportunity to visit Alberta. We hope to welcome many of you to what is sure to be once again, a tremendous learning opportunity and chance to meet your fellow colleagues.

We wish all provinces a successful and productive year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Fielden
ASRCT Provincial Director

SASKATCHEWAN

Membership;

Active	89
In active	4
Students	9

Since the last issue of the Atrium there were two membership meetings in 2008. The June membership meeting was held in Regina and the fall membership meeting was held in Saskatoon in October. Both meetings were well attended. Technologists from a city in northern Saskatchewan hosted a Cardiology technologists education day in September. This group did a phenomenal job putting together a great education day. The SCTA executive has been revising a policy and procedure manual and will be revising the provincial Bylaws. SCTA did lose some members this last triennium because of the CEU'S but all in all the membership has been very receptive in regards to the CEU'S. So far in 2009 a general membership meeting will be held in Regina May 2. Three of the students will be writing the CSCT exam in April. We welcome our cardiology students with great enthusiasm as many technologists will be eligible to retire in 2 to 4 years. I would encourage those who would be willing to relocate to Saskatchewan to check out the job opportunities in Cardiology.

There have been some issues arise in regards to health care professionals working under the name of Cardiology technologists who do not have Cardiology technologists training. The

SCTA executive has been working on rectifying this. Any suggestions or guidance would be very much appreciated.

Michele Tkach
SCTADirector/CSCTVP

MANITOBA

Membership: Active 123, Inactive 4, Associates 16, Life member 1.

The years 2006-2008 have been very exciting, challenging and productive for the Manitoba Association of Cardiology Technologists (MACT).Inc.

Since the implementation of Cardiology Technicians Certificate Program at the Red River College (RRC) in 2006, I am proud to announce that 29 students graduated in 2 years. Most of the certified techs have found employment at various health care facilities and some are still seeking employment on part time or casual basis.

The RRC Cardiology Technicians Certificate Advisory Committee discussed issues regarding the future direction of the program. It was decided that there is a need to develop a program in Manitoba to meet the requirements of the revised CSCT National Occupational Competency Profile (NOCP).

This year we celebrated Cardiology Technologists day, on Friday February 13th as 14th was on a Saturday, an officially designated day at the National level since 3 years. Once again members are encouraged to participate in bringing awareness of our profession to their hospitals, clinics and any health care facilities.

Our Education Session and AGM are scheduled at the Misericordia Hospital, Winnipeg, Manitoba for May 09,2009. It is an election time and we are looking for members to donate time and make 2 years commitment and serve on the board with dedication. Members are encouraged to attend the AGM and education session to accumulate CEUS in order to maintain their "member in good standing status" The new triennium commenced on January 01, 2008 and will end on December 31, 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Polly Pachu.
Provincial Director

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PROVINCIAL NEWS

(Continued from P.3)

ONTARIO

Greetings from Ontario,

The Ontario Society of Cardiology Technologists (OSCT) has been working hard at the Regulation process. A number of years ago, we hired a Consultant to help us attain our goal of Regulation of Cardiology Technologists in Ontario. We have been talking to the Directors of the Sonographers, (OSDMS), cardio-pulmonary Tech's, (CACPT), sleep technologists, (CSS), perfusionists, (CSCP), and EEG techs, (AETC) to work on a sectoral approach to regulation. These are the Allied Health Professionals in Ontario who are not regulated at this time. Our approach is that if we join forces, HPRAC (Health Profession Regulation Advisory Committee) may consider a sectoral approach to regulating all of the groups together in a joint College with different focus for each profession. OSCT has been the leader in this effort and has prepared a brief to present to HPRAC. We hope to present this brief in April/May of 2009 when OSDMS is called to present their case for Regulation as a stakeholder in their presentation. OSDMS has expressed interest in this approach and is willing to have our brief presented.

