

FALL 2009

TRAAC NEWS

*Therapeutic Recreation
Association of Atlantic Canada*



TRAAC
ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

MARCH 25-26,
2010

President's Report: "TRAAC under Renovation"

I have been reflecting on what to write over the past few weeks and been having trouble putting my fingers to the keyboard. I feel after ten years as an organization, we have moved to the need for a renovation. We, TRAAC, are now in need of some renovation, like that which comes to a home after 10 years - a new roof, fresh paint and maybe new window dressings. We have been steady in growth, development and pushing forward in our profession. We are undergoing this renovation in two parts: Inwardly and Outwardly.

The Inward Renovation:

First, I had to reframe my thoughts from the role of supportive peer as I accepted the resignation of our President, Dawn MacDonald. Although a loss for our organization as a leader, it is a gain for us as a profession as her vigorous efforts in moving the Recreation Therapy practice forward in the area of mental health and for licensure will continue. Thank you Dawn for providing us the spiritual strength you give as part of your passion for this work. Inwardly, we are revising our next 5 Year Strategic Plan, as well as our Mission.

Revised Mission:

"As a membership driven organization we promote, support, and lead the professional recognition and advancement of TR in the Atlantic Provinces."
(July 2009)

Policies and procedures, and Board position descriptions will continue to be reviewed under board governance. We will visit and support our members in New Brunswick as they experience growth with new job postings and facilities and the NB Department of Health reviews the skills and abilities of the CTRS Recreation Therapist and the need for Recreation Therapy.

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“TRAAC under Renovation” continued

The Outward Renovation:

Outwardly, we are reviewing our relationships and partnerships. Each one needs a little freshening up, like a dabble of fresh paint.

We will return to the table with NSRPH by having dialogues between the past president and myself, as acting chair, with formal intent and hopes to be progressive in nature.

The CTRA Joint Membership efforts are ongoing, as was supported by you, the membership, to move forward in tidying up the language of the formal written joint agreement.

We will be attending our first Recreation Nova Scotia Conference as an exhibitor in October, 2009. Our goal and that of the Executive Director of Recreation Nova Scotia is to educate their membership on *what* Recreation Therapy is and *where* Recreation Therapy is in their member's community. Recreation Nova Scotia recognizes that we are an essential part of the future of recreation in Nova Scotia. In upcoming months, a small working group will be struck to further understand and develop how the two organizations relate to one another.

The Membership's Contribution

You, Members of TRAAC, must accept the call. TRAAC is the sum of its parts in movements for Licensure, Education and Marketing and Development. Participate, ask, and move with us as we will move with you.

Thanks and continue to love what you do,

Rhonda MacLean
Acting Chair of TRAAC
Recreation Therapist at Northwood
Partner, mother and friend

Join TRAAC's
Facebook Group

“Therapeutic
Recreation
Association of
Atlantic Canada”

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Advocacy Committee

The Advocacy Committee is seeking members who are interested in working on tasks related to the profession of Therapeutic Recreation. These tasks include; reviewing job postings in the field of Recreation Therapy and responding to the qualifications listed as appropriate, developing and maintaining relationships with stakeholders (i.e. Recreation Nova Scotia [RNS] and the Nova Scotia Recreation Professionals in Health [NSRPH]) and responding to issues or challenges within the field of Recreation Therapy as identified by the membership of TRAAC and the community.

If you are interested in advocating for the field of Recreation Therapy please contact the Advocacy Committee Chair, Heather Baker, BakerHF@cdha.nshealth.ca.

Licensure Committee

In August 2009, the Licensure Committee submitted all required documents to the lawyers regarding the pursuance of Licensure of Recreation Therapists in Nova Scotia. These documents will be forwarded to the Minister of Health, The Honorable Maureen MacDonald and other members of the Department of Health for review and consideration.

In the coming weeks and months, the Licensure Committee will prepare a Draft version of the 'Recreation Therapists' Act of Nova Scotia' which will be reviewed by the lawyer, members of TRAAC, CTRS' in the province of Nova Scotia as well as all stakeholders that have been identified including NSRPH, Doctors of Nova Scotia, etc.

It is imperative that in the future as we get closer to achieving the Licensure of Recreation Therapists in Nova Scotia that all members and CTRS' assist in tasks associated with moving forward. The Licensure Committee will continue to communicate with those who have expressed interest in being involved in the licensure process. Thank You to all who have helped thus far and we look forward to working together to become the first province in Canada with Licensed Recreation Therapists.

Heather Baker, BSc.Rec, CTRS
Advocacy Chair

Join a TRAAC
Committee
Today!

For more
information:

www.traac.ca

“Play keeps
us vital and
alive. It gives
us an
enthusiasm
for life that is
irreplaceable.”

Lucia Capocchione
Art Therapist, Author

COMMITTEE UPDATES continued

Education Committee

The Education Committee has identified the following goals for the next few years:

- To develop partnerships with educational institutions
- To provide continuing education opportunities
- To seek out external conferences for membership
- To host a future national conference

The call for presentations had been forwarded to the membership and to TR organizations across the country. We have received few presentations to date. We strongly encourage members to submit and share their innovative practice and research by our deadline of **November 1, 2009**.

Collaborating with other TRAAC committees will be vital to our initiatives this year. Our first collaboration was with the Promotions Committee when we hosted our Annual Student and Professional Networking Evening at the Nova Scotia Community College in September, 2009.

TRAAC will be hosting the Annual Conference and AGM on March 25 and 26, 2010 in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Please stay tuned for more information!

Please contact us with your thoughts and ideas for educational opportunities, interests, and/or needs. We look forward to hearing from you.

Crystal Watson Larbi, BA, B.Rec., CTRS
Education Chair

Promotions Committee

Hello TRAAC members!!! The Promotions Committee has been quite busy working with the Education Committee to get everything in order for the Annual Student Networking Night. We still have many tasks to take care of this year including TR week, promotions for the TRAAC conference and fundraising. If you would like to get involved, please contact Andrea Leahey at andrea@alwayshomedaycentres.ca.

Andrea Leahey, B.Rec, CTRS
Promotions Chair

STAY TUNED
FOR
CONFERENCE
DETAILS!!!

www.traac.ca

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MARCH 25-26,
2010

HALIFAX, NS

Therapeutic
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www.traac.ca

TRAAC GEAR!!!

Help support your Association by purchasing your very own TRAAC merchandise!

Place your order here: andrea@alwayshomedaycentres.ca

Teal Green “Recreation Therapy” Wristbands
\$5.00 each



Stainless Steel “TRAAC” Water Bottles
(“TRAAC” lettering in teal not shown in photo)
\$15.00 each



***Support Your
Profession in
Style!!!!***

TRAAC
merchandise
will also be
available for
purchase at the
Annual
Conference
March 25-26th.

Cash or Cheque
only please.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009/2010

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