



CANADIAN DENTAL ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION DENTAIRE CANADIENNE

CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

APRIL 18–21, 2018

A NATIONAL GATHERING OF THE DENTAL PROFESSION

The following report highlights discussions and outcomes from the CDA Annual General Meeting (AGM), the CDA Board of Directors meeting, and other meetings and events held in conjunction with the CDA AGM from April 18–21, 2018.

The CDA AGM and its related events provide an opportunity for the profession to come together to exchange ideas, celebrate achievements, and collaborate on future initiatives.

Other meetings held in conjunction with the CDA AGM were the Dentistry Leaders' Forum, the Corporate Member Presidents and CEOs Meeting, the Canadian Oral Health Roundtable (COHR) and the Wellness Conference. In addition, the Canadian Dental Specialties Association held its annual meeting in conjunction with the CDA meetings.

Individuals who have served the profession with distinction were honoured at the CDA Awards Luncheon and President's Installation Dinner on April 20. In addition, the dental community came together to recognize CDA's outgoing President, Dr. Larry Levin of Hamilton, Ontario and to welcome CDA's incoming President, Dr. Michel (Mitch) Taillon of Assiniboia, Saskatchewan.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE CDA AGM - APRIL 20, 2018

The CDA AGM provides the CDA Board of Directors with the opportunity to present its Annual Report, CDA's year-end financial results and fee rate recommendation for the coming year and the selection of external auditors. It also allows attendees to hear from other national dental organizations about their areas of activity.

In addition, the CDA Board of Directors and the Chair of the Annual General Meeting are elected at the AGM.

CDA Board of Directors Annual Report

Dr. Larry Levin, CDA President, highlighted some of CDA's key achievements over the past year. He noted CDA's successful advocacy efforts in countering two key Federal Government tax proposals - one related to the potential taxation of health and dental benefits, and the second related to tax measures affecting corporate structures and small businesses.

He highlighted the launch of CDA Secure Send, the development of ITRANS 2.0 and CDA's support of an independent national study on the Future of the Profession, the results of which were discussed at the Dentistry Leaders' Forum.

The members of CDA's Healthy Public Strategic Priority Team reported on the creation of two new access to care working groups - one related to Indigenous children and the second to persons with special health care needs. Reference was made to CDA's advocacy efforts to ease administrative burdens and improve coverage for refugees, to improve the administration of the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) program, to improve the information available to Canadians on dietary sugars, and to restrict unhealthy foods marketed to children.

The members of CDA's Strong Profession Strategic Priority Team reported on CDA's work in areas related to claims verification (insurance company audits), claims transmission, antimicrobial resistance and the opioid crisis. The team's most challenging current issue is the increasing ratio of dentists to patients, and the team's most significant emerging issue is dental human resources.

The members of CDA's United Community Strategic Priority Team reported on CDA's work in building a united community with a shared common vision that binds members to a common purpose. This included holding successful meetings with a variety of dental organizations and refining CDA's various communications vehicles. The teams most challenging current issues are attracting the attention of busy dentists and attracting volunteers. Its most significant emerging issue is ensuring there is a coordinated strategic planning approach when discussing the recommendations from the Future of the Profession Task Force.

Remarks by CDA's Outgoing President – Dr. Larry Levin

Dr. Larry Levin, outgoing CDA President, spoke about his role as CDA President and those areas that held special significance for him. They included:

1. Ensuring that all voices are heard and there is effective collaboration,
2. Being both a spokesperson and a champion for CDA and the profession,
3. Examining difficult, but important, issues facing the profession, with specific reference to access to care for Canadians and the future of the profession.

He thanked the CDA Board and staff and Corporate Members and stakeholder groups for their assistance, support and friendship over the past year.

Remarks by CDA's Incoming President – Dr. Mitch Taillon

Dr. Mitch Taillon, CDA's incoming President, thanked the CDA Board for the opportunity to continue to serve the profession as CDA President. He commented on (1) the need for improved access to care for vulnerable groups such as Indigenous children and special needs patients and (2) the importance of ongoing consultation, collaboration and partnerships to manage the challenges of today as well as those of tomorrow.

Election of the CDA Board of Directors for 2018-19

The following individuals were elected to the CDA Board of Directors for 2018-19.

