

ANNUAL REPORT

2025-2026

ALBERTA
THERAPEUTIC
RECREATION
ASSOCIATION



HONOURING PAST ACHIEVEMENTS &
GUIDING THE PROFESSION TOWARD
NEW POSSIBILITIES

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Land Acknowledgement

Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) acknowledges the First Nations, the Métis, Inuit, and all of the peoples across Alberta who share a history and a deep connection with this land. ATRA acknowledges members practice in Treaty 4, 6, 7, 8 and 10 territories throughout Alberta. We are all Treaty people. ATRA dedicates the efforts of this health profession to move forward in partnership with Indigenous communities in the spirit of reconciliation and collaboration. ATRA endorses the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Call to Action (2015). ATRA is committed to supporting First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples, sharing a common understanding of well-being and wellness as something that comes from a balance of body, mind, emotion and spirit.

About Us

Established in 1985, the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association represents Recreation Therapy professionals throughout the province of Alberta. ATRA supports our members through professional development, research, and education. Our members work together to improve the health and quality of life of the public by advancing Therapeutic Recreation practice through adherence to defined education, code of ethics, standards of practice, and a continued competency program.

To learn more about ATRA, please visit: www.alberta-tr.ca

Or email us at: support@alberta-tr.ca

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Annual General Meetings

Annual General Meetings

AGM Rules of Order for an In-Person and Virtual Meeting

Qualifications

1. All ATRA members are welcome at the Annual General Meeting.
2. The Chair will designate which call to vote pertains to all members or professional members specifically.
3. Each attending Professional Member in good standing is entitled to one vote on matters related to the advancement of the TR Profession.
4. Members connecting virtually will cast their vote online using a technology application.
5. There shall be no absentee or proxy voting.
6. A quorum shall be no less than 25 percent of the membership or 40 members, whichever is smaller (ATRA 2021 Bylaws).

General Procedures

1. No new business will be accepted from the floor. Members will have received a 21-day notice prior to the meeting stating that agenda items may be received electronically up to seven days prior to the Annual General Meeting.
2. The ATRA President (Chair) organizes the business of the meeting (agenda and order of business) and sees that it proceeds in an ordered manner.
3. The Chair decides all questions of order.
4. No person may speak until she/he/they have been recognized by the Chair.
5. No person may speak for more than 5 minutes at one time. No person may speak a second time until all who wish to speak for the first time have done so. (The group may permit a person to speak more than twice or longer than 5 minutes.) A question on a procedure or a point of order will not be considered a turn to speak.
6. A person wishing to speak must identify their decision as indicated by specific technology in use (e.g., raise hand) and be recognized by the Chair before speaking. When recognized, the speaker will give their name and member category.
7. The Chair if wishing to speak to business, must yield the chair to another officer and take a seat on the floor. The Chairperson may not resume the chair until the question at issue is settled.

Motions

1. No business may be discussed until a motion has been made, seconded (when required) and stated by the Chair.
2. Once a motion has been stated by the Chair, it can be withdrawn only with the consent of both the mover and the seconder.
3. All discussion must relate to the motion on the floor.
4. Only one main motion may be on the floor at any one time.

Amendments

1. An amendment to a motion is proper if it does not change the basic purpose of the motion.
2. For ease of understanding, it is wise to have only one amendment on the floor at any one time. However, there is no limit to the number of times a motion may be amended.
3. When an amendment is made, the Chairperson must see that everyone understands the proposition being voted on. Two votes must be taken: FIRST, on the amendment, and SECOND, on the motion in its amended form.

Stopping Debates

1. Discussion can be stopped by a motion to close debate. This motion is not debatable and requires a two-thirds majority to be carried.

Voting

1. The motion is restated.
2. The affirmative and then the negative votes are called for.
3. As all ballots are cast and counted in person where possible and electronically where possible, the Chair declares the result of the vote.

**Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association
2025 Annual General Meeting- Minutes
Friday October 24th 8:00-9:30am
Online: Via Zoom Events**

1.0 Greetings delivered by the Minister of Primary and Preventative Health Services; the Honorable Adriana LaGrange

2.0 Call to Order (8:03am)

3.0 Agenda overview, AGM Rules of Order and General Procedures and in-person and virtual voting reviewed by Amanda Ervin

Quorum met (222 virtual attendees)

General Procedures

- No new business accepted from the floor
- Recognition to speak required
- Pre-stated Motions
- Voting Virtually- student members/non-ATRA members.

4.0 Board of Directors -Delivered by: Amanda Ervin

- Glenn Skimming, President
- Amanda Ervin, Executive Director
- Vacant, Vice President
- Ashley McCune, Outgoing Secretary
- Vanessa Irvine, Incoming Secretary
- Lisa Monikowski, Treasurer
- Jodie Van Spronsen, Outgoing Communication Director
- Jenna Stanley, Incoming Communication Director
- Maegan Ciesielski, Competence Director
- Rena Walker, Education Director
- Hailey Kanak, Grant Programs Director

All terms begin on November 1st, 2025

5.0 Motion #1 Accept the 2024 AGM Minutes

Glenn Skimming, moved that the 2024 AGM minutes be accepted as written in the annual report, seconded by Maegan Ciesielski.

All in favor, motion carried by delegates virtually

- Questions? No questions asked by delegates.
- Discussion? None

6.0 Grant Program Director Highlights-Delivered by Amanda Ervin

- Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Bursary 2025: 10 Successful Applicants
- CTRA Conference Bursary 2025: 14 Professional Members & 1 Student Member awarded
- ATRA Symposium Bursary 2025: 24 applicants, 20 Professionals awarded via draw
- Zero student applicants for 2025
- Advanced Education Bursary: 10 Professional Members were awarded in October 2024
- Bursary Review Committee formed: The Bursary Review Committee reviews applications via blind review for the Darlene Murphy, Entry to Practice and Advanced Education Bursaries.

7.0 Competence Director Highlights- Delivered by Amanda Ervin

- Ten province-wide webinars offered from November 2024-September 2025. All were NCTRC pre-approved
- High numbers of member engagement through webinars
- Members now able to self-generate certificates after attending webinars - less administrative work for ATRA and faster for members to receive their certificates!
- Highly successful CEU audit 95% overall compliance rate
- 100% compliance rate of audited members

8.0 Communication Director Highlights- Delivered by Amanda Ervin

- ATRA e-blasts will continue to be circulated monthly to members
- Special e-blasts (e.g. TR Month, Symposium, etc) will also go out with specific or time-sensitive information for members
- Our data shows great engagement from members in terms of e-blast open / read rates - thank you for your ongoing engagement and support, as well as your likes, comments and questions on ATRA social media!

9.0 Education Director Highlights- Delivered by Amanda Ervin

- Student Engagement
- Post-Secondary Institution Relations
- Membership Contributions
- Strategic Realignment

10.0 Motion # 2 Accept the 2024-2025 Annual Report

Maegan Ciesielski moved that the 2024-2025 Annual Report be accepted as shared, seconded by Rena Walker

All in favor, motion carried by delegates virtually

- Questions? No questions asked by delegates.
- Discussion? None

11.0 2024-2025 Financial Statement- Delivered by Lisa Monikowski

ATRA Treasurer reviewed the highlights of the sections of the Financial Statement. Full details are in the annual report - pg. 20-24.

12.0 Motion #3 Accept the Financial Statement

Lisa Monikowski moved that the 2023-2024 Financial Statement be accepted as written in the annual report and as presented, seconded by Glenn Skimming

All in favor, motion carried by delegates virtually – 92% in favor

- Questions?
Can you please clarify the difference between education expenses and professional development?
 - Unable to provide clear answer due to Quick Books; Amanda and Lisa to provide update by end of the day.
- What does Global Public Affairs do?
 - Overall communications with government for advocacy and regulation.
 - ATRA ED (Amanda Ervin) meets with GPA twice per month to obtain oversight on decisions.

13.0 Membership Category Updates- Delivered by Rena Walker

ATRA has reviewed its education requirements to better reflect the evolving field of therapeutic recreation. Current degree and diploma titles emphasize TR/RT, but course requirements have not kept pace, creating confusion for applicants and employers.

Updating these standards will ensure consistent, specialized preparation for professional practice while strengthening ATRA's leadership role in Canada.

Existing Professional Members remain fully protected under the Legacy Clause and can continue membership or return under the Return to Practice pathway without being affected by these changes.

CURRENT: Academic Coursework:

Three (3) courses in Therapeutic Recreation (minimum) [3.0 credits each].

Three (3) courses in General Recreation, Leisure, Leadership or Play [3.0 credits each].

Six (6) supporting courses across three Clinically related Areas [3.0 credits each]:

Therapeutic Recreation

Psychology (General, Abnormal, Educational, Counseling)

Sociology (Group Dynamics, Leadership, Volunteerism)

Education (Special, Physical, Early Childhood)

Therapies (Music, Art, Dance, Drama)

Health (Health Promotion, Wellness, Health Trends, Community Health, Rehabilitation)

Aging (Gerontology, Aging Disorders)

Medical (Anatomy, Biology, Physiology, Medical Terminology, Pharmacology)

Research (Statistics, Evaluation, Research Methods)

CHANGE: Academic Coursework:

Six (6) courses in Therapeutic Recreation (minimum) [3.0 credits each].

Six (6) supporting courses [3.0 credits each]:

- Therapeutic Recreation
- Psychology (General, Abnormal, Educational, Counseling)
- Sociology (Group Dynamics, Volunteerism)
- Education (Special, Physical, Early Childhood)
- Therapies (Music, Art, Dance, Drama)
- Health (Health Promotion, Wellness, Health Trends, Community Health, Rehabilitation, Health Sciences)
- Aging (Gerontology, Aging Disorders)
- Medical (Anatomy, Biology, Physiology, Medical Terminology, Pharmacology)
- Research (Statistics, Evaluation, Research Methods)
- Leisure/Play/Recreation (Foundations of, Leisure education)
- Leadership (Ethics, Organizational, Interprofessional Practice)

14.0 Motion #4 Accept Membership Categories

Rena Walker moves that ATRA accepts the recommended changes to education requirements as presented and that these changes be implemented for students starting programs beginning January 1, 2026 by Hailey Kanak.

Majority in favor virtually, motion carried by delegates virtually – 80% in favor.

