

OAMRT / CAMRT MEMBERSHIP

WHY WE HAVE THESE MEMBERSHIPS

This document provides to you the rationale why Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs), as **Professionals**, should, and need to be, Members of their Professional Associations - the OAMRT and CAMRT.

The following are considered important points that Professionals, such as MRTs, need to be aware of:

- There is an expectation of society that Professionals are involved in, and belong to, their Professional Association, often it is something the courts seek to know, as it is a sign of character. Not belonging to one's Professional Association is viewed as "unprofessional" in attitude.
- Everything the MRT enjoys today is a result of the work of the OAMRT and CAMRT, past and present, including wages, benefits and status. One may argue that the unions negotiate for MRTs for their wages and benefits. This is true in so far as the actual amounts, etc. That stated, the union can only bargain based on the status of the profession/occupation in the health-care system. It is the Associations that have positioned the Profession to achieve that status, not the College of Medical Radiation Technologists of Ontario, the regulatory body.
- The CMRTO will recommend to the MRT that they belong to their Professional Associations (OAMRT and CAMRT). They believe this is a responsibility of the MRT. In fact, one of the conditions of being a regulated health Profession was that membership in the Professional Association should be maintained.
- The OAMRT, when it meets with government officials, is always asked about our Membership size. Numbers in Membership mean a lot to the politicians and bureaucrats. The more Members you have, the more leverage you have to influence and make positive changes. The more Members the OAMRT has, the more we can do for the individual MRT, and the Profession collectively. The CMRTO has no role, no mandate, to look after the Profession or the welfare of MRTs - that is the role of the OAMRT, and on the federal scene, the CAMRT. If Members want the same recognition as RNs, then the Association has to be strong in numbers so that we have the resources to advance our profile/recognition, and to move the Profession forward, etc.
- We offer personal Professional Liability Insurance (PLI). You may be told the hospital or clinic covers you. Do you know that for sure? Have you a copy of what you are covered for, and under what circumstances? Experience has shown that MRTs may, or may not be covered for malpractice, and in some cases, they are, but in limited ways. Most we have found do not cover you for a CMRTO hearing or a Coroner's Inquest. Most patients now are not going to lawyers to lay malpractice charges, but are laying complaints to the CMRTO. Will the hospital or clinic pay the \$40,000 to \$100,000 legal fee costs? As the CMRTO will tell you, the cost of OAMRT / CAMRT Membership is worth it, just for the PLI coverage.
- The OAMRT and CAMRT offer continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities at relatively low rates, as we are **not-for-profit** organizations. As requirements to have specific credentials increase (BMD, Mammography, etc.), those who do not have Membership in their Professional Association could find themselves paying double or more than a Member would for their CPD.
- OAMRT and CAMRT publications that keep you informed of what is happening in the profession.
- OAMRT and CAMRT Conferences - networking and professional development.
- OAMRT and CAMRT Web Sites - a major information source with networking tools.
- Valuable Volunteer experiences which provides interpersonal, negotiation, critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Opportunities for personal recognition.
- Benefits - Group Home and Auto Insurance, Financial Advisors, Affinity Programs, etc.

In conclusion, the above are the main points as to why all MRTs should be Members of their Professional Associations (OAMRT and CAMRT). Your Membership allows us to work on your behalf to improve working conditions, the safety of you and the patient, be recognized for the skilled Professionals you are, and move the Profession forward. Membership provides you with a risk management shield through the provision of PLI. MRTs pay less dues than most of the other professions - it is a good deal!