- Dr. Michel (Mitch) Taillon (Saskatchewan) (nominated by the CDA Board of Directors)
- Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Mutchmor (Manitoba) (nominated by the CDA Board of Directors)
- Dr. James Armstrong (British Columbia) (nominated by the CDA Board of Directors)
- Dr. Joel Antel, nominated by the Manitoba Dental Association
- Dr. Roger Armstrong, nominated by the Northwest Territories and Nunavut Dental Association and Yukon Dental Association

Dr. Linda Blakey, nominated by the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association
Dr. Heather Carr, nominated by the Nova Scotia Dental Association
Dr. Tobin Doty, nominated by the Alberta Dental Association and College
Dr. Richard Holden, nominated by the Dental Association of Prince Edward Island
Dr. Garret M. Prestie, nominated by the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
Dr. Lynn Tomkins, nominated by the Ontario Dental Association
Dr. Daniel Violette, nominated by the New Brunswick Dental Society
Dr. Bruce Ward, nominated by the British Columbia Dental Association

For 2018-19, Dr. Michel (Mitch) Taillon was confirmed as CDA President, Dr. Alexander (Sandy) Mutchmor was confirmed as CDA President-Elect and Dr. James Armstrong was confirmed as CDA Vice-President.

Election of the Chair of the CDA Annual General Meeting

Dr. Gary MacDonald from Mount Pearl, Newfoundland, was elected Chair of the CDA AGM for a second two-year term.

Finances

The 2019 membership fee rates will remain the same as 2018 and were confirmed at \$537.50 for tier 1 provinces, \$440.00 for tier 2 provinces and \$342.50 for tier 3 provinces, plus applicable taxes. The affiliate membership fee for 2019 will be at the tier 1 level of \$537.50, plus applicable taxes.

The 2017 CDA Audited Financial Statements and the Audit Committee Report were received. For 2017, it was considered a “clean” audit with no outstanding issues. The 2017 audited financial statements were accepted as presented and Deloitte was approved as CDA’s external auditor for 2018.

The 2017 CDA Audited Financial Statements show that CDA ended the year with a deficit of \$54,782 in its general operations. This represents a significant improvement from the budgeted deficit of \$351,100. Total revenue was \$10,666,329 which is 1.1% higher than budget, and expenses were \$10,721,111 or 1.7% lower than budget. Once CDAC and CSI had been accounted for, CDA ended the year with a surplus of \$87,919.

Reports from Groups and Organizations within the Dental Community

CDA received presentations from the following dental organizations outlining their current and future activities:

- Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry,
- Canadian Association of Hospital Dentists,
- Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation,
- Canadian Dental Specialties Association,
- Federation of Canadian Dentistry Student Associations,
- CDSPI,
- Public Health Agency of Canada,
- Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada,
- National Dental Examining Board of Canada,
- Royal Canadian Dental Corps, and
- Royal College of Dentists of Canada.

In addition, a written report was provided by the Canadian Association for Dental Research.

OTHER MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

CDA Awards

CDA Awards were conferred on the following individuals for their outstanding service to the profession, their patients and their community:

Award of Merit – Dr. Douglas Brothwell (SK), Dr. Anil Joshi (NB), Dr. Michelle Zwicker (NL)

Distinguished Service Award – Dr. Ross Anderson (NS), Dr. Clive Friedman (ON), Dr. John Palmer (BC) and Dr. Bruce Ward (BC)

Special Friend of Canadian Dentistry Award – Ms. Susan Armstrong (ON)

Honorary Membership Award – Dr. Toby Gushue (NL)

Dentistry Leaders' Forum (DLF) – April 20, 2018

Dr. Larry Levin, CDA President, chaired the Dentistry Leaders' Forum (DLF). The DLF serves as a national gathering for dentistry to discuss topics of national interest.

Dr. Alastair Nicoll, Chair of the Task Force on The Future of the Profession, facilitated a discussion on the findings, conclusions and recommendations of a Report prepared by the Task Force titled 'Canadian Dentistry 2032.'

It was noted that the Task Force was an independent national advisory body that was established to be at arms length from the Canadian Dental Association. The Task Force was asked to consider changes that will affect the profession and society in the coming 15 years. What followed was a set of recommendations to prepare the dental profession to meet the expectations of society in 2032. The recommendations are designed to be a call to action for the Canadian dental profession.

Discussions at the DLF were the beginning of a consultation process with the leadership of the dental profession. Attendees were asked to discuss the report within their respective organizations and provide CDA with their thoughts, suggestions and priorities by August 15, 2018. The goal is to arrive at a plan on how best to prioritize and implement the recommendations from the report.

