

# SDHA MINI EDGE

We would like to present to you this Issue of the SDHA Edge as a mini edition.

The mini edition is intended to focus on important information while continuing to provide you with regular communication.

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## PART 1: REGULATORY BODY UPDATE

The SDHA Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually on Wednesday, March 20th, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Thank you to the 122 registrants who attended and participated in the meeting. We are pleased to welcome two elected council members, Bobbi- Jean Levorson and Dawn Van Dresar. The Council is now comprised of six (6) elected members and three (3) appointed public representatives.

Before the first council meeting, newly elected members participated in an orientation session aimed at introducing the council's roles and responsibilities. It is at the first meeting of the Council when the Officers are elected to the President and Vice-President roles. Congratulations to Ms. Carla Ofstie and Ms. Stacie Beadle who were elected for these roles respectively. The 2024/2025 SDHA Council can be found on the SDHA Website.

At the AGM and within the Annual Report, it was announced that the SDHA will undergo a name change to the **College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan**. Due to the organization's name and authority being embedded in the Dental Disciplines Act, an amendment to the legislation is required. For now, a submission has been made for this request and the outcome is pending. While this legislative amendment may take significant time to pass, we have been approved to operate under the name College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan. As of July 1st, 2024, the new name and brand of the College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan will be used. Some documents will continue to reference the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association until such a time this is no longer required.



Dawn Van Dresar



Bobbi Jean Levorson

Further to the organization's plan to operate as a single-function organization (regulatory body), the SDHA has itemized activities that do not align with our legislative responsibility. These activities have been shared with the Dental Hygienists Alliance of Saskatchewan Project Manager and Steering Committee and include; Newsletter Publication, Conference/ Summit, Employment Board, Provincial Advocacy, Community Outreach, Supporting Independent Practice, Fee Guide, Campaigns, Service Awards, and Wage/ Employment Matters. While the College will continue to engage with registrants and the profession, there will be a clear focus regarding regulatory matters.

Our goal is to sunset these activities in collaboration with the Dental Hygienists Alliance of Saskatchewan (DHAS) to ensure registrants/ members are not without any activities during this transitional period. Together we have planned to stagger the new ownership of these activities in everyone's best interest. Listed below are the first items that the DHAS will take ownership of:

#### **Employment Board:**

As of July 1st, 2024, the Dental Hygienists' Alliance of Saskatchewan will be the new resource for posting and viewing employment opportunities. All employment ads posted to the SDHA website before this time will remain posted until the ad expires.

#### **Community Outreach:**

As of September 1, 2024, the Dental Hygienists' Alliance of Saskatchewan will be the new resource for materials and presentation of oral health community outreach opportunities. The SDHA will provide the DHAS with any materials, resources, and opportunities it currently has in support of the DHAS as the new owner.

#### **Conference/ Summit:**

The Dental Hygienists' Alliance of Saskatchewan plans to continue the hosting of an annual conference and plans to deliver an event in Spring 2025.

#### **Continuing Education Opportunities:**

The DHAS will take primary responsibility for providing or sharing opportunities for continuing education. When appropriate or necessary, the College may provide education opportunities on regulatory-specific matters.

Divesting of professional association activities allows the College to refine its focus to legislative responsibilities which include but are not limited to: regulating the practice of the dental hygiene profession in the public interest, assuring the public of the skill, knowledge, and proficiency of registrants practicing the profession, responding to complaints/ concerns related to a registrants practice, establishing and maintaining a code of ethics and professional standards, maintaining a continuing competency program, and any other activity related activity consistent with protecting the public interest.

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## **REGISTRANT UPDATE: PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE**

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### **Regulatory Policy: Professional Liability Insurance Policy**

The Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association continues to review processes and modernize how we function. As of May 1st, 2023, the SDHA discontinued collecting Canadian Dental Hygienist Association membership dues on behalf of registrants. At that time, the SDHA only permitted CDHA-sourced Professional Liability Insurance and communicated that this would be the exclusively permitted policy until further notice. On May 11th, 2024, the SDHA Council approved a regulatory policy regarding Professional Liability Insurance. This policy outlines specific insurance protections required to be an eligible liability insurance policy, and applies to all registrants holding a full or conditional license, or temporary permit to practice. Registrants must provide proof of recognized insurance at registration, register change and/or renewal.

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## ABOUT THE POLICY

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**This policy describes the parameters that must be considered when obtaining PLI Insurance**

### **Proof of insurance must include the following:**

- insurance provider;
- registrant's name;
- effective and expiry date;
- policy number;
- coverage amount; and
- any additional information

### **A Professional Liability Insurance policy must:**

- Be maintained at a minimum of \$1,000,000 per occurrence.
- Include an extended reporting period (ERP) provision for at least two (2) years.
- Be registered in the individual dental hygienist's name.
- Provide coverage for Dental Hygiene Services.

