

BOARD BUSINESS

From the Registrar's Desk

No. 66, September 2018



LICENSE RENEWAL 2018-19

At the June 27, 2018 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board, the Board approved the 2019 Budget which will see no increase in licensing fees. The licensing fees for 2018-19 are:

Dentist	\$	1,145.00
Registered Dental Assistant	\$	235.00
Student	\$	66.00
Temporary Authorization	\$	66.00
Corporation	\$	176.00
Certificate of standing	\$	41.00

The fees charged to licensees for duplicating lost License Cards and License Certificates will also remain the same:

Cards	\$	25.00
Certificates	\$	50.00

The 2018-19 license renewal forms will be mailed to dentists in October 2018 and to registered dental assistants in February 2019.



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Suite103, 210 Waterfront Drive, Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 0H3 www.pdbns.ca

LICENSING REPORT

As of August 31, 2018 the number of licensed dentists, students, assistants and corporations are:

Year	DDS	Students	RDA	Corporations
2018	578	18	800	404
2017	556	18	778	419
2016	555	18	769	406
2015	539	17	791	416
2014	545	11	795	414
2013	561	11	790	407

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Complaints Committee

March 26, 2018

A meeting of the Complaints Committee was held on March 26, 2018 to hear five cases.

Case 1: Dismissed, publish on a no-name basis.

Case 2: Referred to Discipline, publish on a no-name basis.

Case 3: Dismissed, publish on a no-name basis.

Case 4: Dismissed, publish on a no-name basis.

Case 5: Dismissed, publish on a no-name basis.

Discipline Committee

The Discipline Committee has not held a session since the last meeting of the Provincial Dental Board.

There is discipline activity with five Settlement Agreements in progress or development.

Mandatory Continuing Education (MCDE) Committee

The Committee met on February 2, 2018 to review submissions from dentists and dental assistants selected in the audit. Ten dental assistants were audited and one was struck for not completing their CE requirements. All audits have been completed at this time.

Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee

The DPR Committee met on April 13, 2018 to review the self-assessment documents. Site visits will take place over the summer and fall with Dr. Simone Abbass performing Halifax audits and Dr. Gillis performing audits in other regions of the province and as required outside of the audit process.

Registration Appeal Committee

The Registration Appeal Committee had no activity since the last meeting of the Provincial Dental Board.

FUNCTIONAL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REAPPOINTMENTS

At the May 25, 2018 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board the following committee members for were accepted for reappointment:

Complaints Committee

Dr. Lee Erickson

Ms. Shirlene Dancause (RDA)

Discipline Committee

Dr. Ian Ross

Registration Appeals Committee

Dr. Eric Hatfield (Chair)

Dr. David Moore

Dr. Ian Doyle

Ms. Judy Oakley (RDA)

Mr. Doug Lloy (Public)

Ms. Gwen Haliburton (Public)

FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE UPDATE

At the May 25, 2018 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board the Board decided to transfer its investment portfolio from ScotiaMcLeod to CDSPI / Cumberland Private Wealth Management. The Board also received its annual report from the accounting firm Grant Thornton. The 2017 Financial Statements can be found on the website www.pdbns.ca.

HUMAN RESOURCES AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

The Provincial Dental Board has acquired the services of Mr. Chris Holland as its IT consultant and has hired Ms. Valerie Benoit as its receptionist. Both Mr. Holland and Ms. Benoit have experience in the healthcare sector. The Board looks forward to working with Chris and Valerie.

STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES COMMITTEE

Radiography Inspections

The Radiography and CBCT reports were sent to the dental offices inspected in 2017 with letters stating that the office passed inspection or that the office had reporting requirements. All offices are required to implement the recommendations. Those offices which fail to meet the recommendations will be reported to the Nova Scotia Department of Occupational Health and Safety for non-compliance.

After completing the radiography inspections, radiation hygiene was an issue identified by the inspector Mr. Dan Hanson, with education being required in this area. As a result the Provincial Dental Board is pursuing the development of an on-line radiation hygiene course for dentists and dental assistants. A CBCT Guideline is also under consideration.

The next radiography inspections are being considered in 2021 for those offices inspected in 2016 and in 2022 for those offices inspected in 2017.

Sedation Guidelines and Inspections - Update

The draft Sedation Guidelines have been forwarded to a Quantum Communications for design, formatting, and editing. The formatted version will be reviewed by the working group and returned to stakeholders for feedback.

DE-IDENTIFIED DIGITAL RADIOGRAPHS

The Board addressed concerns regarding the issue of de-identified digital radiographs being sent between offices. The problem is that confusion can arise if the radiograph is not attributable to the patient. The Board agreed that it is the clinician's responsibility that digital radiographs sent to another office be attributable to the patient and that this is a component of proper recordkeeping. Therefore, any information, including digital radiographs, that is transferred between practitioners should be attributable to the patient and it is the clinician who is sending this information's responsibility to do so.

MARIJUANA USE BY PATIENTS AND INFORMED CONSENT

Concern regarding marijuana use by patients and informed consent was addressed at the May 25, 2018 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board. The Board felt that this question is answered by the Board's Guidelines on Informed Consent: <http://pdbns.ca/licensees/policies-and-guidelines/informed-consent>

With informed consent the standard is what a reasonable person, in the patient's position, would need to know to make a decision. Therefore the dentist must be of the opinion that the patient understands the risks and benefits of each treatment option presented as well as the costs involved. This makes it imperative that dentists know their patients and tailor the information that is provided to the needs of each patient. If the dentist feels the patient is unable to make such a decision then the dentist should not proceed with care. In the case of an emergency, the dentist should only consider performing such treatment that is reasonable in the absence of informed consent. This is a judgment call on the part of the dentist which should be well documented in the patient's chart. The dentist should provide a detailed description of the events, the dentist's decision based on the circumstances and reasons supporting the decision.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS: DENTISTRY WORKFORCE

There was a request from the Department of Health and Wellness for the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia to have dentistry workforce planning data. It was noted that other professions such as medical radiation technologists and psychologists have recently worked with the Department to obtain this data set. The Department notes that it is the responsibility of a regulator to have sufficient, recent data that can be used to provide information regarding licensing and other workforce trends. This analysis would also help determine if there is a concern with the ratio of licensed dentists and dental assistants in the province. There is growing concern provincially and nationally that the number of dental assistants has not kept pace with the growing number of dentists. The information compiled in this data set will be valuable in determining the workforce status of these professions.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr Chris Baker and Dr.Tom Raddall III

The Provincial Dental Board congratulates two of its past Chairs, Dr. Chris Baker and Dr. Tom Raddall III, for awards they received during the Nova Scotia Dental Association's Annual General Meeting on June 9, 2018. Dr. Baker received the NSDA Award of Excellence and Dr. Raddall received the Distinguished Service Award (Dr. P. S. Christie Award). The Award of Excellence acknowledges long standing (minimum 10 years), exemplary service to organized dentistry. The Distinguished Service (P.S. Christie Award) acknowledges outstanding service to profession for either a single outstanding contribution or sustained service on not less than 15 years.

Dr. Jack Gerrow

The Provincial Dental Board congratulates Dr. Jack Gerrow, Executive Director, Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF), on receiving a Honourary Doctorate for his contributions to dental education at the Dalhousie Dentistry Convocation on May 28, 2018. The Board would also like to congratulate Dr. Gerrow for his recent appointment as a Member of the Order of Canada for his contributions to the field of dentistry, notably in the areas of accreditation and competencies.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Martin Gillis, DDS
Registrar