

MANITOBA DENTAL ASSISTANTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021



Healthy Work-Place Working Group
...the website has launched



Special Announcement from CDAA...



A message from the CDAA President

RDA of the Month Winners

April 2021



May 2021



June 2021

Announcing the Winners of the \$100 Gift Cards Courtesy of Maxident !!!



President's Message



SAVE THE DATE!



**MDAA AGM
CE**

**Saturday
October 2, 2021
via ZOOM
Featuring**

**Kathy Purves
Andrew Gibson**

New!! Four additional prizes of \$100 donated by Maxident



FOUR PRIZES OF \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATES DONATED BY ALEX ZLATIN FROM MAXIDENT!!



MDAA Exclusive Membership Discounts

Global Dental Exchange

Hosted by:
Manitoba Dental Association



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Manitoba Dental Assistants Association
142 – 99 Scurfield Boulevard
Winnipeg, MB R3Y 1Y1
Phone 204 586-7383
Fax: 204 489-8033
Email: mdaa@mdaa.ca
Website: www.mdaa.ca

Summer Newsletter 2021

Happy Summer fellow RDA members!

Hopefully by now you have been enjoying some of the summer fun and beautiful weather. I think everyone is ready for some beachside family outings or camping/visiting to some of Manitoba's beautiful lakes! Summer holidays are probably on the schedule and now we can finally look at the first phase of re-opening in Manitoba just a bit sooner than we had hoped. This last year and a half have really taken a toll on everyone. I know our children/students have been extremely impacted. I have a teenage daughter who has been missing human contact with friends, virtual school and dance has just stopped being ok now; they have had enough, her parents are just not cutting it anymore! Many students have been starting to decline in studying and engaging, it is very tough for them as some have had many zoom meetings to manage. As parents all we can do is be supportive and know that this year is relative in how it turned out via online learning for the entire world, not just our immediate world. If you look at the big picture it is a hiccup in their education path they will overcome.

The board has been busy starting our new year and welcoming 2 new Board members; Jessica Derksen and Martita Ricardo. We are excited to have some new faces around the current virtual table. We are preparing for a new year, with strategic planning in place and we are always looking for new ideas and concepts.

We are excited to announce we have increased the monthly draw for the RDA of the Month to \$25.00 Tim Horton GC and a reminder that each monthly winner goes into the quarterly draw for \$100.00 Amazon GC compliments of Maxident, then still another yearly draw with all the monthly winners entered. BUT we need the entries to give away these great opportunities for support and encouragement of our fellow workers. All it takes is a photo, small write-up to why you think the RDA you are nominating is deserving; simple as that. The details are on our MDAA website.

The Executive RDAs on the MDAA board have recently had a meeting with the Executive members from the MDA board to address the ongoing relationships between the associations and groups. Both groups have noticed there is an increase in RDA positions available and there is question as to why? We discussed the acknowledgment that RRC and CDI have had some limitations with Covid and are doing the best they can with the limitations in place until recently, therefore the graduates have been limited. Also, the couple of surveys that were done in the past year had indicated there were some job changes either related to Covid-19 and its challenges or RDA's choosing to leave for other reasons. Our discussion was a positive discussion in looking forward for ways to improve the profession as a whole and to create better connections between the two relationships; we all need to work together; lets find ways to improve.

I will close with wishing everyone a wonderful happy and sunny Summer! I know I am enjoying my time with my family at my trailer and look forward to planning some friend and family visits.

Thank you,
Trina Bourgeois
Manitoba Dental Assistant Association President

RDA of the Month - April 2021



**Donna
Skomoroski**

The MDAA is pleased to announce **Donna Skomoroski** as our RDA of the Month for April 2021!

Donna has been a long time employee of ACP orthodontics and has worked there as an RDA for 16 years. She is looked up to and sets an example of how to always strive to do the best work you can and work efficiently. Her co workers will say "she still loves what she does and it shows". Donna shows up to work everyday with a smile on her face and encourages the team to work as one. Donna has a special ability to share well articulated information in a way that makes patients feel informed and reassured. As the go to for ordering supplies for the office she is always making sure everyone is taken care of.

When not in the office Donna likes to stay active. Top of her list of favorite things to do are walking her dog and traveling. An avid traveler when times allowed Donna would love to take trips to hot sunny destinations and share the stories and the experiences with her coworkers.