- Questions?
- How will ATRA track students start date of their program vs graduation date?
 - ATRA has decided to honor the old requirements for those who have started their program prior to the motion being accepted.
 - Alberta TR programs have already exceeded the 6 TR courses required.

- The UofA BARST degree no longer qualifies for ATRA membership. TR major is no longer available.
- Across Canada, 6 courses is the standard minimum to obtain a Therapeutic Recreation degree.
- Language admitting vs starting. To determine based on language used on the official transcript?
- Discussion? none beyond question period

15.0 Announcements

15.1 Thank you, Symposium Team! *Chair:* Alix Norum; *Symposium Producer:* Charlotte Jordan; and the whole team!

15.2 Save the Date: ATRA Symposium 2026, October 22- 23, 2026! In person in Lethbridge, AB and virtually.

15.3 Looking for volunteers- email: symposium-producer@alberta-tr.ca

15.4 Watch for Members Survey: as we begin to refresh our strategic plan

16.0 Meeting Adjourned: Glenn Skimming motions to adjourn the Annual General Meeting at time 9:07am.

Message from the Outgoing President

First of all, I want to thank the ATRA board for their guidance this past year. I came in as ATRA's new President knowing that I had big shoes to fill and I am ending my term as President of the ATRA's Board of Directors this October. I want to express my deep appreciation and honour for the opportunity to serve our incredible profession in this way. It has been my privilege to work with such a talented group of individuals who have worked together for ATRA members across Alberta. Let me remind you that the board of directors are volunteers and I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to each member of the Board of Directors for what you have shown as board members—you're passion for TR in Alberta, your courage and willingness to advocate for TR and for being able and willing to share your thoughts openly and willingly as ATRA board members. And finally, your unwavering commitment and willingness to serve our association.

The role of President provides overall guidance and support to the Board and Executive Director, as well as working towards our strategic priorities in regulation and research. As a Board, we remained steadfast in our commitment to ensuring ATRA remains a strong and sustainable organization. I am impressed how ATRA Board members were willing to work together and address the issues we faced as a Provincial Board. There was open communication at board meetings, discussions on how we could better serve ATRA members and willingness to gather and share information with ATRA members. Board members took their portfolios to heart and collectively worked for our members. As we continued to offer professional development opportunities for members and seeing them taking advantage of those opportunities were of great benefit for ATRA Members. The education opportunities mentioned will continue to engage ATRA members and will continue to provide CEU opportunities for ATRA members. Finally, the bursary program allows members to grow and advance the practice of TR across Alberta.

Global Public Affairs has advised ATRA since October 2024. Their support has helped raise ATRA's profile with Government of Alberta officials and strengthen our engagement with government. I would also like to thank GPA for attending a board meeting this past year and outlining how board members can help advance our application under Alberta's Health Professions Act. It is important that all ATRA members take time to understand what regulation means for our profession and for the clients we serve. Please continue these conversations with colleagues and connect with fellow members to explore how we can support this goal. We must stay focused on the long term by building relationships and advocating for our profession with integrity and persistence. In early July, ATRA board members will be in Calgary to meet with government officials regarding our application. I look forward to seeing this engagement continue and our application progress further in the coming year.

Across all our initiatives, the Board continues to consider what matters most to our members: pursuing professional regulation, providing meaningful and relevant continuing competence programming, and advancing TR research. At the same time, we never lose sight of our responsibility to be excellent stewards of your membership dollars. I am proud of the value we offer in terms of benefits, services, and professional learning opportunities.

None of our progress would be possible without the leadership of our Executive Director, Amanda Ervin. I learned a great deal this past year. She has the best needs of ATRA at heart. She thinks two steps ahead of where we should be and leads from the front. Amanda is so supportive of ATRA board members and is so committed to Recreation Therapy in Alberta. It is my belief that the work she has done with GPA and shared with our ATRA board members will lead us to Regulation.

I would also like you to give a heartfelt welcome to our incoming board members. Their terms will be full of learning innovative ideas, supporting ATRA Members and developing processes that will help ATRA continue to grow as a leader in Therapeutic Recreation in Canada. I would also like to ask you all to thank our outgoing board members as I learned so much from them during my short stint as ATRA President. They were willing to share their thoughts and ideas during ATRA board meetings and were so incredibly supportive of ATRA members.

As always, remember this is your association. Get involved. Volunteer. Lend your voice and your energy to the work ahead. Thank you all for supporting ATRA and never stop learning.



*With Respect,
Glenn Skimming, Outgoing President ATRA*

Message from the Executive Director

Dear ATRA Members,

As I reflect on another year with the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association, I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and excited about where our profession is headed.

This past year has been one of continued growth, advocacy, and connection for ATRA. We have worked to strengthen the voice and visibility of recreation therapy across Alberta, build relationships within the broader allied health community, and ensure our profession is represented in important conversations about the future of health care. We have also continued our work toward regulation, professional recognition, and greater understanding of the unique contributions recreation therapists make across health care, community, and social service settings.

At the same time, we have continued to strengthen ATRA as an organization. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we have reviewed and updated policies and practices, expanded opportunities for professional development and member engagement, and continued to look closely at how ATRA can best support our members and advance the profession.

This year has also reinforced for me how much leadership requires continued learning. My experiences as a student, educator, recreation therapy professional, and leader have given me opportunities to see our profession through different lenses. They have challenged me to remain curious, to listen carefully, and to recognize that strengthening a profession requires us to continually examine where we have been, where we are now, and where we want to go. These lessons continue to shape how I approach my role with ATRA and the responsibility I feel to represent and serve our members well.

This year also marks an important milestone: ATRA's 40th Annual Symposium. For four decades, ATRA has brought recreation therapy professionals together to learn, connect, share knowledge, and strengthen our profession. This anniversary gives us an opportunity not only to celebrate how far we have come, but also to recognize the people who have helped build our profession and consider what we want its future to look like.

None of this work happens without our members. Your commitment to recreation therapy, your engagement with ATRA, and the work you do every day continue to move our profession forward. I am also deeply grateful to the ATRA Board of Directors and wonderful staff for the time, leadership, and thoughtful decision-making they bring to the Association.



As we enter another year together, there is still important work ahead of us. I am excited about the opportunities before ATRA and remain committed to ensuring our Association continues to evolve alongside our members and our profession.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your Executive Director. I remain grateful for the trust you place in me and look forward to another year of learning, growing, and working alongside you to strengthen ATRA and advance recreation therapy across Alberta.

*Amanda Ervin, MSc, CTRS, PhD Student
Executive Director, ATRA*

Investing in Progress – An Overview of ATRA’s Contract Staff

ATRA’s 2025–2030 Strategic Plan outlines a clear commitment to building operational excellence through strong governance, sound business management, and strategic investments in professional expertise. In alignment with this vision, ATRA continues to engage specialized contract staff who bring targeted skills and knowledge to ensure our Association operates efficiently, effectively, and with long-term sustainability in mind.

Executive Director – Amanda Ervin

Amanda leads ATRA’s day-to-day operations and supports the achievement of strategic goals through leadership in government relations, contract oversight, communications, and website content management. Amanda ensures alignment across all activities while maintaining focus on regulation and sector advancement.

Finance – Accountant & Bookkeeper

As a not-for-profit organization, ATRA must uphold strict financial accountability. Our contract accountant and bookkeeper ensures we meet all Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Alberta Societies Act requirements. This includes seamless tracking of our financial activities, monthly reconciliation, quarterly reviews, and preparation of our annual financial statements aligned with our approved budget and financial strategy.

Webinar Producer – Amy McAleese

Amy plays a key role in supporting our professional development programming. As Webinar Technical Producer, she ensures ATRA webinars and virtual events run smoothly. Her support allows our teams to focus on curating timely, relevant content for our members. She also supports our annual Symposium, providing vital technical leadership for ATRA’s largest professional event.

Symposium Producer – Charlotte Jordan

Charlotte brings years of event planning expertise to her role as ATRA’s Symposium Production Consultant. Her support in guiding and mentoring the Symposium Planning Committee has been instrumental in enhancing the overall quality, professionalism, and success of the event year after year.

Government Relations – Global Public Affairs

Advancing regulation is a complex, multi-year endeavor that requires strategic political insight. Global Public Affairs provides expert navigation of Alberta’s political landscape, offering advocacy, strategic planning, and direct support to the ATRA Regulation Committee. Their partnership continues to be a catalyst in moving our regulation efforts forward.

Web & IT Support – TombMedia

TombMedia provides crucial backend and member-facing support through TombMedia. They manage our web server, security, backups, and platform maintenance. Their responsiveness and dedication help maintain smooth operations and a high standard of digital service for our members and the public.

As ATRA continues to grow and evolve, these dedicated professionals remain an essential part of our success. Their expertise allows us to focus on what matters most, advancing the field of therapeutic recreation and serving our members with excellence.

Amanda Ervin
Executive Director, ATRA

Meet Your Incoming Directors

On behalf of the ATRA Board of Directors, we are so pleased to welcome our Incoming Directors Kim Dizak, President, Samara McIntosh, Vice President, Suzanne Parker, Treasurer and Aimee Douzeich, Education Director to the ATRA Board of Directors. We are very excited to have retained Vanessa Irvine, Secretary, for a second term.

Each Director will officially take on their new position after the ATRA Annual General Meeting in October. We welcome our newest Directors and look forward to working with each of you in the time ahead! We are pleased to present our new Directors in their own words below.

Incoming President: KIM DIZAK

I am honored to step into my first term as the Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association's incoming President. I previously served as the Vice President for one year, the Symposium Committees in 2019 and 2023, as well as a Presenter at the Symposium in 2024. It has been a privilege to watch the organization continue to grow and flourish. These leadership opportunities have complemented my professional career, which spans more than two decades in recreation therapy and community health settings.

I currently work as a Recreation Educator supporting rural recreation initiatives throughout Alberta. I am also the owner of two businesses: Kits with Kim: A Reminiscing Experience and the Canadian Recreational Services Directory. I have worked with seniors since I was 14 years old and continue to find great joy and purpose in supporting older adults and enhancing quality of life through meaningful recreation.

Outside of work, I volunteer with the Leduc West Antique Society and hope to further develop the property into a safe and engaging outing space for seniors in memory care, helping evoke meaningful memories and connections to the past.

