

## BCSRT 2019 IN REVIEW

*2019 was a busy and exciting year for the BCSRT. Here's a recap of the main events.*

### Bringing in the Belt

While some societies opt for a scepter or gavel to pass on to the incoming president, at the 2018 Lower Mainland Roadshow and AGM in November 2018, outgoing President Kuljit Minhas presented incoming President Mike MacAulay with the new “BCSRT Presidential Belt”.



### Exploring our Options with HSA 2019 – 2022 Contract

When HSA released their report to members on the 2019 – 2022 contract many respiratory therapists throughout BC were surprised, frustrated, and felt unrecognized. RTs came together on social media sharing stories and ideas, searching for answers.

The RTLBC and BCSRT board of directors met with HSA President, Val Avery. This meeting was followed up with multiple productive meetings with HSA lawyer, Randy Noonan. Mr. Noonan, was well versed in the history of Respiratory Therapists moving over to HSA from HEU and the original setting of respiratory therapists' Grid level in 1990.

The BCSRT board of directors asked for and received permission from membership for the approval to retain a lawyer that specializes in labour and employment issues. Our lawyer advised us about members' rights and options under the Labour Relations Code, including Section 12. Our lawyer also assisted us in understanding the existing wage classification structure and potential options (such as Article 11) available under the HSPBA collective agreement.

## New Database was Implemented

This was a huge project started in 2018 and finally kicked off in 2019. Although not as visible and flashy as other projects, this new database will streamline and improve the following:

- Membership renewal
- Roadshow registration
- Board of director elections
- Receipts
- CEU Certificates
- Surveys
- Membership status
- Forming committees

As an added bonus, the new database actually costs less!!!

## We've Revamped our Website

Another big IT project kicked off. We'll probably continuously be updating and adding sections to our website. Our new website at <http://bcsrt.com> has retained some of the old pages plus some new pages and benefits listed below:

- **"Home page"**
  - Social Media feeds *\*new\**
  - Advertising at top of the page *\*new\**
  - Rotating banner at top of page *\*new\**
  - Call to Action Items at side of page *\*new\**
- **"About Us" page**
  - Position Statements *\*new\**
  - Board of directors *\*new\**
  - Constitution & Bylaws *\*new\**
  - Advertising Opportunities *\*new\**
- **Resources**
  - RTLBC Guidelines *\*new\**
  - Regulatory College Information *\*new\**
  - RT Societies & Colleges *\*new\**
  - Partner Organizations *\*new\**
- **Conferences**
  - BCSRT Roadshows *\*new\**
  - RT National & International *\*new\**
  - Multi-disciplinary *\*new\**
- **Students**
  - Student Activities *\*new\**
  - Photo Gallery *\*new\**
  - Education programs in BC *\*new\**
  - Grants & Funding *\*revised\**
  - Membership link *\*new\**

Use your email address to login to the database the first time you login. You may need to request a new password at the first login. Contact [member.relations@bcsrt.com](mailto:member.relations@bcsrt.com) if you have difficulty.

## We're on Social Media



We've been working to increase our social media presence and can be found on various social media platforms. Our new website also has live social media feeds.

- Twitter : @BCSRT <https://twitter.com/bcsrt>
- Instagram: RTsofBC <https://www.instagram.com/rtsofbc/>
- Facebook: British Columbia Society of Respiratory Therapists [British-Columbia-Society-of-Respiratory-Therapists-271689490022671](https://www.facebook.com/British-Columbia-Society-of-Respiratory-Therapists-271689490022671)

## RTs Climbed the Wall for the BC Lung Association

The BC Lung Association's 18th Annual Climb the Wall was on February 24th, 2019. This year, there was a new addition to the event: BC Lung Health Community Member category. Core to that community are Respiratory Therapists.



## Fantastic Roadshows!

In April we kicked off the 2019 roadshow tour in Prince George with the Northern Health Roadshow. This was followed in June with Victoria hosting the Vancouver Island Roadshow. Vernon held the Interior Roadshow in October, and we ended in Coquitlan for the Lower Mainland Roadshow and annual general meeting.

Attendance for all the roadshows was around 300 and our two busiest roadshows brought in 20 & 23 vendors and clinical specialists with the number growing every year. 44 educational talks were presented, some of the 2019 topics included:

- *Lung donor initial management*
- *Perspectives from a lung donor family and recipient*
- *Pediatric: Cardiac vs Respiratory distress*
- *Value of RTs at C-section*
- *Status asthmaticus management*
- *Pediatric Trauma management*
- *Pediatric case studies*
- *Pediatric Asthma & RSV strategies*
- *Preventing asthma attacks*
- *New practices in Asthma Management*
- *RT liaison and discharge planners*
- *Alpha One Antitrypsin Deficiency*
- *Uncovering Moral Distress*
- *Basement to Bedside – An RT inventor*
- *Regulatory College update*
- *Disaster Planning & Disaster Management*
- *Nitric Oxide as an Antibiotic*
- *ECMO Applications & Updates*
- *Spinal cord injury initial management*
- *Ventilator dyssynchrony & waveforms*
- *Volumetric ETCO2*
- *Ventilator Driving Pressures*
- *Proning updates*
- *Neonatal Arterial Hypertension*
- *Infant ventilation invasive & noninvasive*

Presenting a topic at the BCSRT roadshows is a great way to opening the door for presenting at the CSRT and padding your resume. Planning is already underway for the 2020 Roadshows. Feel free to contact [education.director@bcsrt.com](mailto:education.director@bcsrt.com) if you're interested in speaking at a Roadshow or have ideas for topics.