RDA of the Month - May 2021



Michaela Kissova-Bouska

Our RDA of the Month for May is **Michaela Kissova-Bouska!**

Michaela is actively involved with so many aspects of the RDA profession and the MDAA is proud to have her represent as our RDA of the Month for May.

A dental assistant for over 17 years Michaela is one of the lead instructors at CDI college lending her expertise to teaching dental assisting students and helping them to reach their goals. Actively involved in advocating for her profession, Michaela has served on both the MDA, and MDAA boards. She is also the NDAEB Facilitator for the province of Manitoba. An avid volunteer within the dental community Michaela has dedicated her time to Tooth Fairy Saturdays, Open Wide (In conjunction with the University of MB), and the MDA Annual Convention.

In addition to all that she does for the profession Michaela runs the Manitoba Dental Assistants Facebook page(independently), where she keeps everyone in the loop on job opportunities, Continuing Education and other points of interest for Dental Assistants.

In her spare time Michaela enjoys time with her family relaxing and the lake and traveling.

RDA of the Month - June 2021



**Kim
Zaik**

The MDAA is pleased to announce that **Kim Zaik** will be our RDA of the Month for June 2021!

Kim has been working for over 30 years in the same endodontic practice, where she can be found chair side assisting or working reception. An incredible value and asset to the office she is always and without hesitation willing to fill in for staff, wherever and whenever she is needed. A hard worker with a positive attitude, Kim never has a bad thing to say about anyone.

When she is not at the office, Kim loves to spend time with her family, camping and trekking across Manitoba, capturing all the beautiful scenery through pictures.



Congratulations!!

Donna Skomoroski & Kim Zaik

Winners of the **RDA of the Month** Grand Prize Draw!!

\$100 Gift Card Courtesy of Maxident



maxident
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

FOUR PRIZES OF \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATES DONATED BY ALEX ZLATIN
FROM MAXIDENT TOWARDS THE RDA OF THE MONTH!!!



Annual Message from your Canadian Dental Assistants' Association President June 2021

Warm greetings to all of our individual supporting members of the CDAA!

It has been my honor to serve our national association and our federation partners in the leadership role of President of the CDAA since September 2020. The worldwide pandemic, which hit Canada with force in March 2020, has placed challenges on our association, our profession and on each of us as individuals since we entered active public health directives to curb this terrible outbreak. Having said that, we must also acknowledge and celebrate that the CDAA has persevered, found new ways to accomplish our work and we have made several advances that we can all be proud of. The business of our national association has continued and great strides have been made despite the challenges we have faced over the past 18 months.

At this time of year, as we look back on what we have accomplished, it is also important that we know where we are going and how we are going to get there. It is necessary that we regularly review what we have defined as the Mission and Outcomes of our organization and ensure that we are on the right trajectory. I believe that the CDAA has been on track in the 2020-2021 term as evidenced by our activities, projects and initiatives.

Although the **attached overview** is a lengthy read, it is my hope that each of you will take the time to review the summary and familiarize yourself with the multitude of projects, initiatives and collaborations that the CDAA has participated in over the past year. I think you will agree that our Board, volunteers and staff have achieved a great deal on behalf of dental assistants in Canada despite the challenges we are facing.

I need to acknowledge that none of what was accomplished would be possible without the support and participation of our Organizational Members and their representatives, our valuable volunteers, corporate sponsors, staff and most importantly, the individual dental assistants across Canada who provide us with the funding to conduct this business on behalf of our profession.

With your dedication and ongoing support, we at the CDAA will 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 health-care team!

As we continue to advance and elevate our profession, I look forward to another successful and progressive year ahead for the Canadian Dental Assistants Association, for our Organizational Members, and for dental assistants across the country.

Until next time,
Dianne Hennig OStJ RDA MFR
CDAA President





Canadian Dental Assistants' Association (CDAA)

Message from your Canadian Dental Assistants' Association President

June 2021

Hello to all of the individual supporting members of the CDAA!

It has been my honor to serve our national association and our federation partners in the leadership role of President of the CDAA since September 2020. The worldwide pandemic, which hit Canada with force in March 2020, has placed challenges on our association, our profession and on each of us as individuals since we entered active public health directives to curb this terrible outbreak. Having said that, we must also acknowledge that the CDAA has persevered, found new ways to accomplish our work and we have made several advances that we can all be proud of. The business of our national association has continued and great strides have been made despite the challenges we have faced over the past 18 months.

