

**Patron:**  
**HRH The Princess Royal**  
**G.C.V.O**

# CanTRA Annual Report

The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association L'Association Canadienne d'Équitation Thérapeutique  
Registered Canadian Charity # 11883 6543 RR0001

## President's Message Annual Report 2023-24

In common with so many of our member centres, CanTRA has still been recovering, during the past fiscal year, from the incredible impact of the COVID pandemic. However, 2023 did see positive progress in several areas. We were able to move forward with strengthening internal operations, focusing in particular on the restructuring of administrative functions. During this fiscal year the administration of membership processing, insurance and communications has relied heavily on a very strong team of volunteers from the CanTRA board, Advisory Council and committees. This has helped plan for future needs, particularly in the Guelph Head Office. A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers who have been gifting their services during this period.

Eliane Trempe joined the CanTRA staff in January 2023 in the position of Certification Administrator. She has brought to the post her experience as a long-standing therapeutic riding coach, CanTRA examiner and past president. We warmly welcome her in to this important role. Eliane is working from her home office in Sorel-Tracy, Quebec.

The Certification Committee has been reworking and improving the CanTRA certification process. The decision was made to discontinue the Technical Evaluation and, at the same time, strengthen and develop CanTRA certification mentors, who will help and support candidates through their training. In addition to this, extra support

**A huge thank you goes out to the volunteers who have been gifting their services during this period.**



*Christine Ross with Emma*

Photo Credit: Andrew Bibby

to connect with members and the public. This method of communication is favoured by CanTRA's younger members. The number of people engaging with the Facebook page has been increasing throughout the year.

Clive Milkins held clinics "Para-Equestrian Education for All" across Canada in 2023 and many CanTRA members took part. Clive is the Technical Leader for Equestrian Canada's Para

and communication is available from six volunteer certification coordinators.

The new CanTRA Instructor Manual, which was launched in 2022, has proved to be very popular, with copies being dispatched regularly to all parts of Canada. This is available in both English and French and is a fundamental part of the CanTRA Instructor training. It is also very useful as a reference document for qualified CanTRA Instructors and Coaches.

Throughout 2023, CanTRA has published articles in *Canadian Horse Journal* conveying many aspects of therapeutic riding to Canadians. Topics have included "Volunteering as a Leader or a Side Walker", "Adaptive Tack for Therapeutic Riding" and "The Sensational World of Therapeutic Riding". We sincerely thank Canadian Horse Journal for this opportunity.

In 2023 CanTRA began communicating with members through Constant Contact. This proved to be a successful method of communication and allows everyone to be reached with current news and announcements quickly and efficiently. In addition to this, CanTRA has been using Facebook

Dressage High Performance Program. This was an excellent learning opportunity and assisted in the understanding of the progression from therapeutic riding to para-equestrian.

Preparation for the CanTRA 45th Anniversary Conference in May 2025 has begun. The venue will be Guelph, Ontario. Accommodation and lectures will be at CRIEFF HILLS Retreat Centre and practical sessions at Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre. The celebration banquet will be at the Delta Hotel, Guelph. A wide range of presentations are planned, in addition to tours of the Ontario Veterinary College.

Respectfully submitted,

**Christine Ross**

President, CanTRA

**SAVE THE DATE**

**CanTRA is pleased to announce the 45<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**

will take place at Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre and Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, Puslinch, Ontario.

Friday May 2, 2025

Saturday May 3, 2025

Sunday May 4, 2025

# CanTRA Head Office Administrative Report

February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

## Report submitted by

JoAnn Thompson Franklin, CanTRA  
Treasurer / Secretary

Ann Caine, Advisory Council /  
Accreditation Chair

Since moving all administrative responsibilities for instructor certification to the newly-established Head Office in Sorel Tracy, QC, the Guelph Head Office has retained the responsibility for annual individual and program memberships as well as insurance and accreditation.

Requests for “additional named” insurance certificates have been received and processed on an ongoing weekly basis.

In addition, orders for all educational materials continued to be processed and dispatched through the Guelph office.

Unfortunately, during the last fiscal year we were unsuccessful in hiring a suitable administrator for this office, which has resulted in an extensive workload for a few volunteers from the CanTRA Board and Advisory Council. We plan to resolve this situation in 2024.

Energies have been focused on maintaining all that is needed to provide a robust certification system, which is so important to our membership. This has involved not only the Certification Administrator and Committee Chair but also the Guelph office volunteers, as several new procedures were developed and established. All registration fees continued to be processed through the Guelph office.

