

## Message from your Canadian Dental Assistants Association President November 2020

Hello to my fellow members of the CDAA!

As I begin my term as CDAA President, it is my intention to connect with you on a regular basis throughout the year to bring you news about the many projects, initiatives, consultations and other “big picture” issues that can only be addressed at the national level.

We are now well into our 9<sup>th</sup> month of Covid-19 protocols in dental practices around the country. I am sure that it has been a roller coaster ride for many of us during that time. Dealing both with this virus on a personal level as well as in our work environment has brought tremendous challenges that have affected us all in one way or another. I want to congratulate each and every one of you for your strength, compassion, dedication and efforts in dealing with everything that 2020 has thrown at us. While it may not seem like this will end, history has taught us that this too will pass.

Learning about the SARS CoV2 Covid-19 virus has become a priority for health scientists around the world and finding scientific evidence to support protocols for the provision of dental treatment has been challenging. Fortunately, with so many dedicated researchers working on the same problem this past year, we have accelerated our learning at a dramatic pace. While we may still be some time away from a vaccine, treatments have become more effective at treating patients with this virus and fatality rates have fallen as a result. That has brought us a little sunshine in a sky of gray and threatening clouds.

The staff and Board of Directors at the CDAA have likewise been busy over the past year, not only through presenting the dental assistant’s perspective when participating in national initiatives related to Covid-19, but also in bringing you, the individual dental assistant, through your provincial association, the latest news on developments related to Covid-19 as it relates to our professional practice. Information is passed on to many of you through your provincial websites, Facebook pages and through social media. If you have not yet logged onto the CDAA website, Twitter feed or Facebook page I encourage you to do so. These methods are our most efficient way of connecting with you, the individual dental assistant.

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I would strongly encourage you to connect with your provincial director to the CDAA and/or myself with your feedback, concerns and issues of importance to you. This will ensure that we know what our members are facing in their career and in their employment situation and provide us with information that will help us to advocate for you and for our profession as a whole. You can do this through our CDAA office at [skavanagh@cdaa.ca](mailto:skavanagh@cdaa.ca) and indicate which province/territory that you work in.

We have some exciting projects that are close to concluding so you can expect to hear from me again soon as we continue working on your behalf to advance our profession and ensure that the voice of the dental assistant is recognized and respected as a valued member of the oral healthcare team!

Until next time,  
Dianne Hennig OSJ RDA MFR  
CDAA President