At this time of year, as we look back on what we have accomplished, it is also important that we know where we are going and how we are going to get there. It is necessary that we regularly review what we have defined as the Mission and Outcomes of our organization and ensure that we are on the right trajectory.

Mission

CDAA's mission is to provide national leadership for the dental assisting profession furthering the interests of its member organizations and advocating on oral health issues having national impact.

Ends/Outcomes

The Ends are our desired outcomes and are used to frame the strategic plan. The Board is responsible for establishing the Ends of the organization and ensuring that the Executive Director executes sound programs and services to reach them.

Our Ends are:

1. **National level advocacy** for the dental assisting profession and the oral health of all Canadians:
 - a) Increased credibility with the federal government, provincial governments and regulators;
 - b) More awareness for the profession amongst national influencers/stakeholders in oral health.
2. **Knowledge Transference:**
 - a) More readily available, nationally respected research for use in advancing the position of Organizational Members;
 - b) Contribution as a thought leader in oral health.
3. **Community and Capacity Building** amongst the Dental Assisting Community:
 - a) Connections fostered within our community of Organizational Members;
 - b) Help to create stronger Organizational Members as part of a national community.

I believe that the CDAA has been on track in the 2020-2021 term as evidenced by our activities, projects and initiatives which I have summarized in this overview, none of which would be possible without the support and participation of our Organizational Members and their representatives, our valuable volunteers, corporate sponsors, staff and the individual dental assistants across Canada who provide us with the funding to conduct this business on behalf of our profession.

NOA/NOC – National Occupational Analysis and National Occupational Classification

“The National Occupational Analysis for Dental Assisting in Canada is completed approximately every five years and is used primarily to assist in the development and confirmation of the Occupational Standard and to update Domain Descriptions and inform National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) exam revisions. The NOA provides a timely profile of emerging trends in the dental assisting profession and serves an important role in informing training, curriculum development, and accreditation of training programs, recruitment, performance improvement, career development, and the examination and credentialing of practitioners. It also represents an important resource for provincial regulators and can inform government regulation and policy development.

The CDAA and the NDAEB solicited the partnership of the Canadian Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities (CDARA) and the Ontario Dental Assistants Association (ODAA) for the purpose of completing the 2019 NOA. The partners recommended members to a Steering Committee which guided the project. The Committee assisted in defining the scope of the NOA and developing the national online survey questionnaire. The Committee also reviewed the draft NOA report and provided feedback which contributed to the final report.” - **2019 National Occupational Analysis Canadian Dental Assisting**

On February 17, 2021, Harry Cummings & Associates lead consultant Mr. Donald Murray made a presentation to member partners CDARA, NDAEB and CDAA on the NOA 2019 project final report. The presentation provided a high-level overview of the refinements that were made to the NOA based on the findings from a national survey of dental assistants, and regional focus groups, and key informant interviews with dental assistants, educators and other relevant stakeholders. The presentation also highlighted trends and issues associated with the dental assisting profession. The final stages of completion of the NOA happened to coincide with the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic, and study participants shared early observations on the impact of the pandemic on the dental assisting profession.

We can be proud of the contributions that the CDAA has made to bring to completion the most recent National Occupation Analysis for Canadian Dental Assisting 2019, which was released on March 29, 2021. Tammy Thomson, CDAA Past President and I were the CDAA representatives on the NOA Steering Committee for this project.

This is just the first stage of the process, and there is still much to be done as we work towards changes in the National Occupational Classification (NOC) for dental assisting and use that re-classification to advance the status of our profession across the country. The NOC is Canada’s national system for describing occupations. It categorizes every possible occupation a person could have in Canada including job titles, descriptions of duties and responsibilities related to the occupation, and education/training requirements a person usually has to complete before they can work in that occupation. Among other things, the NOC serves as a framework to define and collect statistics, in conducting research and analysis, for analyzing labour market trends, in developing recruitment strategies, to extract practical career planning information, and in Canadian immigration.

The re-classification that the CDAA is seeking, which places dental assisting into a higher level of skill and education, will help us to advocate for the regulation of our profession throughout Canada, for standardized training across the country, and increased respect for our contributions to the oral health of Canadians.