At home, my three boys keep life exciting with hockey, inline skating, endless laundry, and plenty of cooking adventures!

I am now beginning a new chapter in my contributions for ATRA as the Incoming President. As I begin this new term, I look forward to continuing to collaborate with ATRA members, advocate for our profession, and support the exceptional recreation therapists do across the province.



Incoming Vice President: SAMARA MCINTOSH

Sam got into recreation after her best friend, who was a nursing student at the time, told her about the benefits of providing recreation and leisure to older adults. Since that day a handful of years ago, Sam has fixated on leisure as recreation as one of her most prominent values. Sam graduated from the University of Lethbridge with Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation in the spring of 2020 and has been working as a recreation therapist ever since. Sam has worked with multiple different populations such as older adults, including individuals with dementia, in physical rehab, and currently, with those who are working to recover from substance use disorders. Mental health and addiction is where Sam found her calling, and currently works at Lander Treatment Centre in Claresholm, AB. In 2021, Sam returned to the University of Lethbridge for graduate studies. After initially pursuing a Master of Science degree, she transitioned to the Master of Health Services Management program and earned her MHSM in 2025.

In her free time, Sam enjoys being outdoors participating in activities such as walking, hiking, paddleboarding, snowshoeing, birdwatching, and drinking a crisp Diet Coke on a hot day. When indoors, she enjoys reading, cross-stitching, and crafting in general. Sam also enjoys travelling (both indoors and outdoors) and spending time with friends and family.

Sam is excited for professional opportunities in the future that will include management and continued advocacy for recreation therapy, especially within substance use disorder recovery. Sam has volunteered with ATRA in several leadership roles, including South Zone Chapter Chair, Co-Chair of the 2022 ATRA Symposium, and currently as a member of the Regulation Committee. Sam is excited to embark on this journey as the Vice President, and can't wait to see what the future has in store!



Incoming Education Director: AIMEE DOUZIECH

Aimee is a proud alumnus of Lethbridge Polytechnic College and the University of Lethbridge (U of L) where she completed her undergraduate degree in Therapeutic Recreation. Shortly thereafter she became a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS). In 2021 Aimee also completed her Masters degree at the University of Lethbridge with Dr. Sienna Caspar where she explored the concept of home in rural Alberta LTC settings. She worked for several years as a Recreation Therapist primarily in geriatric and mental health settings, largely under the umbrella of Long-Term Care (LTC). Currently, Aimee is an instructor in the Bachelor of Therapeutic Recreation degree program at the U of L. Her why for being in this profession is largely rooted in connection and relationships. She feels strongly that meaningful recreation can build connection within oneself and in communities, allowing us to bridge to one another and to deeper parts of ourselves.

Outside of her professional pursuits, much of Aimee's joy and sense of meaning comes from quality time with loved ones. Being creative with her nieces and nephews is a favourite, as well as bike rides and leisurely walks with her partner, exploring new places and going on various adventures with close friends, and any moment she gets to share with loved ones at her parents' rural Alberta grain farm. alongside my esteemed colleagues.



Incoming Treasurer: SUZANNE PARKER

Suzanne Parker has been a professional member of ATRA for more than a decade and brings extensive experience in therapeutic recreation across a variety of practice settings. Most recently, Suzanne has worked in acute mental health care with Covenant Health.

In addition to her recreation therapy experience, Suzanne brings strong financial, organizational, and administrative skills to the ATRA Board. Her previous experience includes cash auditing and revenue reconciliation roles, as well as developing a money management system for an Alberta Health Services care program to strengthen the security and oversight of patient funds.

Suzanne is pleased to contribute her experience and leadership to ATRA as Treasurer and looks forward to supporting the Board in its continued work to strengthen the Association and advance the therapeutic recreation profession in Alberta.



Board of Directors Reports

Grant Program Director

ATRA Bursaries & Grants

The Grant Program Director oversees the portfolio of many bursaries and grants that ATRA offers to professional, supporting and student members; ATRA Symposium Bursary, Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant, Entry to Practice Bursary, Professional Development Bursary (formerly the Allied Health Bursary) and the Advanced Education Bursary.

The Grant Program Director also oversees the Bursary Review Committee which is a small group of three ATRA members who volunteer their time and are responsible for conducting blind application reviews and awarding the Advanced Education bursary, Entry to Practice Bursary and the Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant. Review committees are not necessary for the Symposium/Conference Bursaries and the Economic Hardship Fee Waiver and therefore those who apply and meet the specified criteria at time of application are awarded.

In situations where more members apply than fees are available for, WheelofNames is used to select the recipients to allow for the selection process to be as fair and unbiased as possible. Applicants for these bursaries are invited to apply online during the application window established for each bursary. Full details on the ATRA bursaries can be found in the Member Services section of the ATRA website.

Advanced Education Bursary

Many ATRA members pursue advanced education programs or credentials through a licensing body or other institution to enhance their professional competencies. As part of a larger goal to provide optimal service and care to all Albertans, ATRA is committed to supporting professional development and growth, and supporting members in their pursuit of furthering their knowledge and skills. In 2025 ATRA was proud to fund eleven (11) members to pursue advanced education endeavours. Professional members are invited to apply online between September 1 and September 25 of each year.

Entry to Practice Bursary

The Grant Program Director portfolio acquired this bursary from the Education Director portfolio at the end of 2024. ATRA supports student members in the pursuit of therapeutic recreation education for the purpose of becoming a Professional Member of ATRA. ATRA has the ability to award up to twelve (12) \$500.00 awards to those who meet the bursary criteria. In 2025 ATRA was able to fund nine (9) ATRA members who were entering the field of Therapeutic Recreation.

The aim of this bursary is to provide financial assistance to part time or full-time students pursuing a Diploma or Degree in Alberta that are eligible for ATRA Professional Membership. The bursary is intended to increase awareness of Therapeutic Recreation as a profession to students and educators.

Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant

In 2026, there were twelve (12) applications to the Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant requesting funding to support various therapeutic recreation programming initiatives. In 2026, ATRA was able to fund eight (8) \$1000.00 grants.

ATRA values the efforts of our members as they endeavor to improve the quality of life for the individuals within the communities they serve in their professional roles and will continue to offer the Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant to our membership. Interested and eligible Professional members of ATRA are invited to apply online during the month of February. This grant application window is intentionally aligned with Therapeutic Recreation Month as another way to honour Darlene and the work she did for ATRA and the clients she served.

ATRA Symposium Bursary

ATRA distributes the ATRA Symposium Bursary at the provincial level due to the dissolution of chapters in 2023. ATRA values professional development and supports members in the pursuit of continuing competence. ATRA professional and student members are eligible to apply to the ATRA Symposium bursary. For the 2026 symposium, ATRA was able to support up to twelve (12) professional members, five (5) student members for a budgeted amount of \$5000.00. In situations where more members apply than fees are available for, WheelOfNames is used to select the recipients to allow for the selection process to be as fair and unbiased as possible.

Professional Development Bursary Program

ATRA supports members in pursuing professional development and continuing competence through two funding pathways:

Pathway A – Allied Health Conference Bursary

Provides funding to support attendance at eligible conferences and large-scale professional learning events relevant to Therapeutic Recreation and allied health practice.

Pathway B – Certificate Producing Workshop Funding

Provides funding to support eligible workshops, certificate programs, and continuing education opportunities that contribute to continuing competence and CEU attainment.

Applications are accepted throughout the year, with funding distributed in May and November.



Remember! Check your monthly e-blasts and ATRA Social Media pages to stay up to date and informed about all the grants and bursaries ATRA has to offer to our membership. Questions? Please email grantdirector@alberta-tr.ca

-Hailey Kanak, Grant Program Director, 2nd Term

Continuing Competence Director

Provincial Webinars

The Continuing Competence program offered six provincial webinars between September 2025 to May 2026. ATRA members were pre-registered for the ATRA webinars through Zoom. All webinars received NCTRC pre-approval for continuing education units and they were well attended, with over 100 ATRA members attending several of the sessions.

We continued to use the system of members self-generating their attendance certificates using start and end codes, contributing to quick and easy access to certificates that can be used for evidence of participation in professional development.

For more information, please refer to the Webinar Technical Consultant's summary for Provincial Education on page 35.

Knowledge Centre

Upcoming webinars and education sessions are listed in the ATRA Knowledge Centre, including registration information. The ATRA Knowledge Centre contains recordings of all previous webinars, which members can watch on their own time. If members view a recorded session, they can complete an easy-to-use Google form to generate a proof of completion certificate.

Remember to update your CEU reporting form to keep track of your professional growth and development, and save your certificates to personal storage!

Certificate Producing Workshop

This year, ATRA allowed members to select a workshop of their choosing to apply workshop funding toward. Chosen workshops included the Four Seasons of Indigenous Learning and Somatic Embodiment and Regulation Strategies. Funds were distributed on a first come, first served basis, with communication about the opportunity going out in our e-blasts and social media posts – please keep your eyes out for an upcoming Professional Development bursary!



If you have any questions, please contact the Competence Director:
competencedirector@alberta-tr.ca

-Maegan Ciesielski, Competence Director, 2nd Term

Communication Director

It is the responsibility of the Communication Director (CD) to manage ATRA's communication needs. A monthly Eblast is prepared and sent out to members, as well as other email campaigns created to support events which are time-sensitive in nature, such as membership renewal, or symposium promotional e-blasts. The CD is also responsible for managing ATRA's social media accounts (Facebook & Instagram). The CD uses social media to share new information, and reinforce the messages sent in the Eblasts, such as Webinars, membership renewal, ATRA awards, and Board of Directors Elections, just to name a few! The CD must be familiar and support the Association's compliance with the Personal Information Protection Act (PIPA). The CD liaises with pre-established and potential partners for advertising and promotional content, and represents ATRA

ATRA Board Information Dissemination

The Communication Director facilitates online resource sharing among ATRA Board and Committee members. Each director or committee chair works to create their own written content, and the CD prepares and communicates the information on the most appropriate platform.

Marketing and Promotion

ATRA has recently moved to a partnership-first model for marketing and promotion with the following objectives:

- Maintain the professional integrity of our primary communication channel (Eblasts)
- Ensure high-value content for our membership
- Establish a sustainable, reciprocal framework for external partnerships.

