



Canadian Art Therapy Association Association Canadienne d'Art Thérapie

CATA-ACAT has embarked on an ambitious journey towards being a stronger voice of art therapists and art therapy in Canada. The rapid change in the Canadian regulatory landscape and the significant impact it has on art therapists as a community and art therapy as a profession has made regulation of the profession a significant policy issue in Canada. In each Canadian jurisdiction, it is the responsibility of the sub-national government to regulate health care within its borders. In the case of counselling and psychotherapy, this is the Ministry of Health with a Health Professions Act or a variant of it that regulates professional practice in that domain. Canada's unique blend of federalism provides for no consistent mechanism by which regulations are made across the country. Acts and regulations concerning mental health, addictions, youth, health care supports, psycho-social supports, and their respective intersections with the profession of art therapy, is therefore not consistent across all Canadian jurisdictions. For example, in British Columbia, a regulatory body is known as a college and can be formed by an Order in Council. That is to say, there is no new legislation that is required. In New Brunswick, a private member's bill must be developed and introduced in the legislature to be recognized as a profession. And in Ontario, a new legislation was recently introduced under the umbrella of the Health Act.

CATA-ACAT is growing and we are increasing our advocacy efforts in all jurisdictions, not just the ones mentioned here. This work is necessary to ensure we remain a credible, united, well-represented, standardized and successful profession for the safety and consistency of the clients we serve, communities we live in, and governments that regulate us. It is important to note and understand that the reason regulatory bodies are formed is to protect the public. This is their core and only function and is consistent with the Standards of Practice and the Code of Ethics that all CATA-ACAT members abide by. Indeed, there is significant risk of harm for unlicensed professionals who engage in art therapy as a profession without adequate academic training, practicum hours, and supervision. This is harmful to public safety and there is no way currently for Canadians to verify the credentials of the practitioner. In order to promote public safety and eliminate abuse of vulnerable Canadians, CATA-ACAT is therefore advocating and seeking title protection and regulation in various Canadian jurisdictions.

CATA-ACAT is an organization with a clear and public code of ethics, standards of practice, education standards, transparent complaints mechanisms, an annual conference to discuss latest art therapy research, and a peer-reviewed academic journal. Its registered art therapy students, practitioners, and members demand to be given adequate consideration and to be seen as a strong advocate of mental health. Indeed, art therapists work with and support some of the most vulnerable Canadians by providing critical psycho-social supports that heal and add meaningful value to children, seniors, and those with unique psycho-social needs.

Websites for Regulatory Work that includes CATA-ACAT across Canada:

The College of Registered Psychotherapists in Ontario

<http://www.crho.ca/home/info-for-applicants/>

The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Manitoba (FACT-Manitoba)

<http://www.fact-manitoba.org/>

The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in British Columbia (FACT-BC)

<http://www.factbc.org/>

The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Alberta (FACT-AB)

<http://www.fact-alberta.org/>

The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Saskatchewan (FACT-SK)

Coming soon

The Federation of Associations of Counselling Therapists in Newfoundland and Labrador (FACT-NL)

Coming soon