NDAEB – National Dental Assisting Examining Board

CDAA is a stakeholder organization of the NDAEB. We appoint a CDAA representative to serve as a Director on the NDAEB Board of Directors. Since 2017, Judy Oakley, NS Director to the CDAA Board has served in that role. Judy also served as the NDAEB Chair of the Candidate Eligibility Assessment Committee which reviews the applications of candidate's applying to write the NDAEB Written Exam and to take the Clinical Practical Exam. This committee reviews the curriculum for new dental assistant programs being developed and reviews the Curriculum Assessment Reports for existing dental assistant programs. CDAA extends our thanks and appreciation to Judy for her contributions in this role.

IFDAN – International Federation of Dental Assistants and Nurses

For the past several years, the CDAA has been collaborating with our colleagues in the USA and UK to conceive, give birth to and nurture a worldwide organization in the form of the International Federation of Dental Assistants and Nurses (IFDAN) which was formally introduced globally on March 12, 2021. Work has begun on the formal and legal requirements to make IFDAN an official representative of our profession globally, and we anticipate finalizing those formalities by the end of 2021. Our Executive Director Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh was instrumental in pursuing this initiative, for which we owe her our sincere appreciation and thanks. These are indeed exciting times for the CDAA and our profession around the world!

HEAL – Organizations for Health Action

Formed in 1991, Organizations for Health Action (HEAL) is a Canadian coalition of 41 national health organizations that represents a broad cross-section of health providers, health regions, institutions and facilities. HEAL represents more than 500,000 providers and consumers of health care. HEAL was created out of concern over the erosion of the federal government's role in supporting a national health system. Through its history, HEAL has met with representatives of the federal government, presented Briefs to Standing Committees, and released a series of policy papers covering a range of health policy issues, including the role of the federal government in funding health care; health human resources; entry-to-practice issues; and the Canada Health Act.

The CDAA joined HEAL in June 2020 with the goal of raising the profile of our profession and our national association among other health organizations and professions, as well as to bring the perspective of dental assistants to projects and initiatives conducted by HEAL. Our Executive Director, Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh was appointed to serve as the CDAA representative on HEAL. She currently serves on their COVID-19 Task Force, bringing the perspective of the dental assistant to that committee. Vaccines, mental health support for healthcare workers and access to appropriate PPE supplies continue to be top priorities for HEAL.

Health Canada

Throughout the year, the CDAA has received requests from Health Canada for feedback on topics related to the health of Canadians. Since September 2020, the CDAA has responded to requests on the following: *Voluntary Sodium Reduction Targets for Processed Foods; Food Labelling Coordination; Consumer Product Safety Program - Instrument Choice Framework; Reporting Adverse Reactions to Marketed Health Products; Consumer Product Exclusion in the Hazardous Products Act; Safety Code 30 Radiation Protection in Dentistry; and, Cannabis regulatory issues.*

We are very grateful to all of the volunteers on the Research & Knowledge Transfer Committee for conducting preliminary reviews of these documents for the CDAA Board of Directors and for their recommended feedback responses. Special thanks to Heather Brownlee, CDAA Vice-President and RKT Committee Chair for her leadership in this work.

Covid updates for OMs

Since March 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic was identified in Canada, our Executive Director Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh has diligently sifted through the mounds of information that has flooded through the CDAA office, to bring the most current and relevant documents, articles, and resources to our Organizational Members for distribution to their membership. These resources have been a valuable benefit to the day to day practice of the dental assistant and to the provincial associations, as we have all worked to keep up to date and improve the safety of our patients and ourselves in the continuing provision of oral healthcare. The regular emails with regard to Covid-19 that were sent to OM offices over the past year have been a welcome benefit, and ensures that each province receives the same information to assist in their pandemic knowledge for understanding new guidelines and putting those into practice.

CDAA Financial Strategies Committee

In the past several months, the CDAA Bylaws Review Committee, under the leadership of our Vice-President Heather Brownlee, has prepared the Terms of Reference for a new and important standing committee for our organization. The Financial Strategies Committee will be responsible for investigating and recommending initiatives for added revenues to supplement annual membership dues as a way to provide additional opportunities for big projects that will advance our organizational objectives. In keeping with our intent to involve dental assistants from across the country, we will encourage individuals with an interest or expertise in this area to apply for a position on this committee in the coming term. Our thanks and appreciation goes to the volunteers that contributed their time and knowledge to serving on the Bylaws and Governance Committee this past year.