We have hosted our annual AGM and Education Days in Peterborough (2008) Hamilton (2007), London (2006) and in Aurora (2005) with more members attending every year. This year we plan to host this event in Owen Sound on May 1st and 2nd. Events planned for this event will be found on our Website www.osct.ca as available. Many members took advantage of OSCT hosting the CSCT AGM in Toronto this past October at the Fairmont Hotel in Toronto with much enthusiasm.

Each year, we have students challenge the CSCT exam in April and October. We have had record numbers of students challenging the exam; I think our highest number was approximately 80 students challenge at one sitting. This certainly has challenging moments, but the entire OSCT Board rises to the occasion to invigilate the exam. For the

April 2009 sitting, we have about 35 student applicants. The low number is due to the fact that Mohawk College Program is now a two year diploma program.

At this time, we have one applicant to write the Non-Compliant CEU exam.

Both Cardiology Programs in Ontario, (Mohawk College and Everest College) are in the accreditation process.

OSCT continues to meet every few months to stay current on the Regulation situation and to work on other business in Ontario. Generally, we meet in London, Ontario.

Currently we have 124 Student Members, 452 Active Members and 2 retired members for a total of 588 Members.

Respectfully submitted,
Marg Mount RCT
President OSCT

NEW FOUNDLAND

Greetings from Newfoundland Labrador!

Congratulations to Crystal Francis and Mahrukh Mahrukh on becoming registered CSCT members this past year. We also have two students writing the CSCT registration exam on April 24 2009. Good luck to you both.

We held our Cardiology Technologist Day on February 13th at which time we provided materials to promote our profession to the general public and answered questions. Refreshments were provided.

Our next Annual General Meeting is scheduled for April 25th at the Health Sciences Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland. The CSCT members at the Health Science Center will be hosting this event along with a fun night including a potluck and games.

Provincial website will be up and running by the end of June.

We also have a new logo, designed by Maureen Butler and accepted by the CTAN Board.

At present, we have 32 registered members and 4 associate members.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Butt

NEW BRUNSWICK

The New Brunswick Society of Cardiology Technologist had an exciting year. We have 76 active members and 4 inactive members. We are excited because this year we announced that we are opening in September a cardiology program. The first cardiology program in Atlantic Canada. The School is the Center for Arts and Technology, which is a sister school to Stenburg College. This program will help us to fill the vast vacancies in the province.

The AGM for NBSCT will be held on May 2nd. Discussion will be held in regards to retention and advancements in our profession. We have settled our contract with the union and saw a 32% increase. That takes us just above floor sweeper in wage now. No seriously, we are pleased with how the province is slowly responded to our needs. It has been announced that the ECG department in Fredericton will be receiving a new department within a year. We will be going from our 730 square foot department to a 3500 square foot department with new equipment. The other hospitals of that region will all receive new equipment. The price tag for this undertaking is \$860,000. The Hospital Foundation has taken this on as there project and hopes to raise the money within a year.

It is on a sad note that we had to say goodbye to a brilliant Cardiologist. Dr. Abraham passed away this winter. He will be missed.

For my first year in office, it has been a roller coaster of excitement and letdowns but I know that the team we have in NB will excel and show the community and hospital why we are called professional.

Respectfully submitted,

Brad Chapman
President NBSCT

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NEWS

(Continued from P.4)

NOVA SCOTIA

A big HELLO from Nova Scotia (CTANS),

To date we have 76 Registered members. I would like to mention that the members have been very diligent in sending in their CEU' as well as their dues on time. Job well done. As some of you may know , CTANS have been actively seeking legislation.

At our AGM in May 2008 we extended an invitation to Honorable Chris D'Entremont (Health Minister) for a Q&A session on legislation. He graciously accepted the invitation and gave us some information. Unfortunately at this time with the information provided there seemed to be no clear and present danger to the public and our application was denied.

However with the recent shuffle of ministers we find ourselves with a different Health Minister. Honorable Karen Casey.