By shifting to a partnership-first model, we ensure that every square inch of our Eblast serves the strategic goals of the Association and the needs of ATRA members. We believe that by adopting this approach, we are negotiating for increased benefits for members from excellent and relevant partnerships



Communication Platforms

ATRA continues to use Constant Contact as our provider for emails to our members including important ATRA announcements, educational opportunities, and resources. In 2026, significant efforts have been made to increase the use social media platforms to promote the incredible work ATRA members are doing across Alberta every day, as well as the profession itself. The CD uses social media to promote awareness about contemporary issues impacting the TR profession, advocacy and awareness for disability and health-related issues, as well as celebrating notable days for our members and service users.

- *Communication Director, Jenna Stanley*

Education Director

As Education Director, I am pleased to present a summary of key initiatives and accomplishments over the past year. Efforts have focused on advancing student engagement, strengthening relationships with post-secondary institutions, supporting membership processes, and contributing to policy development and organizational alignment.

Student Engagement

Student engagement initiatives have continued to evolve. Two annual student e-blasts were distributed to inform and connect students with relevant opportunities, resources, and updates within the profession. Presentations were delivered to classes at the University of Lethbridge and NorQuest College, providing students with an overview of therapeutic recreation as a profession and of the association's role. Free student memberships remained available to students enrolled in approved Alberta programs. In addition, eligibility was expanded to include out-of-province students enrolled in recognized therapeutic recreation programs, who may now obtain membership for \$50.00. An information sheet was created to guide students through the application process and minimize errors.

Post-Secondary Institution Relations

Strong relationships with post-secondary institutions (PSIs) have been maintained and further developed. Two educator meetings were held in November and May, bringing together representatives from the three PSIs to discuss emerging trends, shared challenges, and opportunities in therapeutic recreation education. These meetings were well attended by faculty and continue to support collaboration across programs. I continue to be impressed by the quality of teaching and learning in Alberta's approved recreation therapy programs.

Membership Contributions

In this role, I actively contributed to the Membership Review Committee (MRC) by attending monthly meetings. Membership applications reviewed by the MRC frequently originate from out-of-province applicants, and we are seeing more complexity in evaluating recreation therapy programs from across



Canada. The streamlined process established for graduates of approved Alberta programs continues to be handled by the application coordinator.

Policy Development

I collaborated with the Executive Director to review and revise membership policies, ensuring alignment with current practices and organizational priorities. Throughout the year, I also responded to numerous individual membership inquiries, providing guidance and clarity to both new applicants and renewing members. Additionally, I supported efforts to ensure that education-related information on the association's website remains accurate, up to date, and accessible. As an outgoing director, I also worked to ensure all documents needed by the incoming director were updated to ensure a smooth transition.

It has been a pleasure to serve in this role over the past two years. Thank you to all those who provided support, especially other members of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully submitted,

Rena Walker MEd., PhD(c), Outgoing Education Director

Treasurer's Report

Overview of ATRA's Strategic Plans regarding Fiscal Management:

ATRA remains committed to sound financial management practices that support organizational stability and flexibility while advancing our strategic priorities and member services.

Financial oversight is led by the Treasurer, with support from the Executive Director and President. These ATRA Board members play an essential role in maintaining accountability and transparency and ensuring that financial decisions align with ATRA's strategic direction. Quarterly financial reviews are conducted to support the accuracy and transparency of ATRA's ledger and bookkeeping practices.

ATRA also engages a professional accountant and bookkeeper to address emerging financial matters and support the integrity of the Association's ongoing financial operations.

Throughout the June 2025–May 2026 fiscal year, ATRA continued to demonstrate financial strength and resilience across all areas.

Please refer to the financial statements for the 2025–2026 fiscal year on pages 23-27



-Lisa Monikowski, Outgoing Treasurer

Financial Statements 2025 – 2026

Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2026

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
GIC	0.00
Paypal Account Balance	1,446.29
Provincial Account - RBC **1914	275,477.84
Symposium - RBC **7219	83,126.46
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$360,050.59
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable	0.00
Interest Receivable	11,000.00
Other Receivables	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$11,000.00
Prepaid expenses	300.00
Total for Current Assets	\$371,350.59
Non-current Assets	
GIC Association Reserve Fund (restricted)	20,000.00
GIC College Reserve Fund (restricted)	550,000.00
GIC Professional Development Reserve Fund (unrestricted)	20,000.00
Total for Non-current Assets	\$590,000.00
Total for Assets	\$961,350.59
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable	545.81
Total for Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$545.81
Credit Cards	
RBC Visa - **0237	73.50
RBC Visa#9573	0.00
Total for Credit Cards	\$73.50
GST/HST Payable	-4,500.00
GST/HST Suspense	4,052.80
Total for Current Liabilities	\$172.11
Total for Liabilities	\$172.11
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Prior Period Adjustment - RE	30,068.50
Retained Earnings	900,572.25
Profit for the year	30,537.73
Total for Equity	\$961,178.48
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$961,350.59

Monday, August 24, 2026 05:00 PM GMT-06:00

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Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

Balance Sheet
As of May 31, 2026

	TOTAL	
	As of May 31, 2026	As of May 31, 2025 (PY)
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalent		
GIC	0.00	
Paypal Account Balance	1,446.29	1,446.29
Provincial Account - RBC **1914	275,477.84	287,113.23
Symposium - RBC **7219	83,126.46	51,380.09
Total for Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$360,050.59	\$339,939.61
Accounts Receivable (A/R)		
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00
Interest Receivable	11,000.00	14,730.00
Other Receivables	0.00	0.00
Total for Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$11,000.00	\$14,730.00
Prepaid expenses	300.00	
Total for Current Assets	\$371,350.59	\$354,669.61
Non-current Assets		
GIC Association Reserve Fund (restricted)	20,000.00	20,000.00
GIC College Reserve Fund (restricted)	550,000.00	550,000.00
GIC Professional Development Reserve Fund (unrestricted)	20,000.00	20,000.00
Total for Non-current Assets	\$590,000.00	\$590,000.00
Total for Assets	\$961,350.59	\$944,669.61
Liabilities and Equity		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable (A/P)		
Accounts Payable	545.81	9,528.75
Total for Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$545.81	\$9,528.75
Credit Cards		
RBC Visa - **0237	73.50	0.00
RBC Visa#9573	0.00	
Total for Credit Cards	\$73.50	\$0.00
GST/HST Payable	-4,500.00	4,500.11
GST/HST Suspense	4,052.80	
Total for Current Liabilities	\$172.11	\$14,028.86
Total for Liabilities	\$172.11	\$14,028.86
Equity		
Opening Balance Equity	0.00	0.00
Prior Period Adjustment - RE	30,068.50	30,068.50
Retained Earnings	900,572.25	884,557.19
Profit for the year	30,537.73	16,015.06
Total for Equity	\$961,178.48	\$930,640.75
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$961,350.59	\$944,669.61

Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

Profit and Loss
June, 2025-May, 2026

	Total
Income	
Membership Fees	229,604.72
Symposium **7219 Income	50,346.48
Total for Income	\$279,951.20
Gross Profit	\$279,951.20
Expenses	
Bank Charges - all other	10,193.47
Contractual Agreements	184,424.52
Donations	250.00
Education Expense	300.56
Insurance	3,574.00
Legal and professional fees	3,586.74
Meetups	500.00
Office expenses	7,630.86
Scholarships, Bursaries & Awards, TR Month	30,277.78
Speaker Fee	2,652.98
Symposium **7219 Expenses	
Bank charges	58.50
Symposium - Operational & Admin Contracts (People)	10,970.00
Total for Symposium **7219 Expenses	\$11,028.50
Symposium Expenses	6,078.31
Taxes and Licenses	85.00
Travel	83.62
Visa/MC/Debit fees	0.00
Total for Expenses	\$260,666.34
Other Income	
GIC Interest	11,252.87
Total for Other Income	\$11,252.87
PROFIT	\$30,537.73

Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)

Profit and Loss
June, 2025-May, 2026

	TOTAL	
	Jun. 1 2025 - May 31 2026	Jun. 1 2024 - May 31 2025 (PY)
Income		
Donation Income		1,500.00
Membership Fees	229,604.72	230,819.41
Social Events		435.00
Symposium **7219 Income	50,346.48	88,802.87
Total for Income	\$279,951.20	\$321,557.28
Gross Profit	\$279,951.20	\$321,557.28
Expenses		
Advertising		2,125.87
Bank Charges - all other	10,193.47	9,105.12
Board Liability Insurance		1,945.00
Board/Staff Travel & Other Expenses		7,531.61
Contractual Agreements	184,424.52	176,232.03
CTRA Joint Fee Disbursement		3,024.00
Donations	250.00	
Education Expense	300.56	2,121.40
Insurance	3,574.00	
Legal and professional fees	3,586.74	2,250.00
Meals and entertainment		216.53
Meetups	500.00	3,481.96
Office expenses	7,630.86	7,906.02
Penalties and Interest - CRA		201.62
Professional Development		2,900.00
Scholarships, Bursaries & Awards, TR Month	30,277.78	42,166.79
Speaker Fee	2,652.98	1,100.00
Symposium **3865 Expenses		
Bank Charges/Fees		15.00
Total for Symposium **3865 Expenses		\$15.00
Symposium **7219 Expenses		
Bank charges	58.50	43.05
Symposium - Operational & Admin Contracts (People)	10,970.00	11,145.87
Total for Symposium **7219 Expenses	\$11,028.50	\$11,188.92
Symposium Expenses	6,078.31	52,098.16
Taxes and Licenses	85.00	
Travel	83.62	
Visa/MC/Debit fees	0.00	
Total for Expenses	\$260,666.34	\$325,610.03
Other Income		
GIC Interest	11,252.87	19,730.00
Interest earned		157.81
Other Income		180.00
Total for Other Income	\$11,252.87	\$20,067.81
PROFIT	\$30,537.73	\$16,015.06

Financial Review Opinion 2025– 2026

Financial Review Opinion: 2025- 2026

To: ATRA Membership

From: Preferred Client Services
2327 Ellwood Dr SW,
Edmonton, AB T6X 0J6

Re: ATRA Financial Opinion June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026

As per ATRA Bylaws; Article 13: Financial and Other Information

13.02 Audit of Accounts: The Association shall prepare an Annual Audit for presentation to the membership and to the Registrar of Companies. Auditors for the ensuing year may be qualified auditors as hired by the Executive or two professional members appointed by the Board.