## Excellence Awards

Every year in each region, CAREsteam sponsors an Excellence Award for acute care respiratory therapists and MedPro sponsors an Excellence Award for community respiratory therapists.

### Acute care Excellence Award:

- Northern Health – Samuel Idemilih
- Vancouver Island – Chantal Snyder
- Interior – Carla Monson
- Lower Mainland – Hardip Kolar

### Community Excellence Award:

- Northern Health – Nicole Hamel
- Vancouver Island – Kelly Vassiliadis
- Interior – Tracey Heyworth
- Lower Mainland – Carmen Rempel



## TRU's 1<sup>st</sup> Primary Health Care Conference *Sleep, Diagnostics, Community Care, and More!*

This phenomenal evidence-based conference is focused on community respiratory therapy, sleep medicine, and pulmonary diagnostics. Thompson Rivers University in Kamloops is hosting this conference in March with RT students doing the bulk of the organizing.

The BCSRT and CSRT are providing some assistance and promotion with the goal of supporting more education for the growing field and increasing number of RTs in primary health care. For more details go to <https://www.tru.ca/science/diplomas-certificates/rt/rt-conference.html>. We encourage you to register right away.



THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY  
BCSRT  
CANADIAN SOCIETY OF RESPIRATORY THERAPISTS  
SOCIÉTÉ CANADIENNE DES THÉRAPEUTES RESPIRATOIRES

First Annual Respiratory  
Therapy Primary Healthcare  
Conference 2020

For more info contact  
Tara: 250-828-5403  
Email: PrimarycareConference@gmail.com  
or Visit our website at:  
www.tru.ca/rt-conference

Topics:  
THOMPSON RIVERS UNIVERSITY, KAMLOOPS, BC  
MARCH 20-22, 2020

- o Evidence Based Practice
- o Population Health Respiratory-related concepts
- o Programs, practices and opportunities
- o Primary Health Care Respiratory Therapy

## Collaborating with the Ministry & Supporting Home Care Respiratory Therapists

The Ministry of Health has been reviewing education requirements and competency of staff performing diagnostic tests for sleep related breathing disorders along with future possible accreditation through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC's Diagnostic Accreditation Program. The Ministry requested the BCSRT prepare a position statement on what respiratory therapists can safely and competently do based on their education. The BCSRT board created a position statement for the Ministry and therapists based on information from the NARTRB's National Competency Framework for the Profession of Respiratory Therapy 2016 – 2021.

## Finally, a Seat with the National Alliance Regulatory Body

Pre-2019, British Columbia and other unregulated provinces respiratory therapists were represented by the CSRT at National Alliance of Respiratory Therapy Regulatory Bodies (NARTRB) meetings. In 2019, with our regulatory college nearing completion, the BCSRT executive director and president were granted seats at the NARTRB meetings. Being able to directly collaborate with and learn from the other provincial RT regulators is a huge step forward and will help ensure that we have a well-defined scope of practice, reasonable continuing education requirements, safe hiring practices, and consistently provide first-rate therapy.

We greatly appreciate the time and work the CSRT did for BC respiratory therapists while representing us on the NARTRB. A special thanks to all those in our own province who have helped in our journey forward to becoming recognized healthcare professionals.



## The Final Steps of Regulation

The BCSRT boards have been working hard on developing a regulatory college for BC respiratory therapists and we felt we were very close to the final sign off after the provincial government's cabinet approved creation of a diagnostic and therapeutic professions regulatory college to oversee respiratory therapists, radiation therapists, clinical perfusionists and medical laboratory technologists. Our progress was delayed in December of 2018, when Harry Cayton provided the Ministry a report "An Inquiry into the performance of the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia and the Health Professions Act" that provided multiple recommendations including the suspension of new regulatory colleges and the merging of all other regulatory colleges. A steering committee was formed and in November of 2019 they released a paper "Modernizing the provincial health profession regulatory framework" that recommends the compressing of current health regulated professions into 5 regulatory colleges. The Ministry's steering committee recommendation is that respiratory therapist join the regulatory College of Health and Care Professions along with 14 other professions.

At this time we know that we will be regulated and minimal paperwork changes are required from our current regulation drafts. The Ministry's steering committee is now reviewing feedback from individuals, professional societies, and regulatory colleges. Once the steering committee has completed their review we will hopefully have a timeframe for implementation. Professions will probably be staggered as they enter the new regulatory college. Since we are currently not regulated our transition will be one of the easiest, this may result in us being one of the first groups in the new college.

*BCSRT Membership is only ~\$7.00/month (\$85/year)  
Go to <http://bcsrt.com/> to renew your membership  
today.*