

June 1, 2009

I recently attended the 2009 CSRT National Forum in Gatineau, PQ, sponsored in part by a \$500 grant awarded to me by the BCSRT.

The conference was well attended by delegates from across Canada, included a well-rounded educational program covering numerous topics, and had an active vendor exhibit hall. Overall I was most impressed (and in fact proud) of how well BC was represented at this event.

BC Respiratory Therapists won numerous awards:

- CBRC exam medal winners – Melanie Walton & Evan Tilt
- Carestream Student Excellence Award – Melanie Walton
- CSRT student video contest winners – Melodie Mathieson, Jade Shultis, Dani Davies, Davinder Jawanda, Jessy Jagpal, & Kiran Dhillon
- Colya Kaminiarz Professional Achievement & Knowledge Award – Les Matthews

BC RT's were also lecturers and represented in the poster presentation series. There were BC RT's competing in the Airway Olympics. Even BC RT's hosting a recruitment booth.

Every day I look out my window at work and marvel at the mountains, oceans, and all the other scenery. But after this conference, I will also look inward and marvel at all of the talent we have in our profession residing in this province. BC is not only a great place to live, it is indeed a great place to be a Respiratory Therapist.

One can learn many things by attending a professional conference. Lectures highlight new modes of ventilation and innovative therapies; vendors demonstrate new products and applications therein; poster presentations give insight into practice across the country. I am glad I experienced each of these things – and glad that I had the opportunity to learn more about the many talented professionals working here in BC.

Liz Jolley