It was noted that the CDA Board will be discussing the report at its June Board Planning Session in Saskatchewan. The report will also be discussed when the Corporate Member Presidents and CEOs meet in August in Charlottetown, P.E.I. during the CDA-DAPEI convention.

Responding to the recommendations from the Report of the Task Force will be a top priority for the Canadian Dental Association and will involve extensive collaboration, consultation and coordination with all stakeholder groups.

Meeting of the Corporate Member Presidents and CEOs – April 19, 2018

A meeting of the Corporate Member Presidents and CEOs was held on April 19, 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by CDA President Dr. Larry Levin, and Dr. Robert Cochran, President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Association.

CDA and the Corporate Members identified their respective strategic priorities for the coming year.

The group discussed the challenges facing the profession due to the supply of dental assistants in various part of the country. Although it was recognized that this is largely a provincial matter, CDA was asked to assist by continuing to gather data, monitor this issue, and develop a national strategy. The group also discussed the need for government to fund dental research in the second Canadian Health Measures Survey, CDHA's plans to expand education programs for dental hygienists and corporatization.

The group received a presentation from CDA President-Elect, Dr. Mitch Taillon on the recommendations from the CDA Working Group on the Future of e-Claims and from CSI Board Chair, Dr. Ron Smith on the work of CSI and instream.

Attendees discussed the process to be followed for renewal of the MOU between CDA and the Corporate Members. There was consensus that the process recommended by the CDA would be followed and that all aspects of the MOU would be open to review including governance.

There was consensus to make CDA Secure Send available to Indigenous Services Canada, the First Nation's Health Authority (FNHA) and the Royal Canadian Dental Corps; to make CDAnet available to the Canadian dental schools; and to include non-member dentists in the National Registry of Canadian Dentists.

A report on the meeting will be prepared and distributed to attendees.

Canadian Oral Health Roundtable (COHR) – April 19, 2018

The goal of the COHR is to develop a community of support comprised of both oral health and non-oral health groups, and to engage in discussions and agree on possible common policies or initiatives that the participating organizations might endorse.

The April 2018 meeting was the 5th meeting of the COHR. Discussion focused on implementing practical strategies for helping victims of family violence.

Outcomes included:

- an understanding of family violence as an important societal issue,
- an understanding of the importance of family violence injuries and signs of neglect,
- an understanding of the barriers to becoming involved in helping victims of family violence.
- an awareness of key information and referral resources.

A report on the meeting will be prepared and distributed to attendees.

Wellness Conference– April 21, 2018

The Wellness Conference was organized by CDA and CDSPI in collaboration with the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF). Discussions focussed on enhancing the wellness of Canadian dentists, and included:

- what can be done to support dentists when addictions and other conditions affect their ability to function,
- what is currently being done by the dental regulatory authorities when a dentist cannot provide safe and competent patient care, and

- what can be done to prevent mental health-related problems and to promote wellness among dentists.

Outcomes included continuing to discuss this issue in the future, and finding ways to enhance and expand support programs for dentists.

CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – APRIL 18, 2018

Current Key Issues

Renewal of the MOU Between CDA and the Corporate Members

The Board discussed the renewal of the MOU between CDA and the Corporate Members. It was noted that the current MOU expires on December 31, 2020.

It was recommended that the Corporate Members consider a process similar to that undertaken during the mid-term review and that CDA would offer to act as the secretariat for this process.

Tax Planning Using Corporate Structures

The Board received an update on the Federal Government's latest proposals on amending the rules on tax planning for small businesses.

It was noted that the Federal Government had recently softened its initial proposals in this area. The new proposals allow the amount of income eligible for the small business tax rate to be gradually reduced if a corporation earns more than \$50,000 of passive investment in each year. The new proposals would also see the small business deduction limit reduced by \$5 for every \$1 of investment income above the \$50,000 threshold, such that the business limit would be reduced to zero at \$150,000 of investment income. In addition, the Federal Government had amended its initial proposal on income splitting to ease initial limits on paying dividends to family members.

It was reported that this appears to be the government's final proposal. While not ideal, it is a significant retreat from its initial proposals. It was noted that a significant portion of the tax planning tools for small businesses have been preserved.

