

SURVEY RESULTS

SURVEY IN NUCLEAR MEDICINE

In 2009, we initiated a survey among nuclear medicine technologists who are members of the APTS. The main objectives were to find out the number of vacant positions, check the number of hours of overtime performed, and have an overview of the wait times in this sector.

RESULTS

The vast majority of technologists from 28 institutions in 14 regions of Québec took part in the survey.

The survey revealed that 36 positions were vacant and had been vacant for more than 90 days in the great majority of cases. This corresponded to 10.7% of the total number of technologist positions in nuclear medicine in the health and social services sector.

Technologists from 13 institutions indicated that they perform overtime work for a variety of reasons: to handle emergencies, ensure on-call duty on weekends or cover staff shortages during the summer holiday period, reduce wait lists, finish up the day's cases or deal with the arrival of new equipment.

In a number of regions, they reported long wait times and wait lists, which vary according to the type of examination required – from 140 to 700 patients waiting for a period of three to twelve months.

SURVEY IN MEDICAL ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY

The objectives of this survey were to ascertain the vacant positions, overtime hours and wait times.

RESULTS

We received responses from members working in 28 institutions located in 13 regions of Québec.

More than 20 positions have been vacant for more than 90 days. Some employers don't even post these vacant positions, as they know there won't be any applicants.

In the vast majority of institutions, technicians regularly work overtime. In more than ten institutions, moreover, overtime is obligatory.

Average wait times vary from four to six months, but may be up to 27 months for electromyography tests and 19 months for cardiac ultrasound tests.

We found that some duties normally performed by medical electrophysiology technicians are increasingly being performed by beneficiary attendants.

CONCLUSION

The survey data were transmitted to the Ministry of Health and Social Services to demonstrate the existence of labour shortages in the job titles of nuclear medicine technologist and medical electrophysiology technician. We are still waiting to have a meeting with the Ministry.

PROMOTING OUR PROFESSIONS

After the success of the *Diagnostic* group's promotional campaign, as attested by the results of last summer's survey, the time has now come to promote the professions in the *Rehabilitation* group.

Promotional materials were recently sent out to institutions where audiologists, speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, orthoptists, physiotherapists, physical rehabilitation therapists, specialists in rehabilitation for the visually impaired, orientation and mobility specialists and orthotics-prosthetics technicians work.

We encourage you to use these materials to better acquaint your clientele with your profession. These materials can also be used for various promotional activities among the population. With your help, the general public will have a better understanding and hence a better appreciation of the role of professional personnel in rehabilitation.



We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members who were involved in drafting these materials. We hope this new campaign will be a resounding success!

The next professions to be promoted will be in the *Nutrition* group: dietician-nutritionists and dietetics technicians.

THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANALYSING THE ACTIVITIES OF TECHNICIAN JOB TITLES

BILL 21

This committee consists of representatives of unions (including the APTS), employer associations, professional associations, professional orders, the Ministry of Health and Social Services, the Ministry of Education, Recreation and Sports, and the Ministry of Families and Seniors. The work is directed by two co-chairs appointed by the *Office des professions du Québec*. It began in September 2009 and should be completed by December 31, 2010.

Members of this committee are mandated to analyse the activities of technicians in social work (social work technicians, social assistance technicians) and in specialized education/special care counselling (specialized education technicians). They have to draw an accurate portrait of the duties of these employees in their various workplaces, in terms of the knowledge and skills acquired during the latter's training and the activities reserved for them by the new law¹.

They must demonstrate that these technicians actually perform the activities reserved to them and that they have the training and skills required to perform them. Members of this committee have been relegated to various task groups for each of the training programmes (analysis of academic knowledge) and each of the professions (analysis of activities in the various workplaces) involving technicians excluded by Bill 21 (social work technicians or social assistance technicians and specialized education technicians). The following timetable has been set for this work:

- » **September to December 2009:** analysing the programmes of study and the activities performed at work by technicians, in relation to the activities reserved by law;

- » **February to June 2010:** ascertaining the coincidence between the skills acquired during training and the activities performed at work, in function of the activities reserved by law;
- » **July to September 2010:** co-chairs preparing a summary of the work and drafting recommendations; presenting them to members of the advisory committee in September 2010 to receive their comments;
- » **October to December 2010:** co-chairs drafting the final report and submitting it to government authorities.

The results of this committee's deliberations and research will help guide government decisions on:

- » the duties, functions and responsibilities vested in technicians;
- » the possibility of having technicians perform some of the activities reserved by law; and
- » the relevance of having this personnel placed within the framework of the professional system.

The APTS is participating in the work of all the advisory committees set up by the *Office des professions*. Surveys on technicians' duties were conducted among specialized education technicians, and among social work technicians and social assistance technicians, in order to prepare briefs. You can be assured that the APTS puts a lot of effort and determination into defending your professional interests. We will keep you posted on how this work is progressing.

¹ *Act to amend the Professional Code and other legislative provisions in the field of mental health and human relations* (2009, chapter 28), adopted June 18, 2009

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

We would like to welcome Marielle Tardif, Workforce planning and organization of work co-ordinator, and Linda Doucet, secretary, who have joined the Professional Groups team.

We wish to thank Édith Demers, former co-ordinator, and Catherine Mas, secretary, for the work they performed as part of our team.



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