



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **CANADIAN ATHLETIC THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION MARKS 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS NATIONAL CERTIFICATION EXAMINATION**

*Milestone signifies half a century of upholding national standards in athletic therapy education, certification and professional excellence*

**CALGARY, AB | May 15, 2025** - The Canadian Athletic Therapists Association (CATA) is proudly celebrating 50 years of the National Certification Examination (NCE), a major milestone in its history. First written in 1975 at the Viscount Gort Hotel in Winnipeg, MB, the NCE has stood as a pillar of professional standards, ensuring that every Certified Athletic Therapist in Canada meets a consistent and high level of knowledge and clinical skill.

Over the last five decades, the NCE has evolved alongside the profession itself. What began as a written test for a handful of trailblazing therapists has now grown into a sophisticated, bilingual, online examination offered twice yearly to candidates from 10 accredited institutions across the country. Today, it is informed by a robust Competency Profile developed in 2020, outlining 165 core competencies under the following categories: Athletic Therapy Expert, Professional, Collaborator, Communicator, Scholar, Leader, and Health Advocate.

“When the National Certification Examination was first introduced, it marked a turning point in setting a formal national standard,” said Schad Richea, President of CATA. “While early therapists often trained in the field or through U.S. programs, today we proudly certified thousands of Canadian athletic therapists through accredited institutions nationwide. Though the tools have evolved, our commitment to expert care remains constant, and the NCE continues to be a critical benchmark for professional readiness.”

This anniversary also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the graduating class of Canada’s first accredited post-secondary athletic therapy program at Sheridan College, which played a pivotal role in shaping the profession. Some of Sheridan’s first graduates were among the earliest to take the NCE, and the institution later became the first to be formally accredited by CATA. Throughout the years, countless members have contributed to the development and evolution of the NCE and the profession itself, many of whom are honoured in the CATA Hall of Fame. The examination not only ensures a high standard of care but also reflects the spirit of collaboration, advocacy, and innovation that defines the association.



“Fifty years is an incredible milestone that coincides with CATA’s 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary,” added Richea. “As we celebrate this legacy, we’re also looking ahead. The next writing of the NCE will take place on May 28, 2025, continuing our proud tradition of excellence and leadership in Athletic Therapy.”

In recognition of the importance of exam preparation, CATA introduced the CATA Exam Experience in 2024, a simulation platform designed to help certification candidates become familiar with the format, interface and types of valid and reliable questions they can expect on exam day.

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### **ABOUT THE CANADIAN ATHLETIC THERAPISTS ASSOCIATION**

CATA is the certifying and governing body for Certified Athletic Therapists practicing in Canada. Established in 1965 by a group of Athletic Therapists working with professional hockey and football teams, CATA now represents over 3,000 members. We are dedicated to the advancement and growth of the athletic therapy profession through advocacy, education, and research.

Website: <https://athletictherapy.org/en/>

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