

## **President-Elects Report, September 2009**

As BCSRT President-Elect, it is my pleasure to be able to make the following report to the membership. My efforts over the last year have been focused primarily on caring for the strategic plan, which is no small task given the scope of the vision and activities set out in it and continuing to develop and foster relationships/communication regarding professional regulation.

The strategic plan takes much effort to revise and keep current as a dynamic document. It highlights both the short and long-term goals of the BCSRT as well as the strategies being employed to reach the goals and achieve the visions of the BCSRT. In keeping with it being a dynamic, living document, it's progress is updated after each board meeting and posted on the BCSRT website for viewing by the membership. Current activities being undertaken are the development and dissemination of two need's assessments, one to determine the view of the membership regarding post graduate education/career laddering opportunities and the other to determine such items as the provincial need for a RT technician/assistant position. In working with the strategic plan this year, it was identified by the board of directors that there is significant work that needs to be undertaken and that much of it goes beyond that of volunteers. To that end, the BCSRT board made the decision to support a pilot position for an Executive Director. This remunerated position would be accountable for undertaking specific activities related to the strategic plan such as developing contacts with like professional groups & societies such as BC Lung/TB Vets and facilitating memberships surveys and needs assessments. There is more information about the ED position on the BCSRT website; members interested in pursuing this position are encouraged to contact the board of directors with a letter of interest.

While the last year has not yielded any hugely exciting breakthroughs on the point of professional regulation, much significant progress has been made. In September of 2008, the BCSRT completed its Briefing Document (Barriers and Challenges to Providing Safe Patient Care) and forwarded it to key individuals in the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Health Planning (Human Resources) so that communication regarding our issues could be generated at the government level. Shortly after receiving the BCSRT Briefing Document, the BCSRT was invited to participate in a teleconference with Judy Thompson, Director for Allied Health Human Resources and Valerie St John, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Human Resources. An additional outcome of the teleconference was an introduction to Susan Illmayer, Program Manager, Therapy Professions, Health Human Resource Planning.

Subsequent discussions with Judy Thompson and Susan Illmayer prompted an invitation for the BCSRT to attend a round table discussion in early February of 2009. The meeting had dual purpose in that it allowed a more in depth discussion about professional regulation, what the government's perspective is on it and the issues that the RT profession is currently facing by being unregulated in a mostly regulated health environment. During this meeting a recommendation for a possible solution to the issue of regulation was discussed and subsequent to this we were asked to formulate a formal response back to the government about the possible disadvantages/advantages of the recommendation. The BCSRT board was also requested to keep the details of the discussion confidential until it could be further investigated and vetted at a government level and to date, this request remains in place.

The BCSRT board of directors subsequently discussed the idea put forward by the

government and submitted a formal response in April of this year. Additional discussions with Ms. Illmayer have ensued in the interim since our submission and at present she is formulating an analysis on the options to regulation for Respiratory Therapy in BC and the BCSRT is assisting her in this.

In June of this year, the BCSRT was one of only two unregulated health professions that was invited to participate in a B.C Therapy Forum. Sponsored by the Ministry of Health Human Resources, this forum was an opportunity for all the therapy professions to discuss strategies and challenges to providing collaborative care. It proved to be an ideal venue for Respiratory Therapy to highlight and show the potential for integration of its practices with the other therapy professions. It also served as a way to discuss and potentially resolve some of the challenges that regulated and unregulated health professionals encounter when trying to define scopes of practice and work within collaborative care frameworks.

In September of this year, the BCSRT has been invited to meet with Daryl Beckett, Director of Professional Regulation and others from the Health Human Resource Planning branch. Again, this meeting represents the continued focus of the BCSRT to be innovative and open to discussions with the BC Government about how to ensure competencies in our practices, protect the public, assist in improving access to health care and gain a voice in national affairs impacting our profession.

**Elizabeth Goodfellow**  
**President-Elect, BCSRT**