

# Strategic Plan - Executive Summary Statement

## BACKGROUND

At the Annual General Meeting held in Edmonton, October 2013, the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) Membership identified the needs and priorities of our therapeutic recreation (TR) health discipline profession. Additional input was received through a consultation process with Alberta Health and a comprehensive benchmark review of regulated health professions. The strategic planning document is called 2020 Vision and spans an eight year time period from 2013 - 2020.

## Vision

Therapeutic Recreation is a self governing health profession that optimizes leisure and recreational experiences to enable individuals to live well and be healthy. The Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association exists to improve the health and quality of life the public by advancing therapeutic recreation practice.

## Mission

ATRA regulates therapeutic recreation practice through defined programs of study and education courses for the purpose of registration requirements, a clearly defined entry level for applicants and continuing competence program for members, standards of practice and a code of ethics.

## Purpose of the strategic plan

ATRA's Strategic Plan will prepare the association to meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. The plan informs decision-making and helps achieve the goals of the Vision statement. The Strategic Plan is regularly referenced and updated as needed through an active and annual process.

## Values

Five values guide the ATRA *2020 Vision* Strategic Plan.

1. **Consultation:** Strategic direction is a process developed with extensive consultation with membership of the profession, Alberta Health and other stakeholders.
2. **Professional Conduct:** ATRA protects and serves the public interest by establishing, maintaining and enforcing entry level and continuing competence, standards of practice, code of ethics.
3. **Evidence Based:** Recreation Therapy demonstrates progress as a essential component within the evolving and complex healthcare system in Alberta through evidence based practice and research.
4. **Collaboration:** ATRA supports registered professionals in collaborative practice with regulated health disciplines, educational institutions and service delivery agencies.
5. **Recognition:** ATRA recognizes the education, experience and contribution of current membership. Changes to membership criteria will apply to new applicants seeking to enter TR practice.

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### FOUR STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS

The strategic planning process included an indepth analysis of comprehensive range of input. This analysis produced four key themes:

1. Professional Conduct
2. Entry to Practice
3. Continued Competency Program
4. Competence within Professional Roles

These interrelated themes require integrated research and development plans. The following section outlines subsections within each of the four strategic directions.

Appendix A identifies detailed outcomes of the strategic plan.

### Goals and Objectives

#### 1 Professional Conduct

- 1.1 Protect and serve the public interest
- 1.2 Self Governance
- 1.3 Complaint, Investigation and Resolution Process
- 1.4 Request to Register
- 1.5 Distinct and Identifiable Profession

#### 2 Entry to Practice

- 2.1 Provide direction to programs of Therapeutic Recreation (TR) study and education courses for the purpose of registration requirements.
- 2.2 Provide direction to improve access to TR study and education courses.
- 2.3 Promote and support the professional role as TR Instructor for the TR study and educational courses.
- 2.4 Promote the TR profession to prospective students.
- 2.5 Transition to TR degree as entry to practice for new TR applicants.

#### 3 Continued Competency Program

- 3.1 Competency Profile – Standards of Practice
- 3.2 Continuing Competence Program
- 3.3 Return to Practice / Registration Renewal
- 3.4 Evidence Based Practice and Research

#### 4 Professional Competency Profile

- 4.1 Communities of Practice
- 4.2 Clinical Instruction and Supervision of TR students
- 4.3 Recreation Therapy Assistants and Aides
- 4.4 Collaboration with Regulated Health Care Professionals
- 4.5 Collaboration with Community Agency for Health Promotion