

**Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia
Meeting 2020 - 14**

Via Zoom Videoconference

Friday, November 26, 2020 – 7pm

A meeting of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia was held on November 26, 2020 via zoom videoconference.

In Attendance: Dr. Daniel Albert (Chair)
Dr. Shelly Anderson (Vice Chair)
Dr. Sunita Sharma
Dr. Kevin Walsh
Dr. Russell MacSween
Dr. Terrie Logue
Dr. Sachin Seth
Dr. April Nason
Ms. Donna Rushton
Ms. Marina Crawford
Mr. David Melvin
Mr. Greg Fevens
Dr. Curtis Gregoire (Deputy Registrar)
Ms. Jane Donovan (Executive Assistant)
Ms. Valerie Benoit (Receptionist)
Mr. Chris Holland (IT)

Observers: Mr. Jason Cooke (Legal Counsel)

Regrets: Dr. Martin Gillis (Registrar)

Agenda 1. Call to Order

At 7:00 pm the Chair welcomed the Board members to the meeting. General instructions regarding the proceedings were provided.

Agenda 2. Conflict of Interest Declaration

The Chair asked the Board if they had or were aware of any other Board members who had a conflict of interest with today's agenda. No conflicts of interest were identified.

Agenda 3. Approval of the Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and noted the addition of agenda item 11a *IPAC Feedback to NSDA* under New Business.

It was moved and seconded –Dr. Sachin Seth and Mr. Greg Fevens

Motion 2020 - 84

“To approve the agenda as amended.”

Motion Carried

Agenda 4. Introduction of new Board members

Dr. Albert introduced two new members, Dr. Sachin Seth and Dr. April Nason to the Board.

Agenda 5. Chair's Report

i) Email from Dr. Bob Loney

Correspondence was received from Dr. Loney expressing his appreciation of work that both Dr. Gillis and Dr. Gregoire have been doing through these busy times.

Dr. Albert provided a quick overview of some of the things he has been doing since the last Provincial Dental Board meeting:

- On October 16, 2020, Dr. Albert attended the CDRAF annual meeting of members.
- The NDEB is making changes to the AFK, ACJ and ACS. Modifications are being made to the tests based on a practice analysis survey that was done.
- CDAC is planning a hybrid site visit for accreditation in light of the COVID situation. Site visits are usually done in person, however, due to the pandemic they are trying to find solutions around how they will accredit programs during these times.

- On October 19, 2020, Dr. Albert and Dr. Gillis attended a presentation on Dr. Mary McNally's survey results. Dr. McNally sent out surveys to dentists and dental assistants to gauge how they felt during the COVID-19 pandemic. The comments received from the survey shed a very positive light on the PDB's COVID efforts.
- On October 13 and 14, 2020, the Legislative Amendments Committee held webinars with the Executives of the NSDA and NSDAA regarding the Discussion Paper in advance of its release. A webinar for all Registrants was held on October 29, 2020.
- On November 2, 2020, the Provincial Dental Board office re-opened following its closure in March 2020 due to the pandemic.
- On November 9, 2020, Dr. Albert attended a publicly funded virtual health service meeting with the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr. Kevin Orrell. An interim policy on telehealth is anticipated in January 2021.
- On November 12, 2020, the PDB (Dr. Albert and Dr. Gregoire) and the NSDA (Mr. Steve Jennex and Dr. Chad Avery), held a zoom meeting to provide updates on various topics. A meeting will be held on a monthly basis going forward to ensure open communication between the two organizations.
- On November 12, 2020, there were facebook posts about allegations of abuse of patients by a registrant. On November 15, 2020, the Board held an emergency meeting regarding the facebook posts.
- November 16, 2020, there was a meeting with Guild to discuss how to proceed with the new database.

Agenda 6. Complaints Update

Dr. Gregoire provided a Complaints update to the Board members regarding the recent facebook post. The Provincial Dental Board has recently received several complaints from patients regarding treatment they or their children received from a registrant. As a result of the complaints, an emergency meeting of the Complaint Committee was held under section 34 of the *Dental Act*. As an outcome of this meeting, the Registrant's license to practice dentistry in the Province of Nova Scotia was suspended indefinitely effective November 18, 2020. The complaints are currently being investigated through the PDBNS complaints process.