In accordance with Alberta Societies Act and ATRA Bylaws:

The Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association's qualified companies as hired by the ATRA Board of Directors completed the financial reconciliation of records on Date(s):

- DATE- June 30, 2026- RBC Chequing account 1914
- DATE- June 30, 2026- RBC Chequing account 7219
- DATE- June 29, 2026 – RBC Credit Card 0237
- DATE- June 03, 2026 – RBC Credit Card 9573

And completed the associations taxes and GST filing for the fiscal year ending May 31, 2026

Financial Year End was completed by:

Barbara Steckly, Bookkeeper:

Signed: _____

Date: _____ *Aug 31, 2026.*

Objective-

1. The objective of a financial review is for professionals outside of the association to express an opinion on the truth and fairness of financial statements.
2. ATRA is responsible for the preparation of financial statements that are presented to the membership at the Annual General Meeting.
3. ATRA members rely on external verification by objective professionals in order to gain reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatements and can therefore be relied upon to present a true and fair view of the financial affairs of ATRA.

Committee & Project Reports

Regulation Committee Report

Committee members

The Committee oriented three new members: Samara McIntosh, Erin Turnell and Rachelle Forester

Continuing members: Charlotte Jordan, Clara Lund

Board representation: ATRA President, Glenn Skimming

Executive Director: Amanda Ervin

Terms of Reference: revised and accepted in November 2025

Government Relations (Global Public Affairs)

Global Public Affairs (GPA) provides expert navigation of Alberta's political landscape, offering advocacy, strategic planning, and direct support to the ATRA Regulation Committee. Their partnership continues to be a catalyst in moving our regulation efforts forward.

Engagement with government

Introductory connections made through Calgary Stampede events in July 2025 led to a Fall and Winter of valuable meetings and regulation conversations with government committees, representatives and future advocates for regulation.

Ongoing contact occurred with government ministers for Assisted Living and Social Services, Primary and Preventative Health and Parliamentary Secretary for Health Workforce Engagement. A new contact and meeting occurred with the Executive Director, Regulatory Compliance and Data Stewardship Branch to highlight the role of recreation therapists in the mental health and addiction workforce.

-Respectfully submitted by co-chairs, Kari Medd & Jane Papenhuyzen

Symposium Committee Report

This year, as we celebrate ATRA's 40th Symposium in beautiful Lethbridge, Alberta, we take the time to reflect not only on last year's successes but the contributions and impacts of all Symposiums over the years. I look back with gratitude and appreciation for each committee volunteer, Symposium Chair and ATRA Board of Directors and Staff over the years and how they all played an integral role in bringing us to this momentous occasion! The enthusiasm, feedback and active engagement from the delegates allows us to bring this event further each year.

This year's theme, "Bridging the Years: Honouring Past Achievements and Guiding the Profession Toward New Possibilities," invites us to reflect on how far we have come, consider where we are headed, and imagine the future of ATRA.

Throughout the Symposium, delegates will have opportunities to:

- honour the achievements that have shaped recreation therapy in Alberta;
- explore new possibilities for the profession;
- strengthen practice through meaningful educational experiences; and
- continue improving outcomes for the people and communities we serve.

This year's workshop will be presented by the esteemed Dr. Colleen Hood and is titled "Strengthening the Focus on Client Change in Therapeutic Recreation: Facilitation Strategies to Increase Well-Being." This session will offer delegates across all communities of practice practical insights they can bring back to their work and share within their professional settings.

This year's committee has been a group of remarkable ATRA members from across the province. The committee has been led by this year's Meeting Leaders, Ashley McConnell and Robin Ostrander. Ashley & Robin have stepped into this role with confidence and a passion for volunteerism and giving back to our profession. Alongside our dedicated and enthusiastic leaders, we have our committed and innovative committee consisting of the following volunteers: Susan Greer, Rebecca Wiens, Andrea Capowski, Stephanie Pointon, Kayleen Douglas, Rose Isaac and Jay Trncik. Please join me in expressing thanks to this group, without their hard work and time we would not be able to host this event – THANK YOU!

This hardworking committee has worked tirelessly over the year to bring you a two-day hybrid event focusing on learning, self-reflection and growth. The educational aspect is always a highlight, networking and social opportunities have been curated by the committee to allow an opportunity to connect with, as well as bringing you many exhibitors across the recreation therapy world to allow you to discover more resources to bring to your practice.

The 2026 Symposium will offer a total of 11.5 hours of educational content to allow all delegates the opportunity to reflect on where ATRA has been and where it is going over all these years of ATRA Symposiums.

Please allow me the opportunity to once again thank the dynamic 2026 Symposium Meeting Leaders and Committee as well as the ATRA Board of Directors, the Executive Director, Amanda Ervin and the Webinar Technical Producer Amy McAleese who all play vital roles in the creation and implementation of the Annual ATRA Symposium.

Finally, I am pleased to share that the 2027 ATRA Symposium will be a virtual event with the opportunity for practitioners, educators and students alike to come together and share their knowledge and contributions to the profession through a breakout session format. Start thinking about your presentations now and be ready for the call in early 2027! Can't wait to see you there!

With gratitude,

Charlotte Jordan ATRA Symposium Producer

symposium-producer@alberta-tr.ca



**HONOURING PAST ACHIEVEMENTS &
GUIDING THE PROFESSION TOWARD
NEW POSSIBILITIES**

Membership Review Committee

The Committee meets monthly throughout the year. The Membership Review Committee was formed in April 2008 to respond to the need for an objective, fair, committee-based review of all new professional applicants to ATRA in the absence of regulation and consistent education in recreation therapy.

The Committee meets monthly throughout the year.

The Education Director, Rena Walker, provides ATRA Board oversight, assigns the chair and has actively attended meetings this year to support complex applicants and bring Board updates and processes for discussion. Since 2010, I have been assigned in the Committee chair role. Tracey Vigneault and Steph Hellier continue as original committee members since 2008. Kaitlin Wrubell and Aubree McIntyre continued as members in 2025-2026. A big thank you for your ongoing commitment and perspectives!

A big thank you for your ongoing commitment and perspectives!

Due to changes in admin processes and Terms of Reference, new approval statistics are no longer recorded by the Membership Review Committee. I realize long-standing members will sincerely miss my excel spreadsheet summary historically included in this report. The Committee members are happy to reduce to administrative-extra of their “tickies.”

With that said, the Committee activities have shifted to focus on complex, unusual applicants, particularly out-of-province and unknown schools. In the ongoing absence of regulation and consistent education, new or unknown programs continue to pop up across the country. Through committee discussion and curriculum analysis, unusual requests are addressed with objectivity and fairness. As needed, the Committee supports the Continuing Competence Director with complex Return to Practice applicants. With changes to the out-of-province student membership, the Committee will be reviewing these applicants going forward.

- *Respectfully submitted by: Jane Papenhuyzen, Chair*

Awards Committee

ATRA has a robust Awards Program, chaired by the Vice President, and maintains a robust online archive of our award recipients since 1989. ATRA's Awards Committee currently has 4 enthusiastic volunteers from throughout Alberta whose main purpose is to celebrate excellence in the field of Therapeutic Recreation. After presenting the Awards Ceremony last year in person, the Awards Committee is preparing for this year's virtual ATRA Awards Ceremony in October 2024 during which we will celebrate our:

- Professional Award Winners (categories listed below)
- 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 year ATRA Member Anniversaries
- ATRA Members who have recently retired
- ATRA Volunteers

Awards Categories:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

This individual has demonstrated commitment to excellence through the length of their career and has advanced the practice of Therapeutic Recreation.

PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR AWARD

An individual who has made significant contributions to the field of Therapeutic Recreation in the past year.

INNOVATIVE PRACTICE AWARD

An individual who has demonstrated innovative practice or new service in the field of Therapeutic Recreation.

OUTSTANDING PRECEPTOR AWARD

Preceptor in a clinical setting who demonstrates excellence in provision of TR education in their workplace and values the importance of mentoring future professionals. Two awards will be given, one to a college and university level preceptor.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADER AWARD

A student who demonstrates leadership in school and externally, a promise of contribution to the field of Therapeutic Recreation. Two awards will be given, one to a college and university level student.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP AWARD

A community organization or individual that has done something extraordinary to create inclusive opportunities for individuals in a community or has partnered with a TR professional to advance the field.

DIANNE BOWTELL TEAM AWARD

A team that has accomplished extraordinary outcomes and has created inclusive opportunities for their community. The team has made an outstanding contribution to the advancement in the field of Therapeutic Recreation in Alberta.

Feel free to contact our Vice President to learn more about our Awards Program:

vicepresident@alberta-tr.ca

Research Committee

This marks the fourth report from the ATRA Research Committee. Since our last update, we issued one call for research grant applications—February 2026. While this call did not yield any applications, the committee will convene at the end of May 2026 to explore strategies to boost interest in the grant and identify new ways to support ATRA members in their research efforts.

Over the past year, the committee focused on these key initiatives:

- **Research Virtual Intensives:** We hosted a series of three virtual research intensives for ATRA members in early 2025. These NCTRC-pre-approved sessions were well attended, with 37 to 54 participants at each session:
 - *Research Question and Literature Review* (March 2025)
 - *Methods* (April 2025)
 - *Ethics, Timeline, and Budget* (April 2025)
- **TR Month 2026:** We re-shared our 2025 Research Virtual Intensives, as part of national TR Month. This included a live Q & A session for ATRA members, hosted by both committee chairs (Tiffany Morin and Katelyn Scott).
- **Updates to Application:** The co-chairs worked closely with the BOD and Executive Director to update the research grant application process. We also worked with the BOD to provide clarity on the grant application review process. To support this transparency with all ATRA members, the grant application scoring rubric is now available on the ATRA website for all members.
- **NCTRC Research Grant Committee:** The co-chairs are scheduled to meet with the NCTRC Research Committee in May 2026 to learn about successes and challenges experienced by this existing TR grant program.

While the grant was not awarded over this year, our committee remains motivated to support professional ATRA members engagement with research.

