

**Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia**

**Board Meeting 2020-06**

**Via Zoom - Videoconference: May 1, 2020 - 6:00 pm**

A meeting of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia was held on May 1, 2020 via zoom videoconference at 6:00 pm.

**In Attendance:**

Dr. Daniel Albert (Chair)  
Dr. Shelly Anderson (Vice-chair)  
Dr. Kevin Walsh  
Dr. Chris Baker  
Dr. Terrie Logue  
Dr. Russell MacSween  
Dr. Sunita Sharma  
Dr. David Dignan  
Ms. Marina Crawford  
Ms. Donna Rushton  
Mr. Greg Fevens  
Mr. David Melvin  
Dr. Martin Gillis (Registrar)  
Dr. Curtis Gregoire (Deputy Registrar)  
Ms. Jane Donovan (Executive Assistant)  
Ms. Valerie Benoit (Receptionist)  
Mr. Chris Holland (IT)

**Observers:** Mr. Jason Cooke (Legal Counsel)  
Dr. Ferne Kraglund (Dalhousie / DHW)

**Agenda. 1** **Call to Order**

At 6:02 pm the Chair welcomed Board members and provided general instructions regarding the proceedings.

**Agenda. 2** **Conflict of Interest Declaration**

The Chair asked the Board if they had or knew of any Board members who had a conflict of interest with the agenda. No conflicts were identified.

**Agenda. 3      Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda and no additions were noted.

It was moved and seconded – Mr. David Melvin and Dr. Terrie Logue

**Motion 2020 - 36**

"To approve the agenda as presented."

**Motion Carried**

**Agenda. 4      COVID-19: Recap of events (April 2, 2020 – May 1, 2020)**

**a)      Webinar (April 27, 2020)**

A webinar hosted by the Nova Scotia Dental Association (NSDA) was held on April 27, 2020 to inform and answer registrants' questions about PDBNS Protocols and the care provided at the Emergency Dental Clinics (EDCs). Representatives from the Provincial Dental Board and Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry provided presentations and responded to questions. The webinar was recorded and was posted on the NSDA website.

**b)      Dental Emergencies Working Group**

The Dental Emergencies Working Group (DEWG) provided an update on the eight designated Dental Emergency Clinics and reported that they are going well overall. The DEWG is monitoring treatment volumes and levels of PPE in stock to ensure emergency dental treatment proceeds safely for all involved. The group noted that a few of the emergency clinics were getting low on PPE and have been provided with the needed PPE by DHW.

**c)      Spin Docs**

Dr. Baker provided an update on the Spin Docs committee and noted that they were very busy in preparation for the webinar that was held on April 27, 2020. Spin Docs have updated the PDB's website to make it easier to navigate, especially the public side for questions and answers. The PDB's website will be updated as more

information becomes available.

**d) Radar**

Dr. Anderson updated the Board on the Committee's activities. PPE supply is an ongoing concern which is being met through the assistance of DHW. The treatment activities of the eight EDCs is tracked weekly and are being addressed by the eight clinics in operation.

**e) Phoenix Group**

Dr. Walsh provided a report on the Phoenix Group. The Phoenix group is the re-emergence to dental practice group tasked to create a back to work plan. The working group held their first meeting today via zoom videoconference. Dr. Walsh provided the Board members with an overview of the approach the Committee will be taking to create the plan.

**f) NSDA Governing Council (May 1, 2020)**

Dr. Albert attended the NSDA Governing Council meeting which was held today via zoom videoconference and provided the Board an update about the meeting. Dr. Albert fielded several questions from the Governing Council members who wanted to know what the Board is doing and what will be recommended in the reopening plan. Concern was raised to provide their members with as much notice as possible before reopening.

Highlights from the meeting included:

- The NSDA will be hosting a virtual AGM in June.
- They are reducing membership fees by \$1000.00 and CDA is looking to do the same for the next two years.
- NSDA and CDA have re-emerging committees that mirror ours. Dr. Albert suggested that they collaborate with the PDB and align efforts.
- The NSDA has asked that the PDB keep them informed of our timeline on Legislative Amendments as they have not heard from Government.

**Agenda. 5      Tele-dentistry: Department of Health and Wellness**

The NSDA has requested public remuneration of non-face-to-face care of patients during the pandemic period. The Provincial Dental Board received correspondence from the Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) regarding the issue facing them about the tele-dentistry code options proposed by NSDA during the pandemic. DHW noted that there would need to be changes to regulations in order to use these proposed codes to be used. DHW asked for the Board's opinion on using alternative codes for billing purposes during the pandemic. The fee codes proposed by DHW are one's dentists would have used prior to the pandemic for dental emergencies and specific

exams. The DHW is looking for direction from the Board to provide registrants reassurance that there is no breach of billing practice standards if they are billing for tele-dentistry using such traditional codes. DHW was informed that this would be appropriate billing practices during the COVID-19 pandemic and that registrants would not be breaching billing standards.

