

INTRODUCTION

We are excited to introduce CDHS News, a publication that will replace the SDHA Edge and Mini Edge. The CDHS News aims to keep you informed about the latest activities and important updates from the College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan (CDHS) and the Council.

HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS ISSUE

- College Updates
- Council Updates
- DHAS Project
- Holiday Office Schedule

COLLEGE UPDATES

As of July , 2024, the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association (SDHA) officially began operating as the College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan (CDHS). While the legislation remains unchanged, operating as the CDHS reflects our strategic priority to evolve into a single-function organization focused solely on regulatory responsibilities. In addition to the name change, a new visual identity and website have been launched. A new informative series titled "Navigating Your Way" has been published in response to frequently asked questions from registrants regarding renewal, licensure changes, self-submitting continuing competency activities and more. Please visit our website to access these new resources.

The 2024-2025 license renewal period opened on September 16, 2024, and closed on October 20, 2024. Thirty-six registrants incurred a late fee of \$100 for completing their renewal after the deadline. Consistent with previous years fifty-one registrants did not complete their renewal, reflecting a non-completion rate of approximately 6%. Notably, there was an increase in the number of registrants completing recognized programs in orofacial myofunctional therapy, as well as those reporting employment with dental corporations. This year marked the second time registrants were required to upload their professional liability insurance during the renewal process. An audit revealed that nearly 100 registrants uploaded incorrect documents, primarily membership cards instead of the required insurance certificates.

As a part of our Continuing Competency Program, we conducted a personal learning tool (PLT) audit involving twenty-nine registrants whose three-year reporting period was from 2021 to 2024. Based on the review conducted by the audit committee, twenty-five were successful on the first attempt and two were successful on the second attempt. Two registrants failed to submit by the deadline, one late submission was received and accepted by the audit committee with late penalty. Common themes from the audit committee's feedback emphasized the importance of ensuring that personal learning tools (PLTs) are legible, demonstrate adequate reflection for the volume of credits being submitted, and accurately reflect what is noted on the continuing competency record. It is strongly recommended that registrants review the Personal Learning Tool Explainer Video available on our website. In response to feedback from registrants and the audit committee, the college has added the fields 'speakers' and 'sponsors' to the continuing competency record available on the registrant portal.

COUNCIL UPDATES

In August, the council received a new public appointee from the Lieutenant Governor in Council, bringing its composition to six dental hygienists and three public appointees. In September, the council participated in a team-building event, a dinner cruise on the Prairie Lily in Saskatoon, where they were joined by the Saskatchewan Dental Assisting Association (SDAA) Council, fostering networking and collaboration between the organizations. Following this event, the council co-hosted a full-day education session on Regulatory Governance Foundations led by Bradley Chisholm, with the SDAA, which was well received. This session focused on the seven indicators of good regulatory governance and the importance of governance, oversight, and monitoring. Additionally, Council President Carla Ofstie attended an education session titled "The Art and Science of Being a Chair," which covered topics such as consensus building, navigating difficult conversations, and working with different personality types.

On November 16, 2024, the council convened for an in-person meeting in Saskatoon and plans to meet virtually February 1, 2025, for its next meeting. At the next Annual General Meeting, the council will be looking to fill three available positions on the council. Information and nomination forms will be distributed in early 2025 for those interested.

DHAS PROJECT

From August 2023 to October 2024, the College undertook a project aimed at supporting the early development of a separate professional association, now named the Dental Hygienists Alliance of Saskatchewan (DHAS). We are proud to announce the success of this project in that this new entity, representing the interest of dental hygienists, is now operating independently from the College. We extend our gratitude to the project manager, Kellie Watson, and the steering committee for their dedication to the project's success. While still in its infancy, the DHAS has already taken on divested activities of the College including the employment board and community outreach. Additionally, the DHAS has announced they will be hosting a conference on April 4th & 5th, 2025, in Regina, SK. Please visit their website for details.

HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The CDHS Office will be closed for the holiday season starting on Friday, December 20, 2024. Regular office hours resume on Thursday, January 2, 2025. On behalf of the College and Council, we wish you a healthy and happy holiday season!