**For clarity, the PLI policy offered through membership with CDHA is consistent with these requirements.**

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## PART TWO: PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION UPDATE

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We are pleased to share an update on the SDHA's project to support the development of a separate provincial professional association. Project Manager Kellie Watson, along with 11 members of the steering committee, have continued to meet regularly and guide decisions for the new organization. The name and incorporation status of this new professional association was announced in February as: ***The Dental Hygienists Alliance of Saskatchewan*** (DHAS).

The DHAS held a logo contest to help create a visual brand for this new entity, with the final selection revealed in April at the SDHA Summit, alongside the DHAS mission, vision, and values. While appropriate for some decisions to be made at the committee level, the steering committee recognizes the importance of making informed decisions based on broad membership feedback. To support this, a membership survey was circulated to all registered dental hygienists in Saskatchewan in March, and an in-person membership engagement session was held in conjunction with the SDHA Summit in April. Results from the survey and membership engagement session were presented in a virtual information session hosted by the Project Manager in May, with a recording of this event circulated to all registered dental hygienists in Saskatchewan afterwards.

**What will DHAS membership look like?** The DHAS has partnered with the CDHA to create a combined membership. When you renew your CDHA membership this year, you can automatically become a DHAS member, too. You will continue to have access to what the CDHA has always offered, including Professional Liability Insurance, and will also have access to what the DHAS will offer provincially.

**What are the Annual DHAS Fees?** The DHAS fee will cost \$130 per year. This will be in addition to the CDHA membership fee, which includes your Professional Liability Insurance. The DHAS is offering complimentary membership until October 31, 2024. Watch your e-mail this month to activate your DHAS membership!

In conclusion, the establishment of the Dental Hygienists Alliance of Saskatchewan continues to progress very well. The DHAS is happy to announce that membership classes have been established in partnership with the CDHA, and a plan is underway to implement services including a website, employment opportunities, professional development opportunities, workplace resources, community outreach supplies, and guidelines specific for Saskatchewan dental hygienists. The vision for the DHAS has become a reality and will be able to fully support you in your dental hygiene career soon! Watch for the DHAS website going live in July 2024.

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## SDHA SUMMIT 2024

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The SDHA Summit was held on April 12 & 13, 2024 at the Glenn at Crossmount with over 160 dental professionals, industry vendors, and speakers in attendance. This event was curated for the dental hygiene professional, and provided nearly 15 hours of continuing education credit, a networking cocktail hour, and exhibitor tradeshow.

The SDHA wants to thank all dental professionals who attended the event, and to the volunteers and sponsors who helped make this event a success. We hope you enjoyed an opportunity to connect with your colleagues!

Dental Hygiene Student Volunteers:  
Camille, Bryn, and Paige

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## PARTNERS

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### Saskatchewan Polytechnic: Health and Wellness Day 2024

Submitted by Dean Lefebvre

On April 6, 2024, 150 Students and volunteers came together at the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Dental Clinic to provide quality health care to 71 clients from the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and Regina Open Door Society. Volunteers and students completed \$53,456 worth of dental work. Over 150 dentists, dental therapists, denturists, dental assistants, dental hygienists, practical nurses and Saskatchewan Polytechnic students, faculty and staff volunteered their expertise and time.



Saskatchewan Polytechnic wishes to thank Brooke Langman, Cathy Wright, Thea Antonio, Miranda McMunn, Alanah Mueller, Claire Fischer, Amber Leir, Terrace Anderson, Linh Ly, Alyssa Giesbrecht, Cheryl Laidlaw, Deidra Anderson Doll, Cassandra Davis, Kylie Bowen, Sharman Woynarski, Dean Lefebvre and the Saskatchewan Polytechnic Dental Hygiene students for volunteering for this event. This event would be possible without the support of sponsors: Innovation Credit Union, dentalcorp, Henry Shein, Conexus Credit Union, Access Communications Children's Fund, Dentsply Sirona, Rybchuks Catering, Ukrainian Coop, Sherwood Coop and Oral Science.

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## OFFICE INFORMATION

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The SDHA Office will be closed from June 10th-14th, and from July 29th- August 6th. The SDHA Office requires permission for entry. If you plan on visiting the office we encourage you to arrange an appointment or call ahead. To enter the building, the buzz code is [0006](#).

*On behalf of the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association Staff and Council, we hope you have a great summer!*

A decorative banner at the bottom of the page features a light blue background with several slices of watermelon in various shades of pink and red, arranged in a circular pattern.