OCDOC – Office of the Chief Dental Officer of Canada Virtual Working Group

The CDAA is very pleased to have the support and respect of the CDOC, Dr. James Taylor. Dr. Taylor has ensured that our national professional association is invited to participate in projects and initiatives addressing oral health in Canada.

Beginning In the spring of 2020, it was my honor to be the CDAA representative for the Chief Dental Officer of Canada CDOC National Working Group to review and discuss “Evidence to support the safe return to practice by oral health professionals in Canada during the COVID-19”. The representative multidisciplinary knowledge-based group comes from the national oral health professional and federal government health domains. The group's role is to work collaboratively to contribute to the generation of high-level national evidence update documents by the team from McGill. McGill University drafted a comprehensive knowledge update concerning key issues that inform the provision of oral health care by relevant providers in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. The group was to review this compilation of evidence prepared by researchers at McGill University to support safe clinical practice by oral health practitioners in Canada. Participants in the working group were: Peter Lamey (HC/SC), James Taylor (PHAC/ASPC), Paul Allison (McGill), Jane Keir (CDHO), CDHNS Registrar, Lisette Dufour, (PHAC/ASPC), Marina Salvadori (PHAC/ASPC), C. Gregoire (PDBNS), April Slotsve (CDARA), Benoit Soucy (CDA-ADC), Dac (Denturist), Dianne Hennig (CDAA), L. Donnelly (Dentistry UBC), Jean Barbeau (UMontreal).

The original document of the report was published on July 31, 2020. The OCDOC has commissioned McGill University to produce three updates during the year following the first report. These documents will

reside alongside the original document in the public domain, to be accessible to decision makers as they carry out their respective responsibilities. It is important for people to understand that this document is not guidelines for dental practice. Provincial Colleges have the authority to prepare their own guidelines. The document is meant to provide relevant information to assist provinces in creating and amending guidelines that will apply to their particular province.

The majority of the update revisions have been related to symptoms and serious complications published in literature since July 1, 2020. Some of the new literature confirms previous knowledge and some is new information. The Working Group will convene in the summer of 2021 for their 3rd review of further recommended amendments based on any new relevant literature assessed by the McGill team.

Dental assistants across Canada need to be informed of, and aware of how important and valuable it is for the CDAA to be involved in national working groups such as this. The contributions that CDAA makes as the representative for our profession is bringing national recognition of dental assistants as vital and valued partners in the provision of oral health care to Canadians. The continuing financial and volunteer support of dental assistants across the country is absolutely necessary as we continue to instill the need for our participation in the business of health care in our country.

Provincial Consultations on CDAA governance and federation model

Along with our Executive Director, I have participated in all of the provincial consultations that occurred between January and May of 2021. The goal of these consultations was to speak with dental assistant representatives across the country to receive their feedback on options that will form the basis of a collaborative and inclusive discussion on how CDAA can best move forward in furthering the influence and progress of Canadian dental assistants. Our consultations have been with BC, AB, SK, MB, ONT, NB, NS, and NLD to date. At some point in the near future we hope to have QB, PEI and the Territories participate by providing us with their feedback as well. We will be working once again with Mr. Ron Knowles to facilitate those discussions, tentatively planned for the late fall of 2021.

NSDAA – Modernizing the Nova Scotia Dental Act: A Discussion Paper

The CDAA in its role of advocate, and in keeping with our Mission, sent a letter in January 2021 to the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (on the request of and following consultation with the NSDAA), to respond on behalf of Canadian dental assistants to the proposed amendments to the Nova Scotia Dental Act. We anticipate that the CDAA will participate in additional follow-up as this modernization process continues to evolve in Nova Scotia.

The four main points of our correspondence were:

1. It is CDAA's firm position that the profession of dental assisting should be a regulated health profession in all Canadian provincial/territorial jurisdictions. In alignment with the CDAA's position expressed to the Nova Scotia Dental Association in February and again in April 2020, the CDAA fully supports NSDAA's position to cease the practice of hiring untrained and unlicensed individuals to act as a dental assistant in the dental office.
2. CDAA echoes NSDAA's position that an equal representation from dental assistants, dentists and public members will provide diverse, enriched input and collaboration on oral health issues, resulting in improved service to and protection of the public.
3. The CDAA agrees with the NSDAA that professional associations should remain in the Nova Scotia Dental Act. Removing the professional associations from the Act, risks silencing the voice of dental assistants in the province and endangers the sustainability of the NSDAA. By removing the NSDAA from

the Act, the regulator risks losing a key ally who can promote policies and regulations to ensure Nova Scotians are receiving the best possible oral healthcare from all members of the dental team.

