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SDHA Council:

President

Alyssa Boyer
(3 years March 2020)

1st Vice-President

Leah Wells
(3 years March 2021)

2nd Vice-President

Karen Ollivier
(3 years March 2021)

Past President

Kaylen Anholt
(6 years March 2021)

Councillor

Nancy Newby
(3 years March 2022)

Public Rep

Vacant

Public Rep

Raymond Sass
(3 years June 2021)

Public Rep

Jyotsna (Jo) Custead
(3 years September 2022)

SK Polytechnic Rep

Sharman Woynarski

CDHA Rep

Leanne Huvenaars

National Dental Hygiene Week

“May your light shine brightly through the night!”

SaskTel Centre was ablaze in purple lights to celebrate National Dental Hygienists Week in Saskatchewan. There were plans to invite all the RDH's from Saskatoon and area for a photoshoot on Thursday April 9th at sundown—however with physical distancing being the norm only a few attendees were on hand to photo this beautiful tribute to Canada's dental hygienists. Thank you to Shelby Hamm who coordinated the effort.



Saskatchewan Polytechnic



Self isolation and the inability to meet face to face did not prevent faculty and students from the Dental Hygiene program at Saskatchewan Polytechnic from celebrating National Dental Hygienists Week. Faculty created fun and interactive dental hygiene themed games for students to participate in through Zoom. Students from each of the three years competed in online Pictionary, Speak Out and answered a 10-question dental hygiene specific quiz. Students demonstrated their artistic nature by drawing on a virtual white board and used spoons to retract their cheeks while trying to get team members to repeat complicated phrases. Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association

Registrar, Catherine Folkersen, and Deputy Registrar, Shelby Hamm, also participated in the event with the third years. The winning teams were awarded exclusive SDHA 50th Anniversary socks.

Message From President



Alyssa Boyer, BA(Psy), RDH
SDHA Council President
2017-2020

It has been an honour to represent the SDHA Council as President for the past two terms. I joined the SDHA Council in 2016, and was elected as Council President in 2017. I have been passionate about volunteering my time and energy on behalf of our membership ever since! I feel especially lucky to be in this position as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the SDHA this year.

It was a tough but necessary choice made by Council to cancel this year's annual SDHA *Live, Love, Learn* Conference. Both Staff and Council began monitoring developments with COVID-19 leading into the month of March before this decision was ultimately made. We now see that with the Governments initiative to flatten the curve of COVID-19 in our Province, this was the right choice. Cancelling the conference also means postponing our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Council is working to stay compliant with our Bylaws, and will continue to postpone the AGM until circumstances are rectified and normal business operations have resumed. In the meantime, our financial statements and Annual Report have been posted on the SDHA website for you, the members.

I want to take the time to send an enormous THANK YOU to our staff at the SDHA office for tireless efforts on behalf of our membership during the events surrounding the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our Staff worked incredibly hard leading up to the mandated closure of non-essential services in Saskatchewan to advocate on behalf of our profession. I'm proud of our team for their collaboration with the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS), Saskatchewan Dental Therapists' Association (SDTA), and Saskatchewan Dental Assistants' Association (SDAA) to release a joint statement to our respective memberships on how to navigate this truly unforeseen circumstance. Our membership is lucky to have a team advocating on our behalf, and keeping us all in the loop on ever-changing developments. Thank you to our Registrar-CEO Catherine, Deputy Registrar Shelby, and Association Administrator Karalee for your hard work on behalf of our membership!

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Speaking of COVID-19, have you checked your e-mail to see that Council is providing an emergency relief fund for the Dental Hygienists in Saskatchewan? Be sure to send in your application by **August 31st** for eligibility. Our membership consists of nearly 700 Dental Hygienists in Saskatchewan, and we are pleased to provide this funding for you all. Please contact Karalee at SDHA@Sasktel.net should you have issues finding the application form.

My time as President is drawing to a close, and has been very rewarding thanks to the support of association members, Council members, and the hard working SDHA staff members. Thank-you all so very much for your guidance, wisdom, and support over the past 3.5 years!

Message From Registrar/CEO



Catherine Folkersen
Registrar/CEO

Hello from my home office.

