



Informative Card 2.1 2021 SGM Proposals

2 Athletic therapists in Quebec are stating that the *Corporation des thérapeutes du sport du Québec* is the sole representative and spokesperson for our profession in Quebec.

Canada's management of healthcare is rather explicit. It is a decentralized system that is solely the responsibility of the provinces. This is an integral part of our Canadian Constitution¹. The Constitution gives exclusive jurisdiction to the provinces in regards to the management of healthcare professionals, hence the absence of any federal laws pertaining to this domain. The only meaningful laws in this field are found at the provincial level. For instance, one may look at:

- the *Code des profession du Québec* (Quebec);
- the Health Professions Act (British Columbia and Alberta);
- the Regulated Health Professions Act of 1991² (Ontario);
- the Regulated Health Professions Act (Manitoba);
- etc.

Historically, the CATA played a role in the certifications process, as a result of lack of professional regulation provincially. The CATA's certification is a self-appointed title and is not tied to any governing Canadian laws. More precisely, the CATA's certification is not a professional licence, but rather a "certification". **Only provincial governments have the rights to emit a healthcare professional licence.** To put it in perspective, if a provincial government were to vote tomorrow that athletic therapy is not an authorized service in their province, that would mean that every athletic therapist would lose their right to practise right away, regardless of their standing with CATA. In Quebec, the practice of athletic therapy was legalized by the adoption of an authorization regulation by the Quebec government. This authorization was made possible by the *Collège des médecins* (CMQ), when they decided to support and oversee the practice of athletic therapy in Quebec until we are able to obtain our own professional order within the healthcare system. For many years now, athletic therapists from most regions have started to work on the inclusion of their profession within their own provinces: Quebec, British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, Manitoba. As more

¹ The provinces exercise very broad health powers under several provisions of the Constitution Act, 1867, including section 92(7), which gives the provinces exclusive jurisdiction over establishing, maintaining and managing hospitals, asylums, and charitable institutions and hospices within their boundaries. In addition, the training and accreditation of doctors and other health professionals is understood to be a provincial responsibility. This power also enables the provinces to pass legislation respecting health insurance and workplace health and safety, except in federally regulated workplaces.

« The Distribution of Legislative Powers: An Overview », publication no 2019-35-E, Isabelle Brideau & Laurence Brosseau, Legal and Social Affairs Division. Library of Parliament, October 16, 2019

² Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991, S.O. 1991, c. 18



La corporation des thérapeutes du sport du Québec

La corporation des thérapeutes du sport du Québec

and more provinces obtain legal regulation from their governments, the CATA's certification will become obsolete, as provincial laws will take precedence over all matters concerning athletic therapists and their scope of practice will be managed provincially.

There is no organization in Canada that gives a licence for a healthcare profession. Whether you are a physician, a nurse or a physiotherapist, these healthcare professions are licenced by their Order/College at the provincial level. There are national bodies that certify some specialities. However, these organizations do not hold the same regulatory power as the Order/College of said professions. In Quebec, if the CATA's certification is mentioned in the authorization decree, it is because upon its creation, the CTSQ wanted to make sure that only its members would fall under its umbrella. Back then, the graduation situation was different and there were other non-CATA certification in athletic therapy available. Once athletic therapy integrates into the professional system, the regulating Order will have to determine whether graduating from an accredited program will be sufficient or whether an additional certification process will be required to practise in Quebec. In the event of such a decision, the CATA's exam cannot be used in Quebec as the law does not allow a professional licence be regulated by an out-of-province body.

For several years now, the CTSQ has been in communication with the CATA regarding the inevitable changing of roles of each association. CATA's main goal should have been to support the regional associations in working with their government to obtain professional recognition. In the same train of thought, the provincial associations, like the CTSQ, will also have to rethink their role in the service of their members, as the licencing of professionals and regulation will fall under the Order/College umbrella.

The integration of athletic therapy into Quebec's professional system is now in its final stages. Our consultation document is currently undergoing an evaluation by specific regulated professional organizations. The procedure will end in June 2022. According to the *Office des professions (OPQ)*, it is no longer a matter of if we should be regulated, but how. This consultation will end in June 2022. Once the consultation is complete, the OPQ will submit its proposal for athletic therapy regulation to the government.

 [Click here to watch the video](#)

 [Click here to register for the SGM](#)

 [Click here to send your question pertaining to the SGM](#)