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma and Dr. Dave Dignan

#### **Motion 2020 - 37**

"Dentists can submit claims to Green Shield Canada for publicly funded non-face-to-face care during the pandemic, according to the codes approved for such care by DHW and it will not result in their facing disciplinary issues with the PDBNS."

#### **Motion Carried**

#### **Agenda. 6 Assisting)**

#### **Program Completion (Dentistry, Specialty Programs, Residency Programs, Dental**

The Registrar provided an update to the Board members regarding where things stand with students that are graduating this year. He noted that 4<sup>th</sup> year dental students, senior residents in the OMFS and the Perio grad programs, and residents in the GPR and pediatric residency programs are on track and that they will be able to graduate on time.

It is uncertain as to when the dental assisting students will graduate due to the interruption that the pandemic has caused. The facilities where the dental assisting programs take place have closed and students cannot enter NSCC or CBBC. This means that there are segments of the curriculum which haven't been completed, and more importantly, the portion of the curriculum which would be the clinical portion involving placements hasn't been completed. Students at both the NSCC and CBBC programs have segments of the curriculum that have not been completed, including the pre-clinical lab and clinical placement portions of the program. Both NSCC and CBBC do not have plans to graduate these students until the competency requirements have been met.

Dr. Gillis, Dr. Albert, Dr. Baker and Ms. Crawford have met with each program by videoconference to find out what their plans are to remedy the interruption created by COVID-19. The Programs are required to submit an Annual Progress Report (APR)

to CDAC describing their remedies to the interruption. The group has agreed to review the draft APR submissions before they are submitted to CDAC.

**Agenda. 7      CDRAF Update**

The Registrar provided the Board with an update on the CDRAF Registrars meeting via zoom videoconference held on April 30, 2020. These meetings take place on a weekly basis so that Registrars can update each other about developments that are occurring in their jurisdiction. Most of the discussion at this meeting was focused on how provinces will be re-emerging into practice, especially in Saskatchewan which is set to return on Monday, May 4, 2020.

**Agenda. 8      Draft Correspondence (Northbridge, Deputy Minister DHW)**

Two draft letters were distributed to Board members prior to the Board meeting for review for information purposes. Following review direction was given to the Registrar to send the letters via e-mail.

**Agenda. 9      Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry Update**

Dr. Ferne Kraglund provided an update from Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry regarding COVID-19.

**Agenda. 10      License Renewal RDAs**

The license renewal application deadline for Registered Dental Assistants (RDAs) was April 15, 2020. RDAs had to submit their license renewal document, provide verification of membership in the Nova Scotia Dental Assistants Association (NSDAA) and complete the RDA Workforce Planning Project Survey by this date. Only license renewal fee payment has been extended to October 31, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. RDAs who did not renew their license before the expiration of their license on April 30, 2020 were struck from the Dental Assisting Register. A reinstatement fee of \$117.50 will be required to reinstate their license along with payment of the current license fee. Payment of the reinstatement fee cannot be extended to October 31, 2020.

Ms. Donovan provided the RDA licensing report and noted that 788 RDAs had submitted their renewal forms, 28 relinquished their license and 17 were struck from the Dental Assisting Register.

**Agenda. 11     Finance and Audit Update**

Dr. Logue provided a finance and audit update to the Board members. A meeting with the auditors was held on April 30, 2020 via videoconference. Dr. Gillis, Dr. Logue and Ms. Donovan were in attendance for this meeting. The auditors reviewed the draft 2019 Auditor's Report and draft 2019 Financial Statements. This will be presented to the Board at the May 29, 2020 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board.

Dr. Logue also provided the Board members an overview of the Board's expenses associated with the pandemic. The Board will need to access its reserve fund in 2020 to meet these additional expenses.

Dr. Logue noted that the Finance and Audit Committee has been reviewing the Expense Claim Policy. The Committee has sought advice from the auditors and hopefully an updated draft policy will be available for the Board to review at the May 29, 2020 meeting.

**Agenda. 12     Next Meeting – May 29, 2020**

**Agenda. 13     In Camera**

There was no in-camera session

**Agenda. 14     Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Kevin Walsh and Ms. Donna Rushton

**Motion 2020 - 38**

"To adjourn the meeting."

**Motion Carried**

Approved,

*DA*

Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair

*June 15 2020*

Date