I have sent her a package with information on our profession ,our recent NOCP, information on New Brunswick legislation and information given to us by our previous Health Minister . We requested an appeal. Hopefully we will hear soon.

For those seeking legislation, keep up the fight !

Respectfully Submitted,
Catherine F.W.Butler RCT
Pres/Director CTANS



ATRIUM

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Hi fellow CSCT Members,

As the CSCT Registrar, I receive all the information about your membership from your home province. That is, dues are paid to the province, CEUs are given to your home province and then the CSCT is informed as to which members are in good standing and will receive a current CSCT membership card. So any questions you have about your membership should be addressed to your province and if need be cc'd to me the CSCT Registrar. Any changes of address should be e-mailed to your home province first and then I should receive the update via the provinces. It is the member's responsibility to keep their province informed of any changes of their status, e.g. change of address, moving to another province, change of status from Active to Inactive and vice versa. All e-mail addresses of the CSCT provinces and board members are on the CSCT website.

1,355 CSCT members with the breakdown as follows;

	Active member	Inactive member	Life member
Alberta	120	9	
BC	360	32	1
Saskatchewan	88		
Manitoba	110	2	1
Ontario	442	3	1
New Brunswick	76	4	
Newfoundland	30	1	
Nova Scotia	72	2	1

Respectfully submitted,
Cheryl West CSCT Registrar

Editor's Notes

There is space available for comments, articles of interest and Cardiology related issues you might like to share with fellow members. Please do not hesitate to send information to Polly Pachu, or to your Provincial Director for submission. Your participation is encouraged and welcomed.

Articles will only be accepted for consideration with the understanding that they are original. Each article must include the name or a brief biographical outline of the author or references.

If you have anything you would like to see included in the Atrium, please forward your submission to atrium@csct.ca for consideration by the CSCT board of directors.

Dues News

Active members
\$55.00 GST included,
Inactive members
\$45.00 GST included,
of your provincial dues
are submitted to CSCT
as per capita annually.

Understand a Proxy

It seems that there is some confusion and misunderstanding regarding the Proxy that comes with your notice of meeting. This article will hopefully provide some insight, and help everyone better understand what a proxy is all about.

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines proxy as:

- (1) Authority or power to act for another;
- (2) A document giving such authority;
- (3) A person authorized to act for another

A Proxy (more correctly called an 'Instrument of Proxy') enables someone to vote on matters at a meeting without being present. You give your vote to someone to exercise for you. On the Proxy form, there is a place for you to write in who you would like to 'carry' your vote for you. The next few lines indicate the matters that will be voted on. You may vote yes (for) or no (against) to these motions. If you leave it blank, the person whose name you have filled in will vote for you. In the matters that come up in meetings, the person carrying your Proxy, whom you have designated, will vote on your behalf. As you do not know what the issue is about, you are placing your trust in the person holding your proxy.

Of course, there are exceptions. On issues outline on the Proxy (called Proxy Issues), the person holding your Proxy must vote in the manner you have indicated. This ensures that you are able to have your say on matters that are known before the meeting. The bottom area of the proxy must also be filled in with the date and your name, signature and numbers. If you have forgotten your numbers, they will be filled in for you. Each proxy is scrutinized by the Registrar to make sure it is correct.

Respectfully submitted
France Nikel & Marg Mount

OFF THE CUFF



We had a lady come in to the department to have the ambulatory BP monitor removed. She stated that it kept slipping down her arm. She told me her husband fixed it so that wouldn't happen. I asked her how he did that and she told me that after she changed into her nightgown, he safety pinned the cuff to her sleeve. First thing that went through my mind was he couldn't have but sure enough...he put the pin right through the blood pressure cuff bladder. Destroyed the cuff but did fix the problem of the cuff slipping.

Brad Chapman RCT
Fredericton, NB
Education Coordinator - ECG

CSCT Board of Director's and Education Coordinators - E-mail List

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	Dr. David Bewick	St. John, NB
	Dr. Brett Heilbron	Vancouver, BC