As I approach one year with the SDHA I cannot help but reflect on what a dynamic year it has been. The summer of 2019 we launched our new database system for membership as well as the online continuing education submission, we hope that you have all become comfortable with this process and can appreciate its value to the organization. The database system streamlined administrative efficiencies for the renewal process; including members ability to print tax receipts, change personal information and update education advancements. While we were very pleased with the system and our memberships ability to renew, we would like to inform you of one change. Previously members were allowed until midnight of the 31st of October to complete the renewal process – the new system requires administrative oversight and we will be changing this timeline to **noon of the last Friday of October** to accommodate and ensure that all members are renewed and able to practice on November 1 2020..

In the late fall we hosted an MLA reception in Regina with the help of Council and local dental hygienists. The event was a great success and Shelby (Deputy Registrar) and I had a follow up meeting with Minister Reiter, Minister Kaeding and Minister Merriman regarding our submission to government on the Amendment of Section 25 proposal. The proposal has gone forward in the Ministry of Health in to consultation with stakeholders before we see more movement on the issue.

As mentioned in my previous newsletter submission the Saskatchewan person to hygienist ratio is higher than the national average, we seem to be receiving an overwhelming inquiry with our job board and have seen an influx of agencies hiring out of province temporary hygienists in Saskatchewan. The SDHA responded to multiple inquiries from media regarding a perceived shortage of hygienists in the province, the change in the Saskatchewan Polytechnic program to three years and the change in the dynamic of the profession related to the oral systemic link. The SDHA also took part in the Program Advisory Committee meeting for SaskPoly and has continued meetings with Sandra Blevins, Dean of Health Sciences on the matter.

The SDHA was very disappointed that the 6th annual conference with topics including, AAP Classification, OMFT, Local Anesthesia and mental health was not able to be staged. Karalee has worked hard to ensure those registered have been refunded. This event was also going to hold our 50th Anniversary Celebration and AGM which we hope to have at a time when we can all meet again.

Covid-19 brought unprecedented strategies for the SDHA to ensure public safety. We are very proud of the cohesive messaging from the Saskatchewan Oral Health Professions and will continue to work as a team to ensure both our members and the people of Saskatchewan can receive safe oral care in the future. In response to Covid-19. The SDHA Council has implemented an “Emergency Relief Fund”. This fund was developed to acknowledge the hardship that members may be experiencing, **applications will be accepted until August 31st**.

Since November 1st 2019, the SDHA has had several meetings with the Professional Conduct Committee, including topics such as members practicing without a license/ liability insurance, omitting to renew/upgrade their license from non-practicing to full. The PCC concluded one formal complaint from the public regarding confidentiality. The SDHA would like to take this opportunity to reminds its members of the CDHA Code of Ethics and the Health Information Protection Act (HIPA). “We only need to know what we need to know”. This is a reminder that documentation and conversations need to be kept private and stored in a reliable, defensive manner. The PCC concluded its investigation and the Discipline Committee was not struck.

We look forward to a time when our hygienists are all back to work, striving for optimal oral and overall health for the people of Saskatchewan.

CDHA January Report



CDHA CORNER

Dear friends
and colleagues,

Welcome to 2020!
What an exciting
start to the year
in our profession,
following the
December Speech
from the Throne



asking for the federal minister of health to
explore universal dental care. CDHA is always
ready to sit at the table to discuss our profession,
as well as the potential reduction of expenses in
health care that preventive oral health care
can offer.

We hope that you had time over the holidays
to visit CDHA's website and see what is new.
In support of our new "Healthy and Respectful
Workplace" end or goal, CDHA has developed
and posted a lot of valuable information for
you as a member to read, use, and share. While
dental hygiene is a helping profession, please do
not forget the importance of helping yourself.
You are cherished by your family and highly
valued by your profession, your clients, and your
employer. When you make your physical, mental,
and social well-being a priority, positive things
will happen in all areas of your life. Positivity
spreads just like a smile, and the crazy thing is
that both are free!

Leanne Huvenaars
CDHA president & board director, Saskatchewan
president@cdha.ca

WHAT'S NEW AT CDHA?

