



## Message from your Canadian Dental Assistants' Association President December 2021

Season Greetings to my fellow dental assistants across Canada!

The past 2 years have been atypical as we all have had to find ways to cope with Covid-19 both in our dental practices and in our personal lives. As we enter from pandemic life into endemic life with Covid-19 I hope that you will find more opportunities to reconnect with family and friends. The holiday season brings more joy and hope into our day to day activities as we return to personal interactions with those who are important to us. These periods of respite from the everyday are times of rejuvenation and bring improved mood and a brighter perspective to most of us.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for continuing to support the critical work of the CDAA through your membership dues. We cannot work to advance our profession, to conduct dental assistant relevant research, to advocate for our profession and to bring the voice and perspective of the dental assistant to national initiatives without you!

Your CDAA Board of Directors and CDAA Committees have been actively pursuing initiatives, and continuing to work on behalf of our profession. On November 6, 2021 our Board met in person in Ottawa to review the Consultation Report arising from CDAA's discussions with provincial representatives between January and April 2021. The report informed the resolutions that will be brought forward at the CDAA AGM in June 2022.

### **National Occupation Classification 2021 - The Big News!**

The CDAA is very pleased to report that – after many years of working on this initiative - the profession of dental assisting is now classified as a “skilled” profession under TEER 3 of the NOC 2021 and is no longer classified as an “unskilled” occupation in Canada. If you would like to review the NOC 2021, you can access the full database at: [NOC 2021 - Canada.ca \(esdc.gc.ca\)](https://www.esdc.gc.ca/noc2021)

There has been a flurry of work this past year by our Board and Committees that has resulted in a large number of consultation responses to Public Health Agency of Canada and Health Canada. As well, the CDAA has now posted new and updated Position Statements on our website, including Position Statements on: **Mitigating the Spread of Covid-19; Self-Regulation of Dental Assistants Across Canada; Oral Health Care Standards For Long-Term Care Facilities; and an updated version of Dental Assisting Across Canada.** We hope that you will visit [www.cdaa.ca](http://www.cdaa.ca) and check these out!

### **Looking Ahead to 2022....**

The CDAA has been working with our counterparts at the Canadian Dental Association and Canadian Dental Hygiene Association on important initiatives that will take off in the New Year. These include: partnering with the CDHA to update and standardize the oral health component of newborn information packages, currently distributed to new families across Canada; and, partnering with the CDA to develop an action plan to address the findings of the Factors, Realities, and Experiences of Employment as a Dental Assistant in Canada (FREEDAC) report. Also on our list of projects for 2022 will be to conduct a national wage and compensation survey to provide data that will assist provincial Organizational Member associations to address these issues with employers in their region.

There are going to be many opportunities for the CDAA to bring the voice and perspective of the Canadian dental assistant to the table on oral and general health initiatives through the many national relationships we have formed over the past years. To ensure that we strengthen our impact on the national scene we need the full support of the profession across our country. As we enter 2022, our request is that you, the individual dental assistant, will be our “champion” through your ongoing membership and by speaking out within your own regional dental assistant associations about the importance of individual dental assistants engaging in the business of our profession at the local, provincial and national levels. Together...we are stronger and can do great things for dental assistants in Canada!

From our professional family here at CDAA to you and your colleagues across Canada, we wish you all the best in 2022! Until next time,

Dianne Hennig OSTJ RDA MFR  
CDAA President



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