



April 8, 2020

Delivered by email correspondence

jmeyers@hsabc.org

Health Sciences Association of BC
180 East Columbia Street
New Westminster, BC
V3L 0G7

Attention: M. Jeanne Meyers, Executive Director (Legal Services & Labour Relations),
Chief Negotiator, Health Science Professionals Bargaining Association

Dear M. Jeanne Meyers,

Re: Letter of support for equal treatment of all frontline healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic

I am writing on behalf of the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists – British Columbia (CAMRT-BC) to commend you for your advocacy on behalf of all frontline healthcare workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CAMRT-BC represents Medical Radiation Technologists (MRTs), including Radiological Technologists, Nuclear Medicine Technologists, Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologists, and Radiation Therapists, working in a variety of medical imaging facilities and cancer centres across the province. Many of these MRTs are also members of the Health Sciences Association (HSA) and therefore we would like to offer our support in your efforts to bring awareness of the circumstances they are facing.

MRTs are facing many of the same challenges and making the same sacrifices as many other frontline healthcare professionals. Like nurses and doctors, MRTs work in direct patient care settings, putting themselves at risk during this outbreak. In the performance of their essential activities, many MRTs are in direct contact with COVID-19 patients, whether in emergency departments, ICUs, or in instances where COVID-19 patients are sent directly to medical imaging departments for their examinations. In fact, chest radiography and computed tomography (CT) play a critical role in diagnosing and/or monitoring disease progression of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases. This means that radiology departments have the potential to be venues for infection spread with MRTs at the first line of contact. At the same time, MRTs will also be interacting

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL RADIATION TECHNOLOGISTS – BRITISH COLUMBIA /
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directly with a multitude of uninfected patients, including the most vulnerable patients within our communities such as immune compromised cancer patients receiving treatment.

We are aware that nurses in BC are now receiving a premium for working in direct patient care areas during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, unlike nurses, MRTs are not recognized or receiving similar considerations for working in direct patient care and making the same sacrifice. CAMRT-BC is fully supportive of recognizing the special risk posed to workers at the frontline during this pandemic, but feels strongly that all frontline healthcare workers should be recognized in the same way.

MRTs are a critical part of the healthcare team and should be considered equally in this joint effort to ensure the safety and wellbeing of healthcare workers and the public. Indeed, any discussions and decisions about frontline healthcare workers must always consider and include MRTs.

On behalf of the MRTs in BC, we support your continued efforts to advocate for the Health Sciences Professionals working on the frontlines. If the CAMRT-BC can be of further assistance during this time, please contact me at igold@camrt.ca.

Sincerely,

Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists – British Columbia

Irving Gold
Chief Executive Officer