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NEW webinars recently released:

AAP Perio Classification, sponsored by Philips
Vaping, sponsored by Philips
2019 Job Market & Employment Survey
Grassroots Engagement: Advocating for Oral Health
Aerosol Reduction, sponsored by Dentsply Sirona Academy

Webinars coming soon:

Oral-Systemic Link, sponsored by Johnson & Johnson, March 18

www.cdha.ca/webinars

Save the date:

CDHA Summit: Leadership and Education, Whitehorse, Yukon, October 2-3

OTHER NEWS

2018-2019 Annual Report

Check out the brand new video format of CDHA's 2018-2019 annual report, which summarizes our progress over the past year in meeting the organizational ends (or goals) established by the board of directors. The financial statements are also available for download. www.cdha.ca/annualreport

2019 Job Market & Employment Survey

We are pleased to release both the executive summary and full report of CDHA's 2019 Job Market and Employment Survey, as well as a webinar communicating key findings. This compensation survey is completed every two years to identify dental hygiene employment trends and issues affecting the profession.

www.cdha.ca/jobsurvey

2020 Superheroes

Our #dentalhygienesuperhero competition, sponsored by Sensodyne, is now open! Cash prizes plus travel grants to CDHA's leadership summit in Yukon to be won. Help us unmask the superhero dental hygienists across Canada who are integral members of the primary health care team. Nominate a colleague at

www.dentalhygienecanada.ca/healthcaresuperhero

CJDH Accepted for Inclusion in MEDLINE

The editorial board of the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* is thrilled to announce that the journal has now been accepted into MEDLINE, the world's premier online database of biomedical and life sciences literature. www.cdha.ca/cjdh



NDHW™ is Coming!

National Dental Hygienists Week™ will now be held annually on the same dates every year: April 4 to 10. We've got lots in store for #NDHW20 so mark your calendars, start planning your #dhpurplepride celebrations, and watch www.cdha.ca/NDHW as details unfold. #ihavepurpleplans! Do you?



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Message From Incoming SDHA Council President



Leah Wells
SDHA Council President 2020

I am excited to begin my term as your 2020 SDHA Council President. As you are aware, the SDHA was unable to host our AGM in April due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our council decided to virtually elect our executive committee in an effort to maintain our schedule. I want to thank my fellow Council members for allowing me the opportunity to serve as Council President. I am both excited and nervous for this new role. Alyssa has been a one-of-a-kind role model as President. Her hard work, diligence, and commitment has kept our Council focused, responsible, motivated, and respectful. I am unable to truly express my level of gratitude for all that Alyssa has done for the Council— truly above and beyond what was expected. It will be a joy to have her finesse and expertise by my side as I transition into this role.

So far, I have been getting my feet wet with COVID-19 related meetings, agenda planning for our next Council meeting, and doing a lot of reading! Alyssa loaded me up with oodles of material for reference to the work she has completed during her time as President. Thorough would be an understatement. As well, Catherine is approaching her one-year date as our

Registrar-CEO. Where did the time go? Thank you to Catherine, Shelby, and Karalee for your commitment to our organization.

Your transparency, honesty, and hard work are incredible qualities that our Council truly values. Your true colours have shone brightly during this time of many unknowns and we are so pleased to work with each of you to accomplish our goals.

I am looking forward to working with everyone, Council and staff, during my term as President.

COVID-19 Updated Information



We are writing you in an extraordinary time with unprecedented circumstances. We know that the pandemic of COVID-19 likely impacted you professionally, personally, &/or financially and would like to assure you of the decision-making process that the SDHA took during this time.

We would like to start out by thanking those who registered for the SDHA 6th annual conference which was cancelled due to the mandate of group gatherings. In the future we hope to can host continuing education events while trying to mitigate risk to the financials of this organization.

COVID-19: The emerging protocols from government in regards to Covid-19 evolved at a rapid pace in the Province of Saskatchewan, the Saskatchewan Oral Health Professionals (SOHP) worked jointly and promptly with the guidance of the Chief Medical Health Officer. As our legislation stands, all Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists are employed by or in contract with a Dentist, therefore, the importance of a unified message was very important to us. It is important to note a “strong recommendation” to cease or suspend all non-essential/elective dental procedures is the highest level of authority given to a regulatory body. Protocols are in place for the protection of the public however; this pandemic was like something we have never seen.

As we are all aware, life does not stop because of Covid-19, case in point to why our health care system is strained, same goes for your professional regulatory body. We have continued

to do our best to govern with excellence in this uncertain ever changing time with the resources we have.

Prior to Covid- 19 the SDHA Council reviewed and made revisions to their ENDS (ENDS are a very special type of goal, one that designates the results for which the organization exists, the beneficiaries of those results and at what cost). It is important to note that the beneficiaries of our ENDS are the people of Saskatchewan and not specifically the registrants of the SDHA. It is the responsibility of the Registrar/CEO to develop a strategic plan in order to meet those ENDS, and then demonstrate to Council that they have been met. Everything we spend our time, energy and money on must align with these ENDS.