This has resulted in the accreditation of CanTRA programs falling behind schedule, making this program a priority for the upcoming year.



We appreciate the support of the volunteers involved over the past year, and also the patience of our members, as we navigated the challenges of maintaining the functions required at the Guelph Head Office.

*A group of volunteers assisting a rider at Comox Valley Therapeutic Riding Society on Vancouver Island. Photo Credit: Bill Jorgensen*

Respectfully submitted,  
**JoAnn Thompson Franklin**  
**Ann Caine**



# Certification Report

February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

## Certification Committee

Margaret Rigby (Chair)

Jane James

Hilary Webb

Fionna Christensen

Linda Rault

Gay Wood

The number of successful Instructor Certification candidates from February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024 is as follows by Exam Centre location:

### March 2023

**Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre, ON.** – CTRII x 2  
**Valley Therapeutic Equestrian Association, BC.**

CTRBI x 2, CTRII x 1

### June 2023

**Les Amis de Joey, QC.**

CTRBI x 3

**TEAD Therapeutic Riding Centre**

CTRBI x 2

### September 2023

**Les Amis de Joey, QC.**

CTRBI x 2

### October 2023

**Cowichen Therapeutic Riding Association, BC.** CTRBI x 2

This is a total of 14 newly qualified CanTRA instructors.

During 2023 the decision was made to discontinue the Technical Evaluation and, in doing so, to improve the existing mentoring system by providing webinars and workshops to assist mentors and candidate instructors and to strengthen the training needed to move straight to the CanTRA Exam at all three levels of certification.



*A smile says it all.*

Photo Credit: Rainbow Riders

Accordingly plans were put in place for Spring 2024 to provide two separate webinars – the first for Mentors and the second for Candidate Instructors.

An additional decision was made in 2023 to appoint CanTRA Regional Volunteer Coordinators to work closely with the Certification Committee Chair and the Certification Administrator. This group of six Certification Coordinators will assist in supporting candidate instructors and mentors in their designated jurisdictions to provide a stronger communication system for the CanTRA Certification program.

CanTRA Volunteer Certification Coordinators:

**British Columbia** – Fionna Christensen – EC & CanTRA Coach (Examiner(R))

**Alberta** – Brenda Spanier – EC & CanTRA Coach

**Saskatchewan / Manitoba** – Hayley Edwards – EC Instructor/ CanTRA CTRSI

**Ontario** – Fiona Kearney – EC Instructor/ CanTRA CTRSI

**Quebec** – Eliane Trempe – EC & CanTRA Coach/ CanTRA Examiner

**Atlantic Provinces** – Paula Bernard – EC & CanTRA Coach/ CanTRA Examiner

This new program was launched at a ZOOM meeting on September 19, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

**Margaret Rigby**

Certification Chair,

On behalf of the committee

# Accreditation Report

February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024

## Committee members

Ann Caine, ON. (Chair)

Margaret Rigby BC.

Teg Harper, BC.

Suzy Bender, ON.

JoAnn Thompson Franklin, NB.

Margaret Tibbo, NL.

The past fiscal year has been very challenging for the CanTRA Accreditation Committee. The lack of an Administrator in the Guelph Head Office has negatively affected the administrative support for accreditation, which has also necessitated several committee members assuming volunteer duties to ensure the following necessary CanTRA programs continued to be supported:

**Membership processing** and responding to all ongoing membership inquiries.

**Insurance** - issuing of "Additional Insured" certificates as needed, responding to ongoing inquiries and preparing for the new insurance year.

**Receiving and dispatching** of orders for educational manuals etc. and maintaining printed stock

**Accreditation** - communicating with all CanTRA Exam Centres to begin organizing site visits for the upcoming fiscal year.

Fortunately, establishing an additional Head Office in Quebec, dedicated to the administration of Instructor Certification, has proved to be extremely successful, ensuring the

future administration of the Guelph Head Office will be more manageable and productive.

The first priority for Accreditation in-person site visits moving forward into the next fiscal year will be organizing the outstanding site visits for the following Examination Centres:

**British Columbia** - Cowichan TRA / Valley TEA

**Manitoba** - Urban Stable (moved to new premises)

**Quebec** - Les Amis de Joey - (moved to new premises) May 2024

**Ontario** - TEAD & SUNRISE - June 2024

Future in-person visits will be those for Comox TRA BC and Shining Horizons NB.

For all other programs, we will continue with virtual accreditation reviews. Initial contacts are planned for Spring 2024 and the timing is dependent on hiring a Guelph Head Office Administrator.