CDA Priority Projects

1. Future of the Profession

This area will be a topic priority for the Canadian Dental Association as discussed in the report on the Dentistry's Leader's Forum.

2. Claims Transmission CSI and Instream

The Board approved a plan of action to implement the recommendations contained in the Report of the Working Group on the Future of e-Claims. These recommendations relate to CDA's relationship with CSI and instream and include the following:

- That CDA participate in a review of the various contracts between CSI and instream to ensure that CDA's strategic direction for e-claims is sustained,
- That CSI seek a fourth Board member to add additional skills and experience to its Board,

- That CDA provide clear direction to the CSI Board of its objective to optimize CDA's role in the e-claims marketplace,
- That the CSI Board produce financial reports according to a prescribed financial reporting model,
- That CSI increase its communications to CDA through regular reports throughout the year and that CSI present a report annually to the Corporate Member Presidents and CEOs Meeting beginning in April 2018. (It was noted that the Chair of the CSI Board, Dr. Ron Smith, presented a report at the April 19, 2018 Presidents and CEOs meeting.)

ITRANS 2.0

The technical development of ITRANS 2.0 is nearing completion. It is expected that ITRANS 2.0 will roll out to vendors in Q2, 2018. An early get-started package was distributed to vendors in March.

Work continues on the development of a master services agreement that would include service agreement schedules for claims (ITRANS 2.0, CDAnet and the current ITRANS) and CDA Secure Send.

ITRANS 2.0 will provide CDA with claims data to support the Help Desk as well as for research. Issues related to privacy and the de-identification of patient data prior to storage are being addressed.

3. Claims Verification/Dental Benefit Issues

The members of the CDA Working Group on Insurance Company Audits met with the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association (CLHIA) in early April to begin discussions on establishing best practices for claims verification.

Considering this, the Board recommended that the name of the working group be changed to the Working Group on Claims Verification to more accurately reflect the focus of these discussions.

The activities of the Committee on Dental Benefits are on hold pending discussions with CLHIA on claims verification.

4. CDA Secure Send

CDA Secure Send usage continues to grow at a steady pace. There are currently over 3,500 CDA Secure Send subscribers, and there is steady month-over-month growth. Marketing efforts to increase usage will continue throughout 2018. Updated software, practice management vendor integration, dental regulatory usage, and dental laboratory usage are scheduled for release in 2018.

New features such as additional passwords on file pickups, and more intuitive navigation are in the testing phase. A CDA Secure Send certification process has been developed and will be sent to all interested dental office software vendors this year.

The Board emphasized the importance of informing dentists of the need to use a secure, encrypted messaging system for sending patient information and that CDA has developed CDA Secure Send to serve as such a system.

5. Access to Care for Persons with Special Health Care Needs

CDA staff have begun implementing a strategy to improve access to care for persons with special health care needs. Corporate Members have been contacted to determine the extent of existing resources in their province, and committee members are compiling a list of equipment necessary for oral care in a hospital setting.

Next steps include reaching out to organizations representing the interests of those with cognitive and intellectual challenges, sending a survey to dentists to assess their need for information in this area and developing educational tools for dentists, such as a CE course.

6. Indigenous Children's Oral Health

The Board approved the terms of reference for an Indigenous Children's Oral Health Working Group and a strategic approach for this area. The focus of the initiative will be to determine how dentistry can work with Indigenous Peoples to improve the oral health of Indigenous children. A long-term, multi-stakeholder approach is proposed with a specific focus on prevention and education in a culturally appropriate and safe manner.

Outgoing CDA President, Dr. Larry Levin was appointed to chair the working group. The members of the working group will be confirmed at the June Board meeting.

CDA Program Updates

Advocacy

CDA's Days on the Hill Activities – May 8-9, 2018

CDA's annual Days on the Hill events are scheduled for May 8-9, 2018 on Parliament Hill in Ottawa. Discussion points will focus on:

1. **Federal Funding for Provincial Oral Health Care Programs,**
2. **Federal Funding for Oral Health Research** including priority funding for oral health research in the second Canadian Health Measures Survey and increased funding for the Network for Canadian Oral Health Research.
3. **Indigenous Oral Health** including underscoring CDA's commitment in this area.

Healthy Eating/Sugar Reduction

The Board was updated on CDA's collaboration with the *Stop Marketing to Kids* coalition and its support of Bill S-228, targeted to amend the Food and Drugs Act. The bill is into its final reading in the House of Commons and will restrict food and beverage marketing to children ages 13 and under.