[Our ENDS statement: 1. The public is assured of safe and competent dental hygiene care.](#)

Our “strong recommendation” was not one made lightly but the research proved it was no longer safe for the public to receive non-essential dental hygiene care, nor did we see fit to recommend an alternate form of care that could be deemed non-compliant with our ENDS statement.

We will not forget Covid-19. And the public will be assured of safe and competent dental hygiene care once again!

Respectfully submitted,
Shelby Hamm
Deputy Registrar

Entry to Practice Canadian Competencies



Chris Gordon, RDH

Editor's note: Chris Gordon was selected by the Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada (FDHRC) to assist in the review and updating of the Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists (EPCCoDH). The SDHA is one of 10 members of this national organization. The goal is to have the document complete by December 31 2020. All RDH's in Canada will have access to the document prior to this time to comment on the updated EPCCoDH.

I am so grateful to have been selected by the National Steering committee for the project to review and update the Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists – EPCCoDH. The original set of national entry-to practice competencies for dental hygienists were developed in 2010

Competency profiles provide a sound basis for regulation of professions and assessment of qualifications. They provide a coherent conceptual framework that allows regulators, educators, individual practitioners, and employers, to work together,

sharing terminology and definitions, expectations and goals, learning objectives, qualifications, development opportunities, training; etc.

Our working group is comprised of 16 dental hygienists that were selected from across Canada. BC (1), ALTA (3), SK (1), ONT (4), QC (2) NS (2) and NS (2). Each of us brings expert knowledge in many different areas of practice such as business owner, educator, public health, clinicians on First Nations, in private practice, independent practice and within hospitals.

This large working group met in Toronto with the 3 facilitators for a 2 ½ day meeting. After short introductions, we got to work. We were educated on how we would proceed and then were divided into 3 smaller working groups to review and update this document. The time went extremely fast as we worked and we all realized the importance and value of the work we were doing.

We continue to meet with our smaller working group online through Zoom. Once each group is done their work, we will meet again as a large group. Once we all feel that the work is complete, the document will need to be translated into French, which is another difficult task.

I have only explained a few of the steps for what I am doing. There are many other professionals involved in order to provide our profession with the best version of this document. The plan for this to be completed and available for you is by December 2020. Stay tuned for more information!

How to Navigate the New AAP Classifications System with Success



Chrissy Ford, BScDH, RDH



Advanced Hygiene
Solutions

The new classification system may appear confusing at first glance. Hey, let's be honest probably the second and third glance too! I want all hygienists and doctors out there to persevere through the uncertainty! Keep studying to familiarize yourself with the changes as it will lead you more accurate diagnosing and optimal patient care. I will admit, the new classification system is a bit of a maze to navigate through when self-taught. Many hygienists feel overwhelmed with the task of learning and implementing the changes into everyday practice. I'm here to help simplify the process for you!

Step 1: Don't expect to master it after course #1

When lecturing on the topic, I always tell hygienists to expect to take 2-3 courses before they will really understand it and have a calibrated team. Consider the first exposure to the topic an introductory course. You'll feel confused and may only take away a few things that you'll be able to implement confidently into your practice. Don't expect to apply it all at once! Take away what makes sense and run with that for a while. At this point I suggest printing and laminating a copy of the staging and grading reference guides found below.

Use these chairside to look through when diagnosing to familiarize yourself with the definitions and chart flow. I suggest utilizing the free resources through the CDHA for this first exposure to the new guidelines. It can be done from the comfort of your home through a 2-part webinar series found on the [CDHA website](#).

[View the Staging and Grading Periodontitis PDF](#)

Step 2: Find that 2nd & even 3rd course

When you find the opportunity to take another course, this is where things will really start to click for you. Topics that seemed confusing will start to make more sense and you will modify things that you realize you were doing wrong. Don't be discouraged, this is normal for most clinicians. I suggest the second course to be an in-person course where you can have a chance to go through practice patients, scenarios and ask questions. It is helpful if the entire hygiene team and doctors can attend a course together. Half the battle in implementing the new classifications will be team calibration. I suggest you continue to have your old diagnosis statement as well as the new staging and grading in your patient notes for the first year of implementation. If you find there is some discrepancy between team members, make sure you discuss and work through them together as a team. This will allow you to escalate your precision in using the new classification system.

Let's embrace the "change!"