Our next call for research grant applications will open in February 2027.

Current: Katelyn Scott (Co-Chair), Tiffany Morin (Co-Chair), Rebecca Ryan (new professional ATRA member, previously student ATRA member), Tiffany Lynn (professional ATRA member), Jenna Stanley (BOD representative), Jay Trncik (student ATRA member), Norquest College representative (position currently vacant), and Lethbridge Polytechnic representative (position currently vacant).

Former: Dr. Shin Kono

CEU Audit Committee

ATRA recently conducted a highly successful Continuing Education Unit (CEU) audit. The audit, designed to ensure members' compliance with educational standards and professional development, demonstrated ATRA's commitment to maintaining high levels of competence within the field of therapeutic recreation. 387 professional members of ATRA finished their three-year CEU cycle in March 2026. Of these 387 members, 335 completed 45 CEUs over the past three years and were considered compliant, and 52 were non-compliant as of April 1, 2026.

After working with the 52 non-compliant members from April 1 to June 1, 2026, only 13 remain non-compliant and are now listed as a Conditional Member within the ATRA website professional verification list. The Continuing Competence Director will continue to work with the remaining members to assist with return to membership in good standing. Four members from the 2022-2025 reporting year also remain as Conditional Members.

Of the 335 compliant members, 26 were randomly selected for an in-depth review of CEU records. Audited members submitted proof of CEUs, including certificates, course descriptions, and proof of attendance, which a dedicated team of volunteers then meticulously evaluated. This comprehensive approach allowed ATRA to gauge the breadth and depth of each member's educational pursuits.

The committee reports that 96% of the 26 audited members (2023-2026 reporting year) were compliant with their CEU audit. The member who did not complete the audit is now listed as a Conditional Member within the ATRA website professional verification list.

This was the fifth year of the new auditing process, and Audit Committee and ATRA professional members alike demonstrated familiarity and responsibility toward the auditing process. ATRA ensured that members were well-informed about the criteria for CEU approval, leaving no room for ambiguity. Clear guidelines and timelines were communicated, and this approach fostered a sense of ownership and empowerment among members, demonstrated by the 96% audit completion rate, as well as the 97% of members who were compliant by June 2026.

Professionals within the ATRA community appreciated the organization's commitment to upholding educational standards and recognized the tangible benefits of staying current with the latest industry developments, as well as repercussions for non-compliance. The benefit of monitoring continued education has an impact beyond individual practitioners, as increased competence within the field increases the quality of care and services provided to clients and patients receiving recreation therapy.

In conclusion, ATRA's successful CEU audit stands as a testament to the organization's dedication to excellence and the importance of continuing education. By implementing a rigorous yet transparent evaluation process, ATRA ensured that its members remained at the forefront of therapeutic recreation practices. This successful audit is one part in contributing to the continued advancement of the therapeutic recreation field, as well as a sense of achievement for individual members. If your renewal period is 2024-2027, your CEU records may be audited in the next cycle. Please watch your email for more information.

Yours sincerely,
The ATRA CEU Audit Committee

Webinar Technical Producer- Provincial Webinars

ATRA has achieved another successful year in hosting webinar education and professional development. Webinars continue to see similar averages in attendance in comparison with the previous educational year. In comparison with 2025, there was a decrease in the number of webinars hosted, however in March 2026, ATRA saw one of the highest attendance records, for “Aquatic Therapy Techniques in Recreation therapy” in months.

Highlighted in the chart below are webinars hosted by ATRA and their attendee reports.

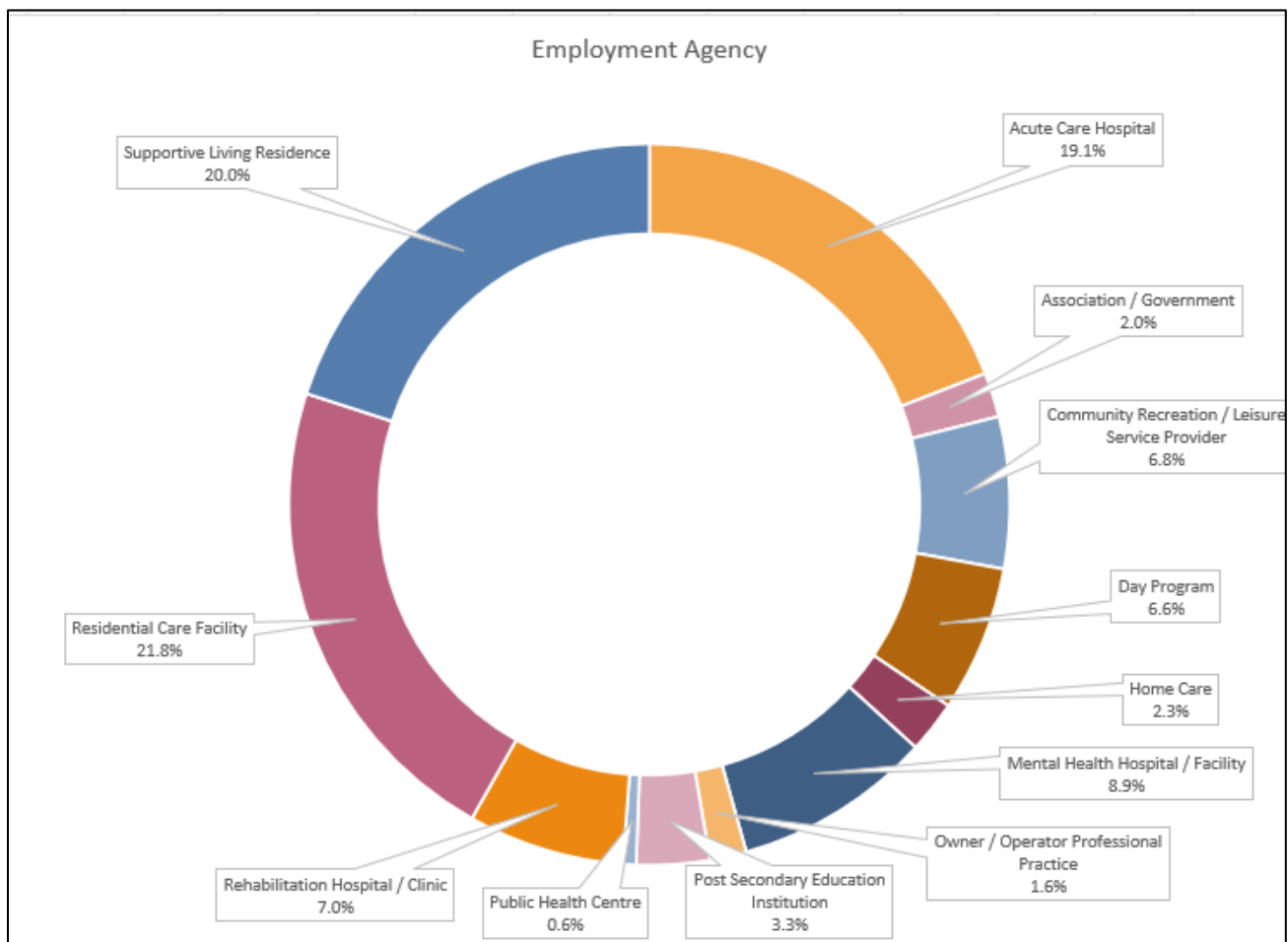
ATRA's continuing competence director is already hard at work planning educational webinars for 2027. Webinar education ideas and feedback is encouraged and welcomed. Please email continuing competence director at competencedirector@alberta-tr.ca if you have any resources or ideas to share for future ATRA webinars.

2026 ATRA WEBINAR REPORT			
Month	Title	Live Attendance	Watched Recording
January 20	Recharge, Reconnect and Restore through Recreation Therapy	86	24
February 5	Echobox Memory Vault	61	21
February 25	Live Q&A - Research Committee	20	10
March 24	Aquatic Therapy Techniques for Recreational Therapists	127	30
May 19	Beyond the Rainbow-Intersectional Inclusion in Therapeutic Recreation	72	0

