

“Integrating Internationally Educated Physiotherapists” - Project Update

June 26, 2006

In December 2005, the Canadian Alliance of Physiotherapy Regulators (The Alliance) was awarded funding by the Government of Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) program to conduct an analysis of the current physiotherapy workforce, focusing on issues affecting the integration of internationally trained physiotherapists.

This initiative, dubbed “Integrating Internationally Educated Physiotherapists” is divided into two phases. The first is a research component aimed at describing the Canadian physiotherapy workforce and identifying the barriers preventing internationally-trained professions from successfully integrating into the Canadian health care system. The second phase involves recommending modifications to the existing system and/or the development of new initiatives that help to remove or mitigate the effects to these barriers.

The project, now in its fourth month has made significant progress in the first phase. A contracted researcher has completed a series of focus groups in the Provinces of Alberta, British Columbia and Ontario. A total of six groups, comprised of approximately 40 internationally-educated participants, were held between May 24 and June 1, 2006. The results of these sessions will be used to inform the development and administration of two quantitative surveys; one directed at the internationally-educated physiotherapists themselves and the second aimed at gathering the impressions of physiotherapist employers across the county on this issue. Data from Statistics Canada specific to physiotherapists is being collected and analyzed. Significant internal research is also being done in the areas of credentialing and examination performance among the internationally-educated cohort.

Initial findings will be published in a diagnostic report and distributed to key stakeholders in the physiotherapy industry and other related disciplines. Stakeholder representatives will be invited to attend a two-day Consensus Building Workshop held in Toronto Ontario from November 30th to December 1st, to discuss the findings of this report and develop recommendations on how to better integrate internationally-educated physiotherapists into the workforce. Look for more information to follow regarding this event in the coming months.

For more information on this project or on the Consensus Building Workshop, please feel free to contact the Project Manager, Keith Johnson, at 416-234-8800 x27 or by email at kjohnson@alliancept.org.

Funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program.	
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