



CRYSTAL BEVANS

crystal.bevans@horizonnb.ca

CAMRT Nominating Committee

1300-180 rue Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 2K3
Canada



RE: CAMRT New Brunswick Director

In response to the recent call for a New Brunswick Director for the CAMRT Board of Directors, I submit my name for consideration.

As a Nuclear Medicine Technologist for the past 18 years, and supervisor of my department for the last 9 years, I have gained a strong foundational knowledge of what it means to be a medical radiation technologist and what our profession provides its clients. Experiences that have enriched my leadership capabilities and inter-professional collaboration would include:

- NB Director-At-Large for the CAMRT Board of Directors
- NB Director for the NBAMRT
- Medical Imaging Management meetings- with all modalities represented
- Chair Nuclear Medicine Inter-Collaboration meetings between Horizon Health Network site supervisors
- Representative on the NBAMRT Complaints Committee
- Network with Dalhousie University for student practicum placements
- Work in conjunction with the Canadian Nuclear Safety Committee to ensure proper handling/disposal of nuclear substances

My enclosed resume will provide you with more details regarding my qualifications and experience. I know that I can bring much benefit with my experience, educational qualifications and skills and I look forward to expanding my skill set and network, putting these towards a good cause.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Crystal Bevans

Crystal Bevans, BHSc, RTNM, CTIC(NM)

"What is one element you would like to see addressed in CAMRT's next Strategic Plan?

Please explain why."

Having been an MRT for the past 18 years and, just recently, having undergone the trials of being an MRT during a global pandemic, I can say that professional advocacy is top of mind for our technologists. It has always been a struggle to get the recognition we feel we deserve as medical radiation technologists, as most of the public awareness and praise has traditionally gone to the nurses. This proved true in recent times with inequality in PPE access and also with COVID vaccine distribution patterns amongst healthcare professionals. Our members shared many sentiments throughout the pandemic so far, stating they felt "overlooked", "underappreciated", "unprotected" and, I admit, I too shared many of the same feelings. As "unrecognized" front line healthcare workers, we were often the first to face the COVID positive patients in the ICU, taking their chest x-rays or doing their CT exams. First we were surrounded by nurses in full PPE, when we were told we were not "frontline" and did not require the same protection; then we were in a room, with all other healthcare workers fully vaccinated, while we positioned COVID positive patients without having been vaccinated ourselves. Adding fuel to the fire that had been simmering a long time already was, and continues to be, the wage disparity between nursing and MRT's; with COVID highlighting this disparity yet again in some provinces where a frontline premium was distributed – mostly to nursing staff.

The CAMRT stands behind medical radiation technologists in many ways, supporting education, certification and research initiatives. The association has made great strides in trying to bring our professions to the forefront of public awareness during these challenging times; however this is certainly an element I would like to continue to see addressed in the next Strategic Plan. Social awareness of MRT's and who we are, what we do and the value we bring to the healthcare network. We are more than the technology we use! We are there for our patients in ways often unrecognized by others, holding their hand as they undergo invasive procedures in our departments, answering questions in regards to radiation safety, ensuring their privacy and dignity are respected, knowing their exams have shown extensive disease and yet having to put on a smile and send them on their way. We often see the same individuals many times throughout their healthcare journey and we develop relationships and a rapport with these patients that transcends the technology we are often associated with. Medical Radiation Technologists are blessed to have chosen careers that integrate so many aspects of healthcare and we need our national association to spread the word and educate not only the public, but other members of the healthcare team, so MRT's are no longer just the faces behind the lead glass, but frontline workers, striving to provide the best care possible to the patients and public we serve.