

## A word from the president

**A** new year has begun and, like many of you, I've made my new year's resolutions. However, as much as we all intend to stick to them, there may be some that fall by the wayside after a few weeks. But there are others that we'll definitely have to keep – as a physiotherapist, I'll read my *Physio-info* and *Physio-Québec*; and as president, I'll provide you with all the relevant information you need about the issues the Ordre is working on.



**Paul Castonguay**

PHT, M.S.C., Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Therapy, president, executive director

## Integration of PRTs

In late January 2002, M<sup>e</sup> Samson informed us of the decision of the *Office des professions du Québec* to submit the draft decree respecting the integration of physical rehabilitation therapists into the *Ordre* to Minister of Justice.

Under subsection 27.2 of the *Professional Code*, the government may decree that a group of persons be integrated into an existing professional order with a view to protecting the public.

The draft decree will be examined by the Minister and published for a 60-day period in the *Gazette officielle du Québec*. At the end of this period, it will be considered by the government. Once the decree has been passed, it will be published in the *Gazette officielle du Québec* and come into effect the fifteenth day after this publication or at a later date indicated in the decree.

## The third integration, OURS...

After the integration of educational psychologists into the *Ordre professionnel des conseillers et conseillères d'orientation du Québec* on September 20, 2000 and that of marriage and family therapists into the *Ordre professionnel des travailleurs sociaux du Québec* on November 30, 2001, the year 2002 will mark the integration of physical rehabilitation therapists (PRT) into the *Ordre professionnel des physiothérapeutes du Québec* (OPPQ).

As you know, the integration of PRTs into the OPPQ has been on the agenda for a number of years. **The integration of two groups of professionals is nothing new for the government.** We are, in fact, the **third case** since June 1998. All three cases have proceeded along the same lines in terms of timeframe, initiatives taken, and the various stakeholders' applications to the *Office*. For example, the *Conseil interprofessionnel du Québec* (CIQ), which represents 272,000 professionals, was involved in each case, and in each instance, an ad hoc committee made up of representatives from the different orders examined the professional issues at stake. The CIQ's approach to each group was also consistent. In our case, its recommendations to the *ministère de la Justice* via the *Office des professions du Québec* were in favour of the **integration of PRTs into the OPPQ.**

## Important dates

On the eve of this integration, a review of the long yet natural development of this issue would be useful for all our members, particularly for our **new graduates**. Discussions between the two groups have been ongoing since the early **1970s**, following the introduction of the first college program in 1969. In **1973**, the *Code des professions* recognized physiotherapists, and in the **late 1980s**, PRTs made an application to form a professional order. In light of the latest developments, that is where our review will begin

### 1987

In December 1987, the *Société québécoise des thérapeutes en réadaptation physique* (SQTRP) applied to the *Office des professions du Québec* to form a professional order. At that time, the *Office* did not consider it advisable to create a new professional order for PRTs.

### 1989-1992

From 1989 to 1992, the OPPQ and the SQTRP primarily focused on assessing an integration model based on additional continuing education that would enable PRTs to become regular physiotherapist members of the *Ordre*.

In 1990, the *ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux* (MSSS) proposed working with the *ministère de l'Enseignement supérieur et de la Science* (MESS) to update information on the professional duties and responsibilities of PRTs and physiotherapists.

In 1991, the SQTRP and OPPQ made joint recommendations to the Council of Colleges respecting the college curriculum, its revision and the introduction of new programs. They also noted the lack of a clear definition of the duties and responsibilities of each group.

### 1993-1994

In a brief to the *Office des professions du Québec*, the MESS and the MSSS, the SQTRP proposed that integration into the OPPQ be based on a two-level responsibility model. **The Office approved this proposal and began consultations on a model respecting the levels of responsibility for PRTs.**

That same year, the *ministère de l'Éducation* began **revising the physical rehabilitation techniques program**, which had not been reviewed since 1977.

### 1995-1996

In 1995, the *Office des professions du Québec* developed a levels of responsibility model subsequent to consultations with a group of experts representing the *Collège des médecins*, the *ministère de l'Éducation*, the SQTRP and the OPPQ. Representing over 272,000 members, the CIQ approved the description of the levels of responsibility and recognized the importance of integrating the two groups into the same order to limit potential confusion in this practice area.

**In December 1995, the Office recommended to the government that PRTs be recognized by the Code des professions du Québec through their integration into the OPPQ, based on levels of responsibility. At this time, the OPPQ agreed with their integration in compliance with this model.**

**It should not be forgotten that the government accepted the levels of responsibility model to the extent that it was approved by the ministère de l'Éducation du Québec, which drew on it extensively in establishing standards applicable to the competencies set out in college rehabilitation techniques program.**

**Since 1997, PRT college training has been based on this model. It should also be noted that the five colleges offering this program participated in the revision initiated by the ministère de l'Éducation in 1994.**

### 1997-2000

In 1997, the issue was examined by the various stakeholders.