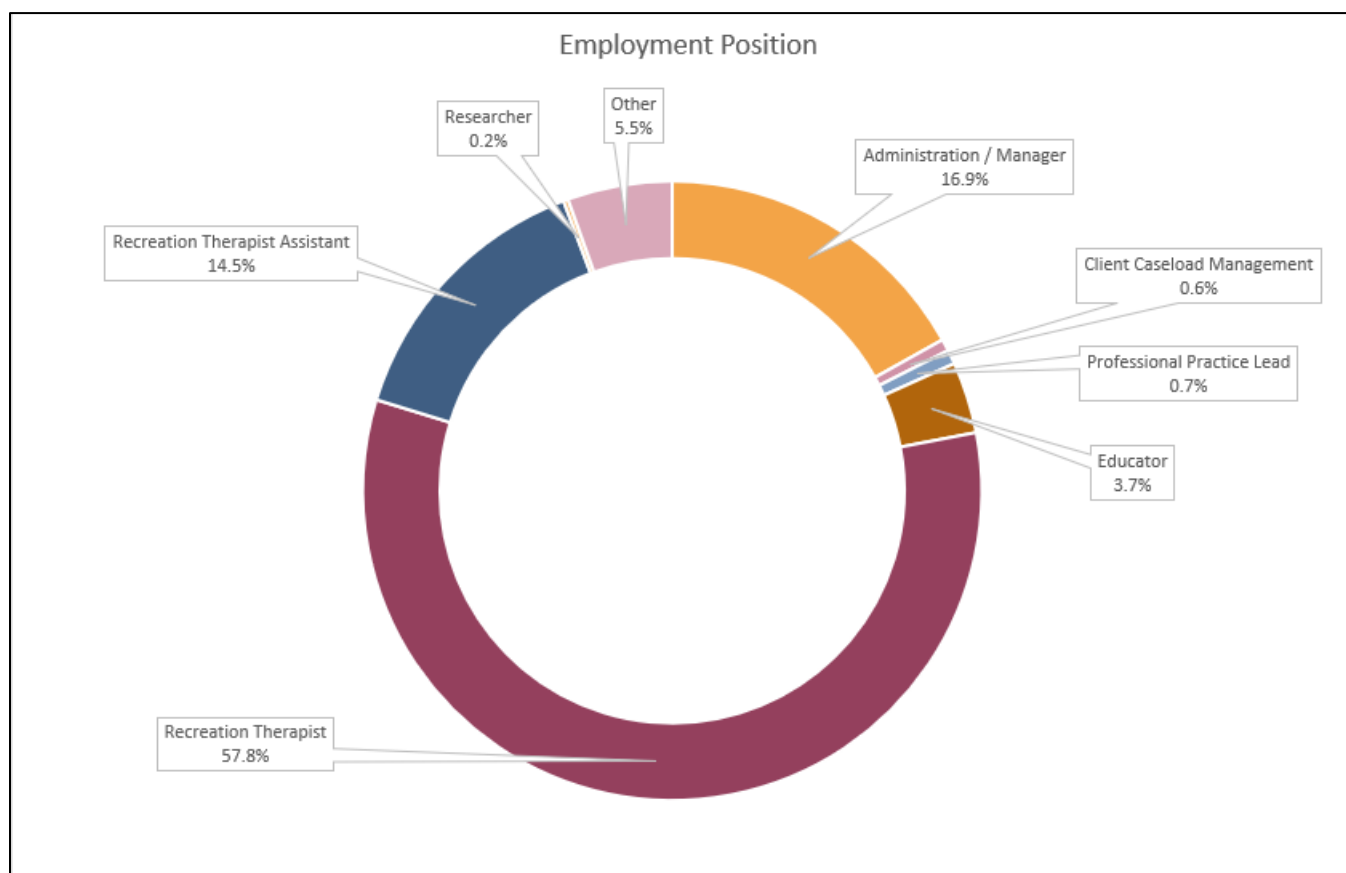
Membership Demographics

Demographics of ATRA's Members 2025-2026

Employment Agency	Percentage	Totals
Acute Care Hospital	19.1%	163
Association / Government	2.0%	17
Community Recreation / Leisure Service Provider	6.8%	58
Day Program	6.6%	56
Home Care	2.3%	20
Mental Health Hospital / Facility	8.9%	76
Owner / Operator Professional Practice	1.6%	14
Post Secondary Education Institution	3.3%	28
Public Health Centre	0.6%	5
Rehabilitation Hospital / Clinic	7.0%	60
Residential Care Facility	21.8%	186
Supportive Living Residence	20.0%	171
	100.0%	854

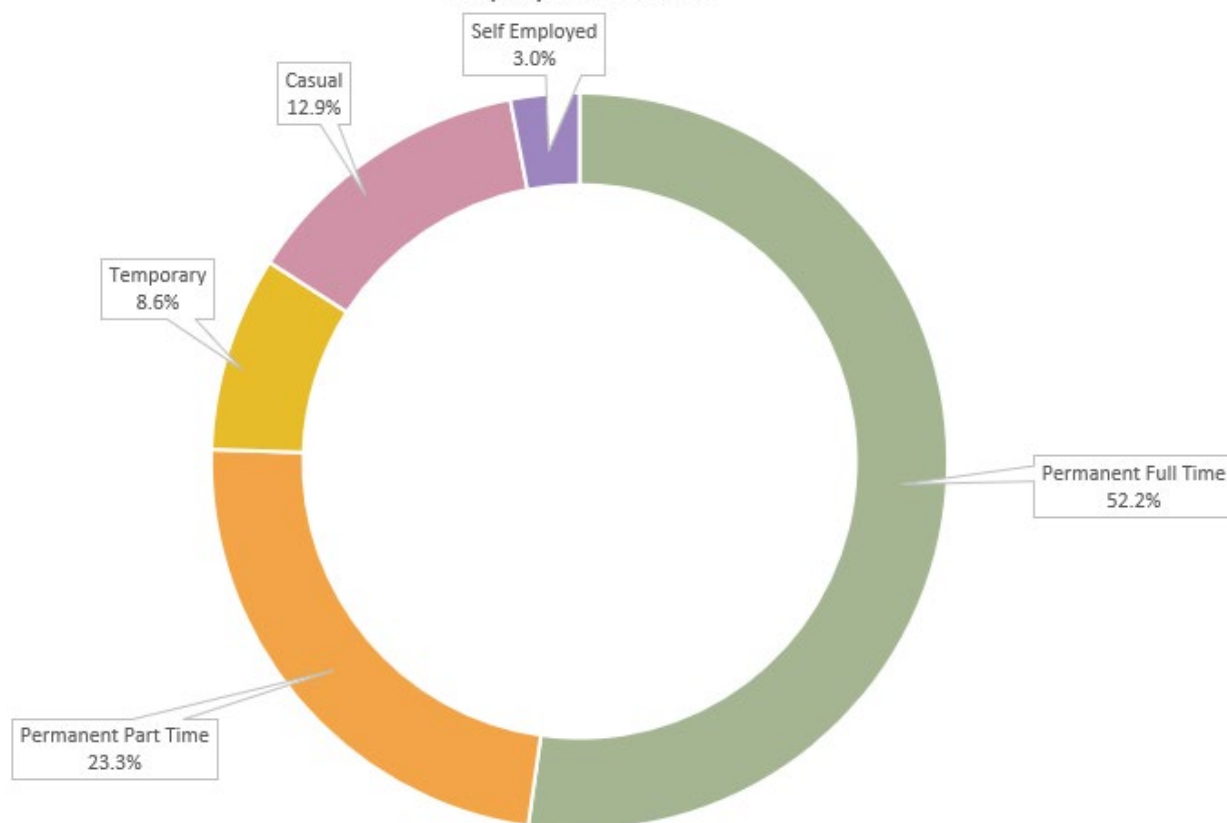


Employment Position	Percentage	Totals
Administration / Manager	16.9%	136
Client Caseload Management	0.6%	5
Professional Practice Lead	0.7%	6
Educator	3.7%	30
Recreation Therapist	57.8%	465
Recreation Therapist Assistant	14.5%	117
Researcher	0.2%	2
Other	5.5%	44
	100.0%	805

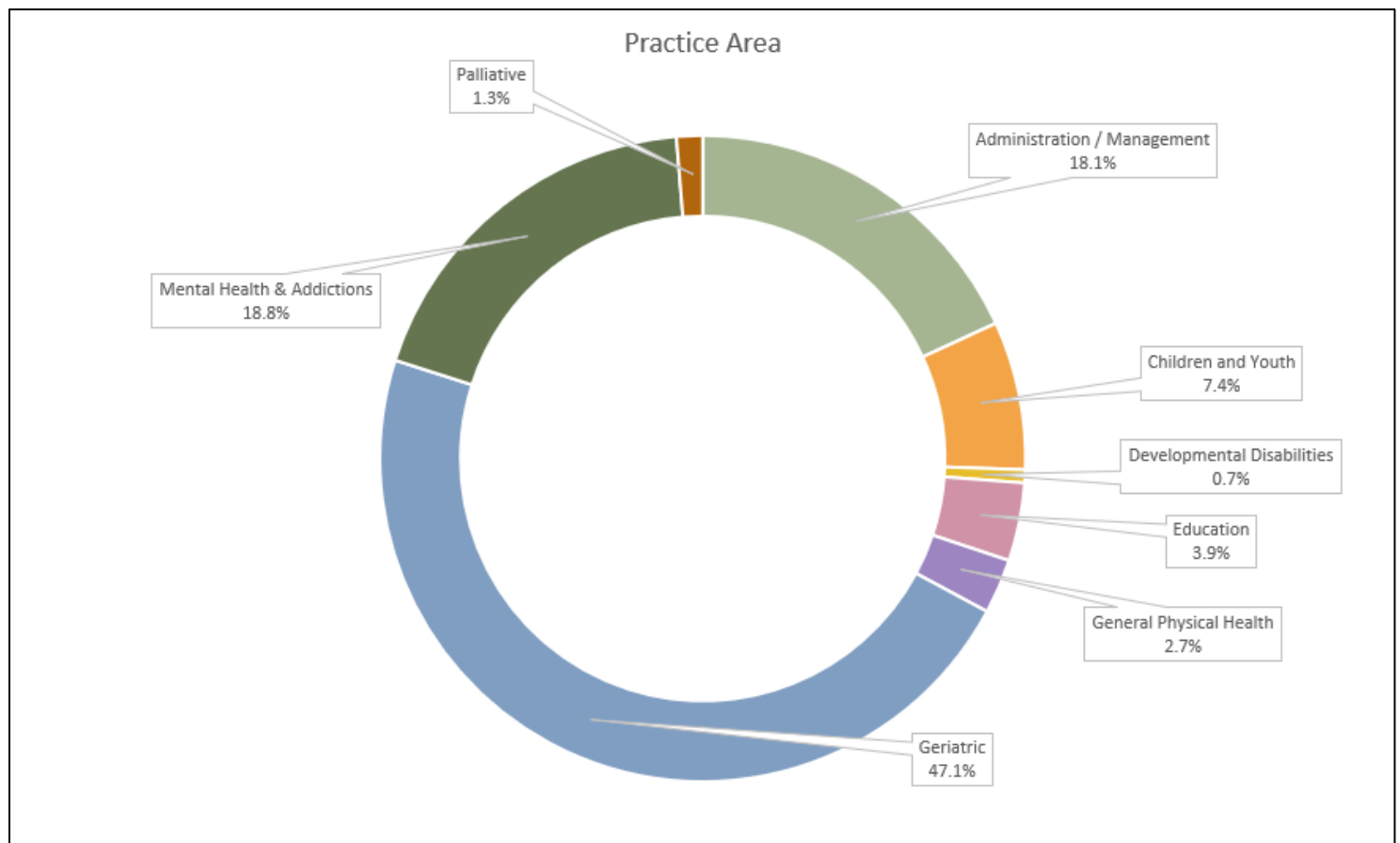


Employment Status	Percentage	Totals
Permanent Full Time	52.2%	433
Permanent Part Time	23.3%	193
Temporary	8.6%	71
Casual	12.9%	107
Self Employed	3.0%	25
	100.0%	829

Employment Status



Employment Practice Area	Percentage	Totals
Administration / Management	18.1%	139
Children and Youth	7.4%	57
Developmental Disabilities	0.7%	5
Education	3.9%	30
General Physical Health	2.7%	21
Geriatric	47.1%	361
Mental Health & Addictions	18.8%	144
Palliative	1.3%	10
	100.0%	767