These are exciting times in the world of dentistry. Clarifying and improving the classification system was well overdue! The new AAP guidelines will allow us to be more effective in our diagnosis and management of disease both orally and systemically! Remember that practice makes perfect my friends. Happy Staging and Grading!

[View the complete suite of reviews, case definition papers and consensus reports](#)

Complaint Investigation Process

My name is Bill Rafoss; I have more than thirty years of experience investigating code of conduct violations. Since 2017, I have been investigating complaints against Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) for the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Association (SDHA).

As you will know, dental hygiene is a self-regulating profession, as are dentists, dental assistants, and denturists. What this means is that the SDHA has a legal requirement to investigate and address complaints that are brought to their attention. These complaints could come from the public, from dentists, or from other dental professionals, and it is vitally important that the SDHA conduct itself with due diligence to address these complaints or they risk losing that self-regulating authority to a government body.

But fear not; having a complaint filed against you is not the end of the world! Justice and fairness will prevail. What is important is that the SDHA find out the facts behind the complaint, then a Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) comprised primarily of RDH's will make a determination on the validity of the complaint. Discipline within the profession is handled by another committee, the Discipline Committee.

Here are five bits of advice you can follow if you are notified that a complaint has been filed:

1. Ensure your chart documentation on each patient or each interaction is up to date and accurate. Sometimes, not always, you might have an inkling that a patient is not happy with your service. Go back over your chart notes and make sure they are detailed enough so that someone like me can understand exactly what happened. Don't fabricate notes, but makes sure they accurately represent what happened in real time. Definitely don't fudge your notes after the fact.

2. Respond to formal complaints, formally.

Take the process seriously and answer questions honestly and to the best of your ability. Look at it this way: we all make mistakes occasionally and if a panel of RDH's can advise on a better way to do things, let's hear what they have to say.

3. Practice self-care:

RDH's (and doctors and nurses, etc) go through real-life problems just like the rest of us. Sometimes, this involves alcohol or drug misuse. If you recognize this is a problem, self-isolate; otherwise you run the risk of someone reporting you to us. Come to us for help before a complaint is filed! And don't let your office overload you! Mistakes often happen when we are overloaded or under stress. Some complaints we've look at involved situations where the RDH is also the receptionist, office manager, bookkeeper, dishwasher. This takes the focus away from what you trained for and often leads to mistakes being made. Learn to say 'no' or to ask for help.

4. This complaint confounds me: "The RDH was too rough on me (compared to the last one or two or three visits)".

Let's face it: no one really wants to go to a dental hygienist, lol. Or at least if they do, they want the minimal amount of pain and discomfort from that visit. In my view, in order for such a complaint to be substantiated, there would have to be clear evidence of overly painful treatment or excessive cleaning before we would become involved. We had one patient who provided records of visits with other RDH's to suggest the current treatment was excessive. Once you feel you are going beyond the bounds of "usual practice", record your comments in your notes and possibly consult with your employer on this to ensure you are in a defensible position.

5. Make sure your registration is up to date.

If your registration lapses, there could be serious legal consequences to this. To conclude, don't be afraid of the SDHA. They have the best interests of the profession in mind, but they also have an obligation to protect the public. Sometimes your clinic may be asking you to do something that is outside the bounds of your training and we can help identify that practice. Our process is thorough but timely and your cooperation in that process will help bring the complaint to a timely and fair conclusion.

Continuing Education Resources

- [CDHA](#)
- [Oral Heath](#)
- [Casey Hein](#)
- [RDHU](#)
- [Dentsply](#)
- [Crest Oral B / Procter and Gamble](#)
- [Colgate Oral Care](#)
- [Free Interactive & Self Study CE](#)
- [Dimensions of Dental Hygiene](#)
- [Hu-Friedy](#)
- [Dental Academy of CE](#)

How to Enter CE on Learning Page

1. Log onto Member Portal
2. Click My Learning
3. Click > current reporting year
4. Scroll to bottom, click ADD
5. **Please note if you have more than one submission ADD them all before clicking submit. Once you submit the ADD button will disappear until the SDHA has reviewed your submission. You can make more than one submission at a time but click ADD for as many submissions as you have before submitting!!**
6. Fill in appropriate fields. Refer to CCP Guidelines if uncertain of category CCP Guidelines
7. Upload supporting document. Refer to guideline on what is appropriate.
8. SUBMIT- or SAVE. Submit sends to SDHA to review. Save allows you to go back and make changes/additions before submitting.



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