

# R/TRO: An Elevator Statement

TRO Blog article posted by Registration Committee on January 13, 2015

TRO members! Have you ever had trouble explaining the importance of R/TRO to others? Do you want an easy way to describe the purpose of this designation? Now, imagine you had two minutes alone in an elevator, and your goal is to explain what R/TRO is and why it is important. The Registration Committee has been working on an elevator statement to bring to light some important points regarding the R/TRO designation.

Please see below for important points in regards to R/TRO for you to use as a guide to develop your own version of an elevator statement. We have also included an example of a formal description you could use with colleagues, director, etc., and an informal version with family and friends. Remember, this statement is meant to be used as a guide, we encourage you to use your own creativity and comfort levels.

- Therapeutic Recreation (TR) is a process that enables all individuals to achieve quality of life and optimal health through meaningful participation in recreation and leisure
- Therapeutic Recreation professionals (TRs) work with persons with disabilities and/or limitations who require assistance to improve their quality of life
- TRs use recreation and leisure to help maximize an individual's independence and improve functioning
- TRs make necessary adaptations to recreation and leisure opportunities to allow for full participation
- TRs educate individuals about the skills and resources required to participate in recreation and leisure
- TRO is the provincial association for TR in Ontario
- R/TRO is a voluntary designation used in the province that demonstrates a level of excellence in TR
- Application for registration with TRO can be submitted when minimum qualifications are met
- Maintaining the R/TRO status requires continued professional development, and a maintenance process will be implemented in 2016
- R/TRO: Promotes professionalism and quality therapeutic recreation services
- Helps to unify and direct the advancement of the profession
- Enhances credibility to employers and consumers

- Provides connection to a network of committed professionals in the field
- Ensures current practice through ongoing maintenance of credential
- 400+ TRO members have already become R/TRO!

### **Formal Example**

Are you familiar with Therapeutic Recreation? It's a process that uses functional intervention, leisure education and recreation participation to enable all persons with limitations in any domain to gain the skills, attitudes and behaviours that will allow them to enjoy their leisure optimally, function independently with the least amount of assistance, and participate as fully as possible in society. Recreation therapy is provided by trained professionals in clinical and/or community settings. It enables all individuals to achieve quality of life and optimal health through meaningful participation in recreation and leisure.

Therapeutic Recreation Ontario is the leading membership association for therapeutic recreation professionals in the province. Members of the association can choose to become registered with TRO to show a level of excellence in Therapeutic Recreation. This voluntary designation is known as R/TRO.

Candidates are eligible to apply for the R/TRO credential when the minimum amount of competency in four areas is met - education, experience, professional affiliation, and professional contributions. Every 5 years after, R/TRO professionals are required to demonstrate their continued competency. Their portfolio must include frequent professional development and contribution in order to maintain their status.

It is necessary to provide standardized guidelines for qualifications required to practice as the field of Therapeutic Recreation continues to advance. Obtaining R/TRO status assures that the qualifications embraced by the provincial leaders are met. It helps to unify and direct the advancement of the profession in Ontario, connects members to a professional network, and it demonstrates professionalism and the ability to provide quality therapeutic recreation services.

### **Informal Example**

Have you heard of Therapeutic Recreation? It's a health profession that uses meaningful participation in recreation and leisure as a process to help individuals with disabilities and/or limitations achieve quality of life, optimal health, and to maximize their independence and improve functioning.

Many Recreation Therapists in Ontario are members of the provincial association, Therapeutic Recreation Ontario (TRO). TRO has established a voluntary registration process for its members. Members can apply for the R/TRO designation when they've accumulated enough points in 4 different areas.

Over 400 TRO members have already become R/TRO, and more are continuing to do so!

We are releasing this information to TRO members just before February so it can be used as an effective tool during Therapeutic Recreation Awareness Month. If you do use this approach, the registration committee would love to hear your version of an R/TRO elevator statement and the impression it had on others. Feel free to add a comment, or email us with your experiences, comments, or general feedback at: <mailto:registration@trontario.org>