4. CDAA would support any regulation that aligns dental assisting with the vast majority of health professions across Canada, requiring dental assistants to maintain personal professional liability (“malpractice”) insurance, offered exclusively through their professional association.

HWWG – Healthy Workplace Working Group

A joint working group was formed by the Canadian Dental Assistants Association, Canadian Dental Hygiene Association, and Canadian Dental Association to address major issues brought to the forefront regarding problems in the dental workplace. These issues were identified through a survey titled “Healthy and Respectful Workplace” that was conducted in 2018 and that provided us with excellent data related to the work experiences of the dental assistants across Canada.

We are pleased with the inter-professional work that is being accomplished by the HWWG. The Healthy Workplace Matters webpage was developed with the goal of providing resources for dental employers and staff to improve the dental work environment. The page was launched on April 19, 2021. The intention is to continue to add relevant resources that will contribute to improving working conditions for dental staff and address any new employment concerns that arise into the future. The link to the resource and information page is **www.oasisdiscussions.ca/healthy-workplace-matters**

Representatives from the CDA/CDAA/CDHA are presently working on a joint article for the professional associations based on the same survey reviewed by the HWWG. Once the group of representatives has reviewed and provided amendments to the article it will be another month or so for it to be ready for publication, which is anticipated in the summer of 2021. Included with the article will be a helpful poster titled “Pathway to a Healthy and Respectful Workplace” that outlines the steps that dental employers can take to ensure that their work environment is one that supports and respects all staff members.

CDAA members on this working group include our current Vice President Heather Brownlee, Past President Tammy Thomson and AB Director to CDAA, Jane Sadler. Our thanks go to all three ladies for representing the CDAA in this capacity.

FREEDAC - Factors, Realities, and Experiences of Employment as a Dental Assistant in Canada

This study was conducted jointly by the CDA and CDAA in 2019. Plans are now being developed for these organizations to address specific data received through that study related to perceived shortages of dental assistants and factors that relate to that issue.

75 years of Organized Dental Assisting in Canada 1945-2020

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic placing restrictions on travel and gatherings beginning in March of 2020, the CDAA was unable to celebrate our 75th Anniversary as we had hoped. After months of planning, it was a huge disappointment that the pandemic forced CDAA to delay and re-schedule our very important 75th Anniversary celebrations. Initially, we had hoped that the pandemic would quickly be under control and allow us to hold a 75 + 1 Anniversary event in June of 2021. Alas, that was an overly optimistic view. The pandemic has once again forced us to postpone any in person gatherings for the CDAA until at least the summer of 2022, pending a lifting of public health restrictions across the country.

Initiating a President’s Message to Canadian Dental Assistants

One of my commitments as CDAA President was to personally connect with individual dental assistants across Canada to keep them informed of the vital work that our national association is engaged in on their behalf. Beginning in November 2020, I forwarded my President’s Message to each OM for distribution to their individual members on my behalf.

I believe that the success of our national association lies in each dental assistant feeling personally connected to the work that we do to promote the value of dental assistants in oral healthcare, in the initiatives we implement to strengthen and advance our profession, in the valuable and necessary connections that we make with the health community at the federal level, and the goals that we set for our profession to receive recognition and respect for our contributions to the health of Canadians. Establishing that personal connection is vital to encouraging participation and creating leaders that will carry on our vision and mission into the future.

My second message was distributed in March 2021 and I will ask our OM's to ensure that they forward my June 2021 message just prior to our AGM. The importance of the OM's in forwarding information from the CDAA to their individual members cannot be overstated, and I thank each one of our federation partners for their support in this initiative.

As we look back over the past 76 years, we must acknowledge and be grateful for the contributions that have been made to our profession by hundreds, and probably thousands, of dedicated volunteers from coast to coast. Of course, there have been changes in the CDAA's structure and mandate over that time. What has stayed the same is our organizations' commitment to represent our profession nationally and to promote dental assistants as vital members of the oral healthcare team. As we look forward to celebrating the accomplishments and progress we have made, we also look forward to embracing full participation from every province and territory across Canada. That accomplished, we can more effectively work together to take dental assistants into a future where they are widely recognized and appreciated as valued oral health professionals for their significant contributions to the oral health of Canadians.