Membership Categories

Members by Region Affiliation on July 3/26				
	Central	North	South	Total
Professional - Unknown	3	1	1	5
Alumni	2	2	0	4
Student	38	42	53	133
Professional - Diploma	83	72	59	214
Professional - Degree	185	237	77	499
Total	311	354	190	855
	36.4%	41.4%	22.2%	100%
CTRS Members on July 3/26 = 183				

	July 3, 2026
Member Category	
Professional Degree	499
Professional Diploma	214
Professional Unknown	5
Alumni	4
Students	133
Total Members	855

Presenting the 2026/2027 Board of Directors

Effective November 1, 2026 – October 31, 2027

Director	ATRA Board Position
Kim Dizak	President president@alberta-tr.ca
Samara McIntosh	Vice President vicepresident@alberta-tr.ca
Amanda Ervin	Executive Director executivedirector@alberta-tr.ca
Maegan Ciesielski	Continuing Competence Director competencedirector@alberta-tr.ca
Hailey Kanak	Grant Program Director grantdirector@alberta-tr.ca
Jenna Stanley	Communication Director communicationdirector@alberta-tr.ca
Aimee Douzeich	Education Director educationdirector@alberta-tr.ca
Suzanne Parker	Treasurer treasurer@alberta-tr.ca
Vanessa Irvine	Secretary secretary@alberta-tr.ca

ATRA Committee Volunteers- 2025/2026

In addition to the Board of Directors and staff members, dedicated volunteers derived from ATRA Membership contribute to the accomplishment of ATRA's Strategic Plans. These committees include but are not limited to the following:

- Awards Committee
- Bursary Review Committee
- CEU Audit Committee
- Education Requirements- Taskforce committee
- Membership Review Committee
- ReconciliACTION Committee
- Regulation Committee
- Research Committee
- Symposium Committee
- TR Month- National Committee

ATRA's Volunteers*

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| • <i>Andrea Capowski</i> | • <i>Jenna Stanley</i> | • <i>Rose Isaac</i> |
| • <i>Ashley Cox</i> | • <i>Jennifer Jorgensen</i> | • <i>Samara McIntosh</i> |
| • <i>Ashley McConnell</i> | • <i>Julia Dayman</i> | • <i>Shauna Kessler</i> |
| • <i>Aubree McIntyre</i> | • <i>Kari Medd</i> | • <i>Shintaro Kono</i> |
| • <i>Bobbi-Jo Atchison</i> | • <i>Kaitlin Wrubell</i> | • <i>Stephanie Hellier</i> |
| • <i>Charlotte Jordan</i> | • <i>Katelyn Scott</i> | • <i>Stephanie Pointon</i> |
| • <i>Clara Lund</i> | • <i>Kayleen Douglas</i> | • <i>Susan Greer</i> |
| • <i>Devan McNeill</i> | • <i>Kim Dizak</i> | • <i>Tiffany Lynn</i> |
| • <i>Erin Turnell</i> | • <i>Lisa Monikowski</i> | • <i>Tiffany Morin</i> |
| • <i>Glenn Skimming</i> | • <i>Lorraine Grover</i> | • <i>Tommias Ksiazek</i> |
| • <i>Hailey Kanak</i> | • <i>Maegan Ciesielski</i> | • <i>Tracey Vigneault</i> |
| • <i>Hannah Corpus</i> | • <i>Marcy Fekry</i> | • <i>Valerie Praise</i> |
| • <i>Heidi Davis</i> | • <i>Rachelle Forrester</i> | • <i>Bautista</i> |
| • <i>Jackie Greenlee</i> | • <i>Rachel Graf</i> | • <i>Vanessa Irvine</i> |
| • <i>Jane Papenhuyzen</i> | • <i>Rebecca Ryan</i> | |
| • <i>Janice Anton</i> | • <i>Rebecca Wiens</i> | |
| • <i>Janna Powell-Smith</i> | • <i>Rena Walker</i> | |
| • <i>Jay Trinick</i> | • <i>Robin Ostrander</i> | |

**Alphabetical by first name*

ATRA Awards, Bursaries, Funding and Grant Recipients: 2025/2026

2025 ATRA Awards

- **Professional of the Year-** Laura Derr-Martin
- **Outstanding Student Leader- College:** Maryann Mein
- **Outstanding Student Leader- University:** Natalya Lynch
- **Outstanding Preceptor- College-** Stephanie Rodgers
- **Outstanding Preceptor- University-** Kelci Trapp
- **Innovative Practice-** Brandee Elliott
- **Distinguished Service-** Kathie Ervin
- **Community Partnership- Renee Hurley-** Nistawoyou Association Friendship Centre
- **Dianne Bowtell Team Award-** No nominees

2026 Darlene Murphy Building Capacity Grant

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| • Madison Hunt | • Kendra Bacso |
| • Renee Young | • Halle Weinkauff |
| • Claudette Cyr | • Tracy Johansson |
| • Tannis Kerr | • Marcy Fekry |

2025 Advanced Education Bursary

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Angel Ruttan | • Kailey Cross |
| • Amanda Ervin | • Emily Hawryluk |
| • Valerie Bautista | • Kelci Trapp |
| • Courtney Prins | • Ashley McCune |
| • Elexa Crelencia | • Sabrina Ball |
| • Deanna Morin | |

Allied Health Bursary

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • Heidi Davis | • Michelle Smith |
| • Katelyn Scott | • Margret Ushko |

2025 Entry to Practice Bursary

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| • Jay Trncik | • Caitlyn Bailes |
| • Bobbie Myshyniuk | • Kevin Arriaza |
| • Colby Knight | • Annie McGregor |
| • Camryn Suntjens | • Lisa Inche |
| • Carmina DeMong | |

2026 ATRA Symposium Funding

- Madison Hunt
- Brooklyn Kardos
- Grace Miller
- Mackenzie Harms
- Samara McIntosh
- Lindsay Obrien
- Jay Desaunoy
- Morgan Bailey
- Amy Veis
- Nicole Fischer
- Kaitlyn Edwards
- Caitlyn Bailes
- Brittany Okrainetz
- Avery Amphlett
- Jaime Zino

Certificate Workshop: Four Seasons of Indigenous Learning

- Heidi Davis
- Erin Turnell
- Morgan O'Brien

ATRA Meetups

- Courtney Kleinsasser

ATRA's Vendors and Partners

More Perks. More Value. More for ATRA Members!

Your ATRA membership comes with more than professional connection and support! Through ATRA's growing network of vendors and partners, members can access **exclusive discounts, special offers, and valuable services** available just for you.

From professional resources to products and services that support you both at work and beyond, there's always something worth checking out.

New partners and offers are added throughout the year, so check back often and make the most of your ATRA membership!

Explore all current ATRA Member Discounts & Services:

<https://www.alberta-tr.ca/members-area/member-services/vendor-discounts-and-services/>

FALL COURSES 2026



OCTOBER
Indigenous
Medicine:
Stories, Plants
and Sharing

SEPTEMBER

Walking Together:
Two-Eyed Seeing for Educators



OCTOBER

**Inclusive Outdoor
Learning**
for Infants, Toddlers,
and Preschoolers

NOVEMBER

**Mental Health
Tools for
Outdoor
Education**

NOVEMBER

**Braiding
Sweetgrass for
Young Adults:**
A Course for
Educators

outdoorlearning.com/event

Centre of Excellence
 Therapeutic Recreation
in Continuing Care

The Centre of Excellence for Therapeutic Recreation in Continuing Care (TRCoE) is a not-for-profit organization developed to inspire and advocate for quality TR services in continuing care settings and beyond!

We offer evidence-based, applied resources designed to help ensure residents in continuing care experience high quality therapeutic recreation programming that enables an enhanced sense of meaning, purpose, and joy.

<https://www.therapeuticrecreation.org/>

Sign up today!



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~ Teepa Snow, MS, OTR/L, FAOTA



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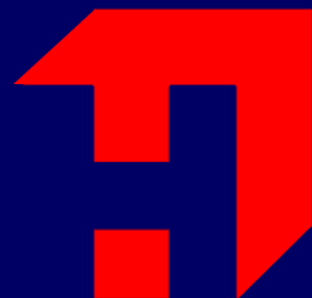
Save time and money.
Click the **Big Red Button** (top right hand side) to sign up today!

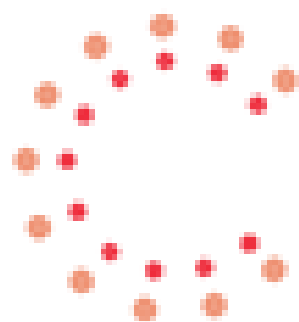
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Here!



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Canadianrecreationalservicesdirectory.ca

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dizakkimberly@gmail.com or 780-288-4901



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Contact Us

General Inquiries:

support@alberta-tr.ca Your email will be forwarded to the appropriate director or staff.

Membership Application and Renewal Inquiries:

application@alberta-tr.ca

Diploma and Undergraduate Inquiries:

educationdirector@alberta-tr.ca

Communication-related inquiries:

communicationdirector@alberta-tr.ca

Continuing competence inquiries:

competencedirector@alberta-tr.ca

Members Section: For challenges experienced by members related to signing into the Members Section: support@alberta-tr.ca

Website Content:

executivedirector@alberta-tr.ca

Regulation:

regulation@alberta-tr.ca

Research Program:

research@alberta-tr.ca

Email:

support@alberta-tr.ca

2026 Annual General Meeting Agenda



**2026 ATRA Annual General Meeting
Friday October 23rd, 2026 8:00-9:30am**

Meeting to be held in person in Lethbridge, AB and virtually via Zoom

- 1.0 Call to Order**
- 2.0 Rules of Order**
- 3.0 Introduction to current Board of Directors and incoming Directors (biographies included in annual report).**
- 4.0 Action on the Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting- *vote required***
- 5.0 Action on the Annual Board Reports & Annual Report-*vote required***
- 6.0 Action on the 2025/2026 Financial Statement- *vote required***
- 7.0 Appreciation to the 2026 ATRA Symposium Committee and Volunteers**
- 8.0 ATRA Symposium 2027- Save the Date, Board of Directors- updates and announcements**
- 9.0 Adjournment**



2025-2026