



CDAA PRESIDENT QUARTERLY REPORT - FALL 2022

Hello dental assisting colleagues!

As CDAA President, I reluctantly inform our members of the resignation of our Executive Director Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh in late August of this year. Stephanie has been such a positive addition to the CDAA National office advocating tirelessly for RDAs across Canada and internationally for the last 8 years. The CDAA Board of Directors and Organizational Members want to express our greatest thank you to Stephanie for all she has done for the CDAA. I am positive we will continue all her work on the various committees she has served on with our new Executive Director. CDAA struck a hiring committee in late October, and we are diligently working on announcing a new Executive Director to start in 2023.

In September, I was interviewed by Sierra Bellows from the CDA Essentials Journal for an article from a Dental Assistant's perspective on the challenges facing the dental assisting workforce today. You may access the article here: <https://www.cda-adc.ca/en/services/essentials/2022/issue6/16/>

On September 27th CDAA launched with our partners Prolink Insurance and Industrial Alliance Insurance, a unique offer exclusive for CDAA member dental assistants and their families the opportunity to buy up to \$50,000 of critical illness insurance with no medical questions – their acceptance was guaranteed. In addition, members could buy up to \$10,000 of coverage for their children. I am pleased to announce that we had a remarkably successful campaign.

At the beginning of October, the CDAA launched the CDAA 2022 Job Market, Compensation and Benefit Survey. Thank you to all that participated. Without your input, collection of data used to advocate for RDAs is not possible on a national or a provincial level. CDAA is currently working on tabulating all the data and results will be released to the stakeholders in the first quarter of the new year.

In early October, Dianne Henning, Past CDAA President and myself took part in round table discussions with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS brings together Canada's top-ranked health and biomedical researchers and scholars to work on on-going and urgent health concerns of Canadians) to generate ideas on how to implement some leading health human resources (HHR) policy practices and initiatives, and identify which of these may be most effective and feasible within the Canadian context. The full results of the consultations will be released in the spring of 2023 on their website.

On both October 6 and December 5, 2022, I virtually attended meetings as the CDAA representative to the Organization for Health Action (HEAL). HEAL continues to advocate for fair treatment and support for the Canadian health sector. In October, HEAL launched an HR survey with all 40 organizations members with specific focus on steps to improve retention within the healthcare sector. A summary of the results was presented to the federal Minister of Health, Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos at a meeting in Ottawa along with some formal questions brought forward by HEAL stakeholders.

As many of you are aware on December 1, 2022, the government of Canada launched the first stage of the CANADA DENTAL BENEFIT. On October 18th, I attended a meeting on behalf of the CDAA Health

Canada officials, the Chief Dental Officer of Canada, and officials from the Canada Revenue Agency explaining the legislation and how the benefit will work.

On October 27th CDAA sent a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) in response to HESA's study on children's health, outlining our position on the importance of oral health in the advancement of children's overall health and how dental assistants are an untapped resource that could be used in daycares and schools to provide nutritional instruction and proper toothbrushing techniques to elementary school children.

November 14th and 15th I attended an in-person meeting in Ottawa as the CDAA representative to the Canadian Oral Health Policy Lab presented by the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future. The mission of the event was to explore what else is needed in terms of investments or other conditions to maximize caries prevention and care among infants and children, given recent developments in oral health care policy and practice in Canada and internationally. The lab was also attended by public health dentists, hygienists, nurses, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in creating a platform to deliver preventive dental care as opposed to the traditional drill and fill concept.

On November 30th CDAA was invited to attend a HEALTH MINISTER SPECIAL EVENT hosted by Minister of Health, Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos on the recent launch of the CANADIAN DENTAL BENEFITS program relating to children's oral health care. Manitoba Board Representative, Tabatha Blais, attended this event on behalf of the CDAA. She was asked questions from a dental assistant's perspective about children's oral health care and what direction future policy on this should take.

On December 14th CDAA will participate in a round table discussion hosted by Minister of Health Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos to discuss how to realize improvements to the oral health of Canadians. The CDAA will join our colleagues from the Canadian Dentist Association, Canadian Dental Hygienist Association, and the Denturist Association of Canada at this important discussion. CDAA looks forward to bringing you updates from these ministerial discussions over the coming months.

CDAA continues to advocate for Dental Assistants across Canada, but we do need your support and participation to do so effectively. CDAA is always recruiting DAs to serve on our many CDAA sub-committees. If anyone is interested in taking part in one of our committees at the national level, please contact us at info@cdaa.ca or skavanagh@cdaa.ca anytime for more information.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding CDAA you may contact me at hbdocuments@shaw.ca.

I would like to wish all our members a WONDERFUL, HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IN 2023.

Heather Brownlee

Heather Brownlee, RDA
CDAA President, 2022-23