It is with much gratitude that I personally thank Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh, CDAA Executive Director, our Organizational Members, our CDAA Board of Directors and our Committee volunteers for their valuable support in the 2020-2021 term. The dedication, enthusiasm and participation of the many individuals that have worked so hard in such a challenge filled year have impressed and inspired me and give me great confidence in the future of our profession and for the CDAA.

With your dedication and ongoing support, we at the CDAA will 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 health-care team!

As we continue to advance and elevate our profession, I look forward to another successful and progressive year ahead for the Canadian Dental Assistants Association, for our Organizational Members, and for dental assistants across the country.

Until next time,
Dianne Hennig OSJ RDA MFR
CDAA President 1-800-345-5137



skavanagh@cdaa.ca
www.cdaa.ca
<https://www.facebook.com/cdaa>
twitter @CDAA_ACAD_

CDAA

Advocating on Behalf of RDAs

Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC)

Many of you may not be aware that over the past several years the CDAA has been advocating for updates to **Canada's National Occupational Classification (NOC)**. The NOC is a national system for describing all occupations.

NOC categorizes every possible occupation a person could have in Canada including job titles, descriptions of duties and responsibilities related to the occupation, and education/training requirements a person usually has to complete before they can work in that occupation. Among other things, the NOC serves as a framework to define and collect statistics, in conducting research and analysis, for analyzing labour market trends, in developing recruitment strategies, to extract practical career planning information, and in Canadian immigration.

CDAA hopes that our advocacy efforts will result in upgrading our occupational classification in the 2021 NOC.

Please watch for future updates regarding NOC by emails and newsletters. If you would like more information regarding NOC please visit their website at <https://noc.esdc.gc.ca>, or contact the MDAA office.

Heather Brownlee
Vice President, CDAA Director, Manitoba
Chair B & G Committee
Chair, RKT Committee

Pathway to a Healthy and Respectful Workplace





We are pleased to announce the launch of the Healthy Workplace Matters initiative on CDA Oasis. The website brings together a range of helpful resources and tools to help the dental team contribute to creating and maintaining a healthy workplace. Resources include an office poster (Pathway to a Healthy and Respectful Workplace Eng + Fre), short video vignettes, and links to additional external sources of information to help employers and the dental team create and sustain a healthy workplace.

The resources provide helpful information on:

- respectful communication in the workplace
- legal rights and related matters
- physical well-being in the workplace (physical activity and healthy nutrition)
- mental health and well-being in the workplace
- strategies on how to create a healthier workplace
- workplace safety and injury prevention

This initiative was made possible by the collaborative efforts of members of the Healthy Workplace Working Group, which consists of representatives from CDA, CDAA and CDHA.

We hope you find the resources useful. We welcome your thoughts, questions and/or suggestions about this post and other topics. Leave a comment in the box below or send us your feedback by email.

[Healthy Workplace Matters – Oasis Discussions](#)



Lakeview Hotels & Resorts features the following amenities to make your stay more enjoyable:

- ❁ Free wireless internet service.
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 - ❁ Fitness Centre
 - ❁ Pool and Hot Tub** Select locations
 - ❁ Complimentary Continental Breakfast*Select Locations
- *Note* Some amenities may be suspended or revised due to current health directives.

We are pleased to offer the following preferred guest room rates for MDAA, plus taxes. Rates are Valid until December 31, 2021. Please call hotel direct to inquire as to the high or low season dates. Rates are based on standard guestrooms, single or double occupancy, upgrade rates may apply.

Corporate rates are not applicable to group bookings.

Blackout dates are applicable to the Lakeview Gimli Resort and the Hecla Lakeview Resorts.*

*Lakeview Gimli Resort – July 29 – August 3, 2021

*Hecla Lakeview Resorts – Rates are not available Friday and Saturday, as well as holiday weekends from (March 25, 2021 – April 4, 2021) (June 24, 2021 – September 5, 2021). (December 24, 2021– January 2, 2022).

Rates are not applicable for any holidays.

Lakeview Management Inc
600 – 185 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3J1 204-947-1161 Fax: 204-957-1697
lakeviewhotels.com



SAVE the DATE!
Saturday, October 2, 2021
MDAA CE
Via Zoom

Featuring:

Kathy Purves
(Infection Control)

Andrew Gibson
(Enhancing Case Acceptance Skills In a Post COVID Economy)

More Details and your chance to register coming soon !

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