

## ***Frequently Asked Questions***

### **WHAT DOES LICENSURE MEAN?**

Licensure is the highest level of regulation for health professionals. It is guided by legislation developed and approved by the government of Newfoundland and Labrador. Licensure would provide title protection, outline and enforce the scope of practice for Recreation Therapists holding the Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) designation, and discipline anyone who misrepresents themselves as a Recreation Therapist without the proper credentials. It could lead to legal action for individuals who do not meet the established criteria.

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### **WHAT ARE BENEFITS OF LICENSURE**

Licensure ensures the delivery of safe recreation therapy services to the public, which qualified professionals provide. After licensure, anyone seeking Recreation Therapy services (public, private practice, or non-profit) can be confident they are receiving services from a competent, qualified provider, reducing the risk of harm they may incur if treated by an unlicensed, unqualified Recreation Therapist.

Licensure also means title protection. This means that anyone without the proper credentials cannot call themselves a Recreation Therapist by law. If found practicing as a Recreation Therapist without licensure, the college will result in lawful discipline.

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### **WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS FOR RECREATION THERAPY WORKERS?**

Although Recreation Therapy Workers (RTW) will not be directly registered with the college, Recreation Therapists acknowledge that RTWs have very specialized training and are fundamental for implementing the safe practice of Recreation Therapy and its outcomes.

With being recognized as a licensed profession within NL, Recreation Therapy will be viewed as equal to other health professions. This means that Recreation Therapy will be included in new and ongoing projects, thus increasing the potential and likelihood of RTW job creation.

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## **WHAT IS NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR COUNCIL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONALS (NLCHP)?**

The NLCHP is an umbrella organization that represents and regulates multiple licensed professionals, including but not limited to Respiratory Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Midwives. Within the NLCHP are individual colleges for each profession. We are requesting to be placed under this organization so that costs for administration, representation, legal matters, and other duties are shared amongst all represented professions rather than each profession having to employ its administrative staff, effectively reducing these costs to practicing professionals.

For more information, please click the link provided. <https://nlchp.ca/>

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## **WHAT WOULD BE THE ANNUAL COSTS FOR RECREATION THERAPISTS IN NL WHEN REGULATED?**

Annual costs would be decided between the NL Council of Health Professionals and the College of Recreation Therapists. All professions licensed under the NLCHP must pay the fees set by the council, while each college sets its costs associated with professional needs. Licensed Recreation Therapists would also be responsible for a minimum professional liability insurance set by legislation and require an active membership in the NLTRA (Newfoundland & Labrador Therapeutic Recreation Association). Currently, college fees under the NLCHP range from \$60 to \$500; we anticipate, but can't confirm, that fees would be in the lower range.

***DID YOU KNOW?*** All professional fees can be claimed on your annual tax return, including your NLTRA membership fee, conference fees, etc.

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## **HOW MUCH WILL LICENSURE COST NLTRA?**

After the application is submitted, there may be some feedback from the government related to legal matters that MAY require some consultation with legal representation. We cannot anticipate the amount that may be required until later in the process.

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## **WILL LICENSURE IMPACT FUTURE RECREATION THERAPIST JOB POSTING IN THE PROVINCE?**

Anyone who practices recreation therapy (privately or in the public sector) must be registered with the College of Recreation Therapists under NLCHP while completing all educational requirements and CTRS designation. It will be illegal for non-licensed individuals to practice in the field.

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## **WILL THE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATION THERAPISTS PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT FOLLOW THE CURRENT STANDARDS ADOPTED BY NLTRA?**

The standards of practice can only be determined once the government approves the application, and the college is formed. The college will then develop and adopt the professional standards of practice, code of ethics, and other governing documents *AFTER* approved legislation. The college will set minimum competencies for entry to practice and requirements for continued education. It can identify any changes to Recreation Therapy practice, which then can be updated through legislative amendments.

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## **HOW MUCH LONGER DO YOU ANTICIPATE THE DOCUMENT TO BE COMPLETED FOR SUBMISSION?**

The status of application development and our initial length of time were estimated at ten years. However, many factors can influence the status of application development and the time associated with completion; therefore, we cannot provide a specific deadline for submission. We want to submit the most accurate and persuasive application representing the full scope of practice of Recreation Therapy to the government. Therefore, the Regulation Sub-Committee must keep a specific date private.

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## **HOW CAN I HELP?**

Newfoundland and Labrador is strong! We have a significant CTRS presence per capita, and together, we can gain momentum for licensure. We need everyone in the province to continue to be active members of the provincial association (NLTRA). Presenting numbers to the government can contribute to the future movement of this goal. Currently, we have 70 CTRS within the province.