In 1998, the passage of **Bill 406** led to a new option for physical rehabilitation therapists and physiotherapists. The integration of a group of persons (PRTs) into a professional order whose members practice a reserved title profession (OPPQ) became legally possible.

### 2001

**In 2001, all these discussions culminated in a draft decree respecting the integration of physical rehabilitation therapists into the Ordre professionnel des physiothérapeutes du Québec, based on a levels of responsibility model that had been established for a number of years and corresponding to the current college curriculum.**

**It should be recalled that PRTs had never asked to be granted the exclusive right to practice their profession but instead had asked to have their practice granted a reserved title by being recognized through a professional order.**

## The OPPQ position

The *Ordre* continues to be **proactive** in this regard since we believe that the draft decree respecting integration will result in **major gains**, not only for both groups concerned, but also for the professional system as a whole and its ultimate aim **to protect the public.**

The following are a **number of points in favour of this integration.**

- **First, let's not forget** that the proposed integration provides for six PRT directors on the Bureau. The new Bureau will also include four directors appointed by the *Office des professions du Québec*. **PRTs and physiotherapists will participate equally** in orienting physiotherapy in Quebec.
- At a time of budget cuts and labour shortages, **the goals of the Office and the OPPQ** are to provide first-quality physiotherapy treatments to Quebecers and to ensure that the **right professional is used in the right place.** There is no question of reducing the accessibility to quality care implicit in our

health system or of using the integration of PRTs into the *Ordre* to **subjectively replace physiotherapists with PRTs** or vice versa.

- PRTs' clinical practice **will be enhanced by an equivalent frame of reference for each group.** Physiotherapists will have no trouble adapting to this new situation since it is already **common practice** in a number of public and private environments.
- From the *Ordre's* perspective, we believe that the **integration of PRTs** and a clear understanding of the levels of responsibility will promote the **hiring of more PRTs** in clinical circles.
- Integrating PRTs into the *Ordre* will give them official recognition within the Quebec professional system. This in turn will eventually give them the mobility to work in any of the other Canadian provinces. They will also be able to play a role in promoting Quebec physiotherapy on the national and international scene.

## After integration...

In the months following integration, there will be a certain amount of adaptation required on the part of all professionals. The physiotherapist and PRT directors will be on hand to ensure the decree is properly applied.

## Épilogue

This review of the road travelled since 1987 reflects the enduring interest of both groups in integrating PRTs into the OPPQ. With Bill 406, the government has given us the means of achieving this integration.

**Ongoing collaboration will be essential for us all to carry out the mission that is central to each and every professional order – the protection of the public.**

## Conclusion

This historical review of the issue clearly mirrors the interest of all professionals in this integration. Its successful conclusion will significantly reinforce the important role played by physiotherapy and physiotherapy professionals in the Quebec health system. It will enable us to pool our efforts to protect the public, which remains the first priority of this new order

## The year of Back Pain

Physiotherapy month, which will be held from **April 20 to May 20, 2002**, will increase public awareness of back pain by focusing on the kinds of evaluations and treatments that only the scientific knowledge of physiotherapists can provide.

Preparations for the **September 2002 conference** in Quebec City are well underway. Our speakers have been confirmed and the draft program will be sent out shortly. **Register in large numbers; back pain is of concern to us all.**

*I would like to remind you that we are always available to answer your questions. Don't forget that the letters-to-the-editor column of *Physio-Québec* belongs to you.*

*I wish you all a very happy and healthy 2002.*

*Paul Castonguay*

Paul Castonguay, pht, FCAMT

**Professional liability towards foreign clients... cont.**

You will find enclosed an example of the form to be signed by your foreign clients (English and French versions). See last Physio-Info, p 2.

**Continuing education course cancelled**

**FC 471** Disc pathologies: Evaluation and treatment March 22, 23 and 24, 2002 The course will be offered again in the next continuing education program in 2002-2003.

**Date change FC 458**

The V2 course (FC 458) scheduled for April 19, 20 and 21, 2002 to be given in Montreal by Diane Racette will be held instead on April 12, 13 and 14, 2002. The dates for the second section, i.e. May 10, 11 and 12, 2002, remain unchanged.

**Physiotherapist/  
employment bank**

Since this service did not perform as expected and was demanding to manage on a daily basis, it has been cancelled. You may contact the *Université de Montréal* and McGill and Laval universities, which all have graduate placement services. Thank you for your understanding.

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**Physio-Info (french version)**

If you have not received the French-language edition of this issue of *Physio-Info* and would like to receive one, please contact Danielle Huet, Communications secretary at (514) 351-2770 or 1 800 361-2001, ext. 223 or by e-mail: [dhuuet@oppq.qc.ca](mailto:dhuuet@oppq.qc.ca)

**Physio-Info classifieds**

Services offered to physiotherapists and advertisers



**Le Centre hospitalier de Rivière-du-Loup**, est un établissement à vocation régionale pour toute la région du KRTB desservant 90 000 personnes en santé physique, en santé mentale et en réadaptation fonctionnelle intensive et qui a d'importantes activités en ambulatoire. Il est issu de la fusion du **Centre hospitalier régional du Grand-Portage** qui compte 140 lits de soins et services généraux, spécialisés et de réadaptation et des **CHSLD de Rivière-du-Loup**, centre d'hébergement de plus de 260 places en institution et en ressources intermédiaires. L'établissement compte plus de 1000 employés, 75 médecins et collabore aussi à la formation de futurs professionnels de la santé. Il est fortement préoccupé par la qualité des soins et services dispensés à la clientèle et par la qualité de vie personnelle et professionnelle des personnes qui y œuvrent.

**Recherche un(e) (1)  
PHYSIOTHÉRAPEUTE**

1 an à temps complet (possibilité de prolongation)

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**EXIGENCES DU POSTE :**

- Baccalauréat en Science de la Santé, option physiothérapie ;
- Être membre de l'Ordre professionnel des physiothérapeutes du Québec ;
- Expérience souhaitable dans un milieu hospitalier ;
- Facilité à travailler en équipe, souci de professionnalisme, tact et diplomatie, sens des responsabilités, autonomie et initiative.

**Le CLSC Rivières & Marées est à la recherche d'un(e) physiothérapeute pour combler un poste à temps complet.**

**SOMMAIRE DES RESPONSABILITÉS :**

La candidate ou le candidat retenu aura à intervenir principalement auprès de personnes en perte d'autonomie dans leur milieu de vie et auprès de leur entourage.

Les interventions se réaliseront à l'intérieur du programme de maintien à domicile du CLSC en partie dans le cadre des services à domicile et en partie au sein de l'équipe d'un service externe gériatrique ambulatoire en voie d'implantation.

**EXIGENCES DU POSTE :**

- Détenir un diplôme en physiothérapie et être membre de l'Ordre professionnel des physiothérapeutes du Québec ;
- Être en mesure d'intervenir dans une approche de préservation de l'autonomie ;
- Avoir une facilité de communication ;
- Avoir développé des habiletés de travail en équipe multidisciplinaire ;
- Être en mesure de travailler en partenariat avec une équipe de thérapeutes en réadaptation physique expérimenté(e)s ;
- Être capable d'initiative et posséder un bon jugement ;
- Posséder une expérience d'au moins deux ans auprès d'une clientèle gériatrique.

**SALAIRE :** Selon les dispositions de la convention collective des physiothérapeutes.

Nous favorisons l'équité en matière d'emploi.

**N.B. :** Seules les candidatures retenues pour une entrevue recevront un accusé réception.

- 20 words and less: \$30 plus taxes
- 20 to 25 words: \$40 plus taxes
- 25 to 35 words: \$50 plus taxes
- 35 to 50 words: \$100 plus taxes
- 50 words and more: \$100 and \$1,50 per additional word plus taxes

**Your next Physio-Info**

Advertising deadline: April 10, 2002  
Received by members: June 14, 2002

**Other****Physiotherapy clinic in  
Notre-Dame à Repentigny**

Seeking a full-time physiotherapist, permanent position, days and evenings, to join its team. An interest in manual therapy would be an asset. Continuing education encouraged, attractive schedule and salary conditions. Fax your c.v. to Terry Norcia at (450) 581-7187. For information, (450) 581-2398.

**Private clinic in Belœil**

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**Physiotherapy clinic in Val-d'Or**

Seeking full-time physiotherapist. Orthopedic and sports clientele. Young and dynamic team. Continuing education encouraged. Interest in manual therapy. Contact Karine Roberge at (819) 825-6521.

**Physiotherapy clinic in Arvida**

Seeking full-time physiotherapist for private clinic. Well-established clinic with attractive benefits: higher salary than in a hospital environment, potential partnership, guaranteed hours, group insurance, paid training, dynamic team, etc. For information: Clinique physiothérapie de Jonquière (André Girard, pht): (418) 542-9994 and Clinique physiothérapie d'Arvida (Michel Rivest, pht): (418) 548-1617.

**Excellence physiotherapy clinic**

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Centre hospitalier de Rivière-du-Loup  
Direction des ressources humaines  
75, rue St-Henri, Rivière-du-Loup (Québec) G5R 2A4  
Télécopieur : (418) 868-1890  
Courriel : [francoise\\_lebel@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:francoise_lebel@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

\* Any clinic that would like to be part of our media bank (filming or interviews) should contact Odette Trépanier, Communications coordinator at ext. 226 or by e-mail at: [otrepanier@oppq.qc.ca](mailto:otrepanier@oppq.qc.ca)