CDA has also consulted extensively with Health Canada's Office of Nutrition Policy and Promotion on a healthy eating strategy, revisions to Canada's Food Guide, front packaging labelling and a sugar-sweetened beverage reduction campaign.

Refugee Oral Health

The Board was updated on CDA's advocacy efforts with the Federal Government to address shortfalls with the oral health care program provided through the Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP). It was reported that the Department of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship is

reviewing IFHP policies. An advance copy of its internal review has been given to CDA for comment.

2018 Federal Budget

The Board reviewed outcomes from the 2018 Federal Budget and its potential impact on dentistry. Three areas of interest are:

- The formation of an Advisory Council on Pharmacare
- Funding for Indigenous Health
- Research Funding

These areas will be closely monitored and acted on as appropriate by CDA.

(Items relating to the taxation of small businesses is covered elsewhere in this report)

Human Resource Issues in the Dental Office

The Board discussed the supply of dental assistants in certain regions of the country and its impact on dental practices.

CDHA and the Plan to Expand Education Programs

At its February meeting, the Board discussed the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) Position Statement on Filling the Gap in Oral Health Care. The report recommends integrating the 3-year dental hygiene program into the 4-year entry to practice model as a means of addressing access to care issues.

Since its introduction in February, CDA has discussed this issue with the Corporate Members and will be promoting a dentist-led approach for access to care. It is believed that care is better delivered by a dentist-led team, and there are sufficient human resources available to allow for use of this model across Canada, including remote areas.

It is expected that the CDA Board will approve a position statement reflective of these principles at its June meeting.

Cannabis

The Board approved a staff work plan related to the impending legalization of cannabis for recreational use. The purpose of the work plan is to gain a better understanding of the implications of this measure for dental practices and to provide the Board with options for consideration at its October 2018 meeting. The CDA Position Statement on Tobacco will be reviewed to include cannabis and vaping. In addition, the Board directed that a letter be sent to the Federal Government to ensure that dentists have the right to prescribe cannabis for medical purposes.

Issues Management

At every Board meeting, the CDA Board members monitor a list of issues to ensure that CDA is tracking relevant issues through its issues management process. The following changes were recommended:

- Dentacare was added to the high impact/high urgency list.
- The small business tax rate was removed from the list
- The dentist/population ratio was added to the list
- Emerging epidemics was removed from the list

USC&LS

It was reported that the balloting of the new oncology and cosmetic codes requested by the Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (CAOMS) is progressing, as is the review of codes that were identified as problematic by the Corporate Members and DRAs. In addition, the review of a topical fluoride code is underway to address the introduction of a non-USC&LS code by NIHB in this area.

2018 Finances

The Board reviewed first quarter results, noting that CDA is currently showing a smaller than expected deficit in its general operations. This will be monitored as the year progresses.

Risk Management

The Board reviewed the quarterly risk management report, noted items where the level of risk has changed and the additional activities that are being undertaken to mitigate these risks.

Of note is the need for CDA to develop a data governance policy on patient health information collected from dental benefit transactions, an emergency response plan in case of a disaster and a response to the prospect of a provincial and/or national dental care program.

CDA Committees

The Board confirmed committee appointments for 2018-19 including new appointments to fill vacancies on the CDA Advocacy Committee, the Seal Committee, the Committee on Clinical and Scientific Affairs as well as CDA's appointees to CDAC and the National Dental Assisting Examining Board.

The Board disbanded the Task Force on the Future of the Profession and its related Steering Committee and the Working Group on the Future of e-Claims. E-claims issues will continue to be managed by CDA's Finance and Administration Committee.

Conventions

The CDA-DAPEI Convention will be held from August 22-25, 2018 in Charlottetown, PEI. Information on the 2018 Convention can be found in *CDA Essentials*, Oasis Discussions and at www.cda-dapei.ca. Corporate Members and stakeholder groups are encouraged to inform their members about the convention and register for the meeting. It was noted that a Presidents and CEOs meeting will be held in Charlottetown on August 22, 2018.

The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan and the Saskatchewan Oral Health Professions will host a joint convention with CDA in September 2019.

The Manitoba Dental Association will host a joint convention with CDA in April 2020.

CSI (Continovation Services Inc.)

The CSI Shareholders meeting, normally held in April, will be held in June 2018.