

CPQR Annual Highlights

2025 - 2026



CPQR
Canadian Partnership for
Quality Radiotherapy
PCQR
Partenariat canadien pour
la qualité en radiothérapie



CAPCA

*Canadian Association of
Provincial Cancer Agencies*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

Over the past year, the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR) has made significant progress in its revitalization efforts, strengthening its role as a pan-Canadian leader in advancing quality and safety in radiotherapy. Through collaboration and shared commitment across the Canadian radiation oncology community, CPQR has continued to develop practical, meaningful resources that support local radiation treatment programs in delivering safe, high-quality care.

Key achievements this year include the refresh of the CPQR Self-Audit Assessment tools and the advancement of emergency preparedness resources designed to help programs strengthen resilience and respond effectively to unplanned interruptions in care delivery. These initiatives reflect CPQR's focus on creating tools that are relevant, actionable, and responsive to the evolving needs of the system.

We would like to sincerely acknowledge and thank the many subject matter experts from provincial cancer and radiation treatment programs across Canada whose knowledge, experience, and dedication have been instrumental to this work. We also extend our appreciation to our national professional association partners — the Canadian Association of Medical Radiation Technologists (CAMRT), Canadian Association of Nurses in Oncology (CANO), Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology (CARO), and Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists (COMP)— for their ongoing collaboration and leadership.

The momentum built over the past year has helped inform an ambitious and collaborative direction for 2026–27, and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

Dr. Jean-Pierre Bissonnette and Dr. Teri Stuckless

Co-Chairs, CPQR Steering Committee

ABOUT CPQR

Established in 2010 as an independent organization funded by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy (CPQR) has significantly improved the safety and quality of radiotherapy in Canada. Since 2021, CPQR has been a standing committee of the Canadian Association of Provincial Cancer Agencies (CAPCA), where it is advancing radiotherapy quality and access across Canada.

Vision: To be a world leader in radiotherapy by ensuring equitable access to high-quality radiotherapy in Canada.

Mission: To champion a culture of equitable, high-quality radiotherapy through collaboration and quality improvement initiatives among Canadian provincial cancer agencies and programs.

OUR PRIORITIES IN 2025-2026

Since its creation in 2010, CPQR has made meaningful progress in advancing quality and safety in radiotherapy across Canada. Through close collaboration with provincial cancer agencies and programs, CPQR has developed pan-Canadian guidelines, led quality improvement efforts, and helped build a shared culture of excellence — even through the disruptions of a global pandemic.

Work over the past year reflects progress against CPQR’s **2025-2027 Strategic Work Plan**. Informed by partners across the country, the plan sets a clear course for the future of quality radiotherapy in Canada. It focuses on strengthening collaboration and leadership, advancing person-centred care, and leveraging innovation and technology to improve radiotherapy delivery and safety.

2025-2027 Strategic Workplan

Strategic direction: Promoting collaboration and partnership	
Strategic initiative	Strategic action
Fostering collaboration between patients, providers, and partners to strengthen interdisciplinary connections.	Partnering to address oncology workforce challenges that threaten the ability to deliver high-quality radiotherapy.
Drawing on expertise and data in radiotherapy to advance and share knowledge, while seeking global opportunities for greater impact.	Collaborating to advance pan-Canadian radiation treatment data harmonization
	Creating new or enhancing existing partnerships to enable long-term impact of CPQR.
Strategic direction: Informing person-centred care	
Strategic initiative	Strategic action
Promoting a holistic, person-centered approach to evidence-informed care that prioritizes patient and family engagement and compassion.	Collaborating with patients and families to advance equitable access to care and improve outcomes.
Strategic direction: Optimizing innovation and technology	
Strategic initiative	Strategic action
Leveraging innovation and technology to continue to improve access to high quality, effective radiotherapy.	Implementing a pan-Canadian radiotherapy emergency preparedness and cyber security framework.
	Leveraging technology to refresh and revise quality radiotherapy self-audit tools and quality standards reporting.

2025-2026 HIGHLIGHTS



Promoting Collaboration and Partnership

Addressing health human resources challenges

As demand for cancer care continues to grow across Canada, radiotherapy programs are carefully considering how to plan for and sustain the workforce of the future — ensuring they have the right people, with the right skills, in the right places.