Agenda 7. Deputy Registrar Report – COVID Update

Dr. Gregoire provided an update regarding the COVID pandemic. Due to the increasing numbers of COVID cases, the Nova Scotia Health Authority (NSHA) has released new screening criteria. Dr. Gregoire had a discussion with Dr. Strang as he felt that given dentistry is a health care profession that it is best to mirror what NSHA is doing. As a result, the PDB is now revising the screening criteria to reflect the hot spots. This was communicated to registrants through advisories, and in the meantime, the PDB has been working to update the third version of the Return to Practice Plan and it is expected to be released tomorrow.

The FAQs are currently being updated and will be posted to the Board's website next week.

Dr. Walsh noted the Phoenix group met last night realizing that there are many anxious registrants due to the recent uptick in cases. Even with the recent increase, Nova Scotia remains in the low category according to the Centers for Disease Control. Throughout this process we relied on evidence-based science to guide our decisions. It was decided that at this point there is no need to make any significant changes regarding the hot spots. The release will remind registrants to remain diligent and to continue to follow the guideline closely. We will continue to monitor things closely and will adapt accordingly based on the level of risk.

Agenda 8. NDAEB Update

Ms. Donna Rushton provided a report on the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB). Had our first exam back in October and they had over 700 writers. They launched their preparation exam the end of September, out of the 700 writers, 600 of them took the prep exam to prepare for that.

The next exam will be held in December 2020. The December exam for the CPE is still scheduled to take place in the 5 out of 6 locations.

The next NDAEB meeting is scheduled for next week.

Agenda 9. Board Committee Reports

- a) **Human Resources and Governance Committee**

- i) **Appointments**

There are two Board appointments to the Discipline Committee to replace two of the members terms whose terms ended. The Committee members accepted for appointment are Dr. Daniel MacLellan and Dr. Chris Baker. Both Committee members have agreed to stand for appointment.

It was moved and seconded – Mr. David Melvin and Dr. Kevin Walsh

Motion 2020 – 85

“To approve the appointments of Dr. Daniel MacLellan and Dr. Chris Baker to the Discipline Committee.”

Motion Carried

ii) Performance Reviews

Performance reviews have been postponed in light of Dr. Gillis’s absence. No date has been determined as of yet.

b) Standards and Guidelines

i) CBCT

Dr. Gregoire provided an update on the CBCT guideline. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the CBCT Standard document was put on hold. The document had been sent out for stakeholder feedback about a year ago. The feedback received from all stakeholders was reviewed and incorporated into the draft. It was also sent out to three oral radiologists to review and their feedback has also been incorporated. The Committee met again in late October 2020 to finalize the details of the document and the final version was featured in the resource material.

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Russell MacSween and Ms. Donna Rushton

Motion 2020 – 86

“To adopt the CBCT Standard as presented.”

Motion Carried

In Camera

There was a motion to move *in camera*

It was moved and seconded – Mr. Greg Fevens and Ms. Marina Crawford

Motion 2020 – 87

“To go *in camera*.”

Motion Carried

c) Finance and Audit Committee (*In Camera*)

Dr. Terrie Logue provided a finance report to the Board members. The COVID expense turned out to be higher than what was initially anticipated. It was initially projected it would cost \$300,000, but it is now closer to \$400,000.

There was a motion to move out of *in camera*

It was moved and seconded – Dr. Kevin Walsh and Dr. Sachin Seth

Motion 2020 – 88

“To go out of *in camera*.”

Motion Carried

Agenda 10. Old Business

a) Allograft Toolkit

The Provincial Dental Board collects data during license renewal on allograft material used by dentists. The purpose of collecting the data is for the Provincial Blood Coordination Team, as part of a Health Canada mandate policy, to track allograft that is using tissue organ transplants across the country. Only those dentists who use allograft will have to report. It is basically numbers and the type of allograft material that is being used to ensure that it is Health Canada approved. The toolkit portion is a reference guide for dentists who use allograft to ensure that it is kept track of and

disposed of appropriately and it goes through the whole process of reporting unusual adverse events.

The Committee met in October 2020 to complete the Toolkit guide which is featured in the resource material.

b) Guild Update

Dr. Albert provided an update on Guild. Due to delays in the implementation of the online database, increased expenses to the PDBNS occurred in order to meet the demands of the annual registration for dentists in November 2020. There was Board discussion regarding the Guild contract and the invoice received and it was decided to pay the invoice amount less the incurred expenses from October 15, 2020. Corporation renewals are expected to be rolled out online on December 1, 2020. A letter is currently being drafted to be sent to Guild.

c) Letter from Dr. Pierre-Luc Michaud

The Board received a letter from Dr. Pierre-Luc Michaud dated November