Respectfully submitted,

**Ann Caine**

Accreditation Chair,  
On behalf of the committee



Photo Credit: CanTRA



# Hippotherapy Canada

The CanTRA Hippotherapy Committee is currently on hold and under review. Discussions on next steps for the committee will take place in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Pippa Hodge**  
CanTRA Hippotherapy  
Committee.

## Equine Facilitated Wellness (EFW) Report

### CanTRA's EFW Evaluation Panel:

JoAnn Thompson Franklin

Margaret Rigby

Teg Harper

Charlotte Akerman

CanTRA's Equine Facilitated Wellness Program has adopted a Portfolio Certification method over the past two years and has received several portfolios for review in process towards certification. Categories of certification include CanTRA EFW Mental Health Professional (CanTRA EFW MHP), CanTRA Equine Assisted Learning Professional (EALP), CanTRA EFW Equine Specialist (ES) and Senior Equine Specialist (SES). Our Evaluation Panel offers feedback that is helpful to candidates as they work to gain any additional education and experience in their chosen field of this interesting and much-needed field of therapeutic learning and guided self-discovery.

Interested candidates are encouraged to follow the portfolio creation steps outlined in CanTRA's EFW Manual, which gives the Evaluation Panel evidence of the education

and experience the candidate has accumulated before submitting their portfolio for review. After responding to any feedback that is offered, and once they are found to have the appropriate core competencies, candidates are asked to attest to their Scope of Practise statement and to sign CanTRA's EFW Code of Ethics, which details principles designed to keep program equines and participants safe and well. By signing the Code of Ethics, they are agreeing to abide by those principles in carrying out their practise. They are then able to receive their certification certificate.

Unfortunately, due to the lack of administrative staff support over the past fiscal year, this process has been delayed. It has been necessary for Board and Advisory Council volunteers to provide an exceptional amount of volunteer support in key areas of CanTRA administration. Such activities included ensuring that individual membership renewals were receipted and processed and that centre profile documents were circulated, not only to maintain accurate CanTRA records, but also to prepare extensive information to submit to the CanTRA insurance company for the upcoming year. An incredible amount of work was also involved in preparing for the annual audit with no staff support.

This additional volunteer workload impacted the smooth functioning of more than one of our standing committees, including the EFW Evaluation Panel. Several of the panel members were necessarily engaged in keeping CanTRA's well-oiled wheels turning in support of Instructor Certification, the distribution of educational material, supporting our members by phone and e-mail communication and financial security,



Horse, Cadbury with Brooke F, Rider & Life Skills participant Sunrise Therapeutic Riding & Learning Centre. Photo Credit: Sydney Holmes

while also working hard on the challenges of seeking and recruiting an appropriate Guelph Head Office Administrator.

Once a new Administrator is in place, the CanTRA volunteers will be able to focus on their primary duties, which includes the EFW Evaluation Panel, whose members have already been receiving credentials from both Equine Specialists and Mental Health Professionals for review.

We look forward to positive administrative changes in the upcoming fiscal year, which will result in a fully functioning EFW Evaluation Panel moving forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
**JoAnn Thompson Franklin**  
Past President, CanTRA EFW  
Evaluation Panel Coordinator

## DONATIONS TO CanTRA

**Generous financial support to CanTRA from****Dr. Dorrit de Demeter****Shelene Williams****Jane James****Dr Bob and Arlene Wright****Don McDermott****Daphne Davey****Margaret Tibbo****Daena VanAgteren****In Memorial Donations to CanTRA from****JoAnn Franklin** in memory of Aileen Wright**JoAnn Franklin** in memory of Ross and Marian Chartley**Nicolas Reilly** in memory of Ann Reilly**Sarah Lawrence** in memory of Dr Gillian Lawrence**Gia Zopatti** in memory of Lillian Alexandra Newhouse**Kathrin Turchin** in memory of Linda Turchin**Ann Caine** in memory of Donna Davies**Daphne Davey** in memory of Donna Davies**Doug and Audrey Sandrin** in memory of Donna Davies**Wanda VandenBroek** in memory of Beverley Archer**Donating the Easy Way!**

Would you like to make a donation to CanTRA? Go the CanadaHelps way! [www.canadahelps.org](http://www.canadahelps.org) Type in "Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association" in the "I want to give to" space. Your tax-deductible donation will support children and adults with disabilities right across the country!

**Mission Statement**

The Canadian Therapeutic Riding Association - promoting excellence throughout Canada in therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapies through certification, accreditation and education.

## WHO'S WHO

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