Building on CAPCA's Pan-Canadian Strategic Oncology Workforce report, which identified practical opportunities to address workforce supply and demand challenges, as well as CAPCA's Health Services and Policy Research (HSPR) initiative, which highlighted innovations in cancer care that could improve access to high-quality care while supporting healthcare providers and strengthening workforce capacity, the radiotherapy community came together in September 2025 for a focused session on how best to collaborate in addressing oncology workforce challenges that threaten the delivery of high-quality radiotherapy services.

These discussions identified strengthening models of care, alongside new and expanded professional roles, as the priority area where CPQR could provide the greatest value in supporting the radiotherapy workforce. Conversations also explored how emerging roles could be integrated within team-based models of care, as well as the need for alignment across training, education, and regulatory frameworks.

There was shared recognition that this represents a multi-year body of work, beginning with convening CPQR partners to help define priority models of care and approaches to role integration. Importantly, CPQR's partner professional associations were identified as central to shaping both the focus of the work and the approach taken. CPQR's role will be to serve as a neutral convenor, focusing on areas where it can add unique value while avoiding

duplication with broader workforce initiatives already underway.

Within this context, CPQR hosted an initial planning meeting in March 2026 with partner associations to gather perspectives and discuss how best to collaboratively shape an appropriate path forward. This work will continue throughout 2026–27.

Advancing pan-Canadian radiotherapy data harmonization

Canada's radiotherapy centres must ensure their data keeps pace with quality improvement and harmonization initiatives — including demands related to data mining, retreatment tracking, and cybersecurity — in order to ensure continued safety and effectiveness of radiotherapy treatments. Working with the Canadian AI and Data Radiotherapy Alliance (CADRA) and the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), CPQR led collaborative work to advance adoption of two key radiation therapy data standards: TG-263 and the Operational Ontology for Oncology (O3).

This work is part of the broader Pan-Canadian Cancer Data Strategy, a national effort led by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and the Canadian Cancer Society to improve consistency in how cancer data is captured and used across jurisdictions. By bringing together partners from across the country and harnessing learnings from early adopters in Ontario and Nova Scotia, this collaboration lays important groundwork for a more connected and coherent radiotherapy data landscape in Canada.

Partnering for impact

CPQR's work has always been driven by partnership. As a standing committee of CAPCA, CPQR advances its mandate through the contributions of a broad community of experts, clinicians, and health system leaders from across Canada including professional

associations representing medical radiation technologists, oncology nurses, radiation oncologists, and medical physicists.

Two groups play a particularly important role in this work: the **CPQR Steering Committee**, which provides strategic direction and oversight, and the **National System for Incident Reporting – Radiotherapy (NSIR-RT) Advisory Committee**, which plays an active role in guiding a standardized approach to radiotherapy incident reporting across the country.

Together, these groups help ensure CPQR's work remains grounded in real-world experience, informed by the best available evidence, and responsive to the needs of radiotherapy programs and the patients they serve.

With management and operations of NSIR-RT shifting from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada) as of April 1, 2026, the NSIR-RT Advisory Committee plays a key role in coordinating the involvement of participating radiotherapy centres to facilitate the migration of historical data and support their transition to new operational processes.

In addition, CPQR continues to strengthen international collaboration through its partnership with the European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology (ESTRO) Radiation Oncology Safety and Quality Committee (ROSQC). ROSQC is a multidisciplinary committee comprised of radiation oncologists, medical physicists, and radiation therapists from around the world, with a mandate to advance quality and safety in radiotherapy planning

and delivery. CPQR has a representative on ROSQC supporting bi-directional knowledge exchange to both contribute to and learn from leading international practices and innovations in radiotherapy safety and quality.

This partnership continues to position CPQR within important international initiatives focused on advancing radiotherapy quality and safety. A notable recent example is CPQR's contribution to ESTRO's international Quality Indicators (QI) initiative, a major effort to establish a standardized set of radiotherapy quality indicators to support benchmarking and continuous quality improvement across Europe and internationally. CPQR was invited to contribute expertise to this work, with CPQR's existing Key Quality Indicators serving as an important reference and foundational input into the ESTRO initiative. This reflects international recognition of CPQR's leadership and longstanding work in developing measurable approaches to radiotherapy quality and safety.

In parallel, CPQR's Emergency Preparedness Framework for Radiotherapy Downtime was informed by ESTRO's Framework on readiness for radiation oncology departments to mitigate cyber-attacks, including leveraging key domains and action measures related to preparation, prevention, detection, response, recovery, and continuous improvement. Members of ESTRO also contributed to the review of CPQR's framework, further strengthening international collaboration and shared learning in support of resilient, safe, and high-quality radiotherapy care.



Embodying Person-Centred Care

Collaborating with Patients and Families

The Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy values the important contributions of patient advisors who serve on both the CPQR Steering Committee and the NSIR-RT Advisory Committee. Drawing on their lived experience, patient advisors provide meaningful feedback and help shape key initiatives that ground our work in person-centred approaches to quality and safety in radiotherapy care. Their perspectives are instrumental in advancing equitable access to care and improving outcomes for patients and families across Canada.

Patient advisors have contributed to several important initiatives, including the refresh of the NSIR-RT Bulletin, identifying what matters most to patients in understanding that care delivery is safe, and informing emergency preparedness planning by highlighting the impacts that interruptions to care can have on patients and families.



Optimizing Innovation and Technology

Implementing a pan-Canadian radiotherapy emergency preparedness and cybersecurity framework

Nobody wants to see the disruptions in the delivery of life-saving radiotherapy treatment – but the unfortunate reality is that unplanned interruptions can, and do, happen. While they can't be prevented, they can be planned for.

In 2025-26, CPQR celebrated the completion of the Pan-Canadian Emergency Preparedness Framework for Radiotherapy Downtime, which will help to

strengthen centre-level readiness for system disruptions, cyberattacks, and infrastructure failures.

The framework outlines detailed action measures across lifecycle domains, supported by a resource manual with practical tools and templates for local implementation. This initiative supports planning for continuity of life-saving radiotherapy treatments, protection of sensitive patient data, and alignment with national quality and safety standards.

The *Pan-Canadian Emergency Preparedness Framework for Radiotherapy Downtime* will be published in Spring 2026, with efforts also underway to support translation of the framework into French to facilitate broader accessibility and pan-Canadian implementation.

Refreshing and revising quality radiotherapy self-audit tools and quality standards reporting

CPQR's self-audit tools have been refreshed for delivery in a new web-enabled format, making them once again accessible to radiation treatment programs across Canada.

The updated platform provides radiation treatment centres with an interactive platform to assess compliance with Technical Quality Control (TQC), Programmatic Quality and Patient Engagement guidelines. The tool delivers immediate feedback, real-time reporting, and certificates of completion to help programs strengthen their alignment with CPQR guidelines and drive meaningful quality improvement. Efforts are also underway to translate the self-audit tools into French to support broader accessibility and uptake across Canada.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026-2027

Building on the strong momentum achieved over the past year, CPQR's priorities for 2026–27 will continue to focus on advancing practical, collaborative initiatives that strengthen quality and safety in radiotherapy across Canada.

Through ongoing partnership with provincial cancer programs, national organizations, professional associations, and patients and families, CPQR will focus on the following key priority areas for the coming year:

- Advancing the refresh of CPQR's Key Quality Indicators (KQIs), including review of radiotherapy wait time metric calculations to support consistency and meaningful system measurement.
- Collaborating with Health Standards Organization on the refresh of radiotherapy standards used within the Accreditation Canada accreditation process.
- Expanding radiotherapy data harmonization work through jurisdictional readiness assessments to support future national alignment and data quality initiatives.
- Continuing support for the transition of National System for Incident Reporting – Radiation Treatment (NSIR-RT) operations management from the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada), including radiation treatment centre onboarding and submission support.
- Supporting the development of a new NSIR-RT e-learning module to strengthen consistency in incident reporting practices across radiation treatment programs.
- Advancing knowledge translation and exchange (KTE) activities to support implementation and uptake of the refreshed CPQR Self-Audit Tool and Emergency Preparedness resources.
- Refreshing CPQR's National Quality Community of Practice (NQCP), including updating purpose, membership and resource sharing.



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