



La corporation des
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du Québec

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Informative Card 2.2 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.

The previous informative card (2.1) has shown that in terms of healthcare professional regulation, only the provinces have authority in these matters. Now it is time to discuss who is better suited to represent athletic therapists on their path toward professional regulation within their respective region.

Historically in Quebec, one can only find cases where provincially constituted associations have worked with the government to promote professional healthcare regulation. In British Columbia, the law is even more specific; the Health Profession Act clearly states that provincially incorporated associations are the sole bodies entitled to request professional recognition on the territory.

In the last few years, any healthcare professional recognition projects in Quebec were spearheaded by provincial associations, not national ones. The latest examples are the criminologists (2015), the sexologists (2013) and the psychoeducators (2010). At this time in Quebec, there are two other professions conducting similar projects, namely kinesiologists and osteopaths. In both cases, the *Office des professions du Québec* (OPQ), responsible for overseeing the professional system, is working and negotiating with provincial associations. It is important for those in charge at the OPQ to work with the associations that have the most extensive knowledge of day-to-day realities that their members face in their regions.

The CTSQ has been managing the professional recognition process for over twenty years. Throughout this lengthy process, the CTSQ negotiated for integration within an existing Order, created regulation documents, and demonstrated the financial sustainability of an independent athletic therapy order per the OPQ's request with massive membership registration (roughly 98% of the members back in 2017). The CTSQ even came up with a transitional board of administrators in 2017, once more answering OPQ's request. Since the very beginning, the CTSQ has been the sole spokesperson for athletic therapists in Quebec, representing them with the OPQ, the *Collège des médecins du Québec* (CMQ) and various governmental ministries (Health, Education) and organizations.

When the CATA was asked on what legal grounds they were basing their desire to work with governmental bodies on provincial jurisdiction issues, the CATA refers to the Registry of Lobbyists and its afferent law. This is not an appropriate answer for several reasons.

a) Any person, individual, association or corporation, can register with the Registry of Lobbyists of Quebec, but



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this does not give them any negotiating rights with the government;

b) In regards to athletic therapy in Quebec specifically, the lobbying phase has been over for over fifteen years now. After the adoption of the authorization regulation, we moved on from the lobbying phase. Our process has progressed through multiple phases of discussions and negotiations that lead to the 2012 authorization regulation and more recently, the 2021 consultation document from the OPQ. To be clear, we have advanced way past the lobbying phase.

During last CATA'S Town Hall on December 2, 2021, their president, Tyler Quennell made a comment regarding how advanced the matter of regulation is in Quebec. He also stated that the positive outcomes were attributed to CTSQ's diligent and hard work. Consequently, he admitted that regardless of the outcome of the vote on January 23, the CATA would not intervene in the process, leaving it in the capable hands of the CTSQ. Shouldn't this wise decision apply to the other provinces that are undergoing similar processes? Let's remind everyone that in British Columbia, the only bodies allowed to go through professional recognition procedures are provincial association.

We have already established that provincial regulation of athletic therapy was going to cause the decentralization of powers away from the national association of CATA toward the provinces. The role of the CATA was already going to change in the next few years as provincial regulation meant that licensing, certification, maintenance of this certification, etc. was going to change hands. This rushed and impetuous decision goes against the flow of the evolution of athletic therapy in Canada.

The clear logic is that the status quo should be maintained in the short term. This means voting "NO" to the by-laws change proposed by CATA's board of directors', to be voted at CATA's AGM on January 23, 2022. Once this is achieved, the next step would be for the CATA to continue to work alongside the provincial chapters to rethink the various roles of each level in the evolution of our profession in each province and across the country. By working together, each province could be supported in their quests for regulation and help athletic therapy reach the next level.

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