



Brian Liszewski, M.R.T.(T.), BSc.,

Letter of Intent

Dear CAMRT Board of Directors,

I am writing to express my intent in serving as the Ontario representative of the CAMRT Board of Directors. As highlighted in my attached curriculum vitae my greater than 14 years of clinical practice as a radiation therapist coupled with my more recent, research, provincial planning and radiation treatment program support, provides me with a variety of experience from which to draw. In addition, my service to the CAMRT in a number of capacities has given me insight into the priorities of the association and its membership. This experience has provided me with an appreciation of the many concerns that face medical radiation technologists (MRTs) and the healthcare system as a whole. As a board member, I intend to bring my diverse set of skills to the association, contributing to its goals in addressing the ever-changing landscape of the healthcare system, MRT practice and ultimately the patient experience.

As MRTs strive to provide patients the highest quality of care, there are opportunities the CAMRT can explore to meet the needs of its membership, while working to mitigate the various challenges we face in our respective disciplines. The 2020 pandemic has provided us with a clear understanding of the deficiencies in the healthcare system. However, it has also shown where our system shines, most specifically those point of care practitioners who ensured patients had continued access to the services they need. The CAMRT's strategic plan successfully addresses a number of concerns shared by its members. Speaking to practice issues, technological advancements and member interests, the plan is comprehensive. The CAMRT's strategic plan does address the need to promote the role of MRTs as an essential link, which is key to the success of our profession, but raising the awareness of our modalities is just as important. The CAMRT is poised, as the pan-Canadian representative of our profession to educate and advocate both the public and leaders on perceived barriers and access issues with respect to medical radiation technology.

Issues such as equitable access, be it due to financial and geographic constraints exacerbated through fear and misinformation are pressing concerns within our healthcare systems. Health Quality Ontario reports that 76% of patients requiring diagnostic services access them within the acceptable timelines; however 63% of patients with lower priority indications met these benchmarks. Radiation therapy wait-times ensure that 80% of patients receive consultation within two weeks of referral. Although these numbers appear reasonable, if we drill down to remote communities with limited access, we see that these populations have a drastic increase

in wait-times. Studies have shown that in addition to geographic barriers, patient fear surrounding radiation is a significant contributor to access or lack thereof. The CAMRT and its members can work together to promote our technology, its safety and efficacy and dispel the misconceptions of the public.

Across the world, organizations have begun outreach initiatives to educate the public with respect to their options be it for radiation therapy or diagnostic imaging. The Choose Wisely campaign, to which the CAMRT has contributed, provides recommendations for both clinicians and patients with respect to appropriate care. Furthermore, the Targeting Cancer campaign with its roots in Australia seeks to raise awareness of radiation therapy and abate fears regarding the myths of radiation exposure. Expanding on these examples the CAMRT can support its members by increasing the awareness of the public to their diagnostic and treatment options. Furthermore, the association can use its influence to educate various leaders across the country regarding the necessity of the profession and just as importantly the need of their services within the health care system.

The tides of healthcare are ever changing and within the system, radiation technology is constantly evolving. The CAMRT is poised to advocate for these changes. Developing techniques, tests and technologies require novel solutions, for not only certification, advancing roles and responsibilities, and overlapping scopes of practice but also public education and access. The CAMRT must be dynamic, working collaboratively within its disciplines and with its partners to deal with the continually shifting face of our profession. The experience I have obtained within my various roles; clinical practice, quality assurance, research, education, leadership, and collaboration provide me with the tools, skills, and networks required to serve as an effective board member. The expertise gained from my provincial planning and support, as well as my past and current collaborations with the CAMRT and beyond has expanded my desire to provide, evidence-based, innovative, accessible, safe and high quality radiotherapy to patients across Canada. My strong problem-solving skills, organization, self-direction and strategic ability to think outside the box ensure I will be a valuable board member and asset to the association.

I look forward to joining the board and serving our members as we look to the future.

Sincerely,

Brian Liszewski, M.R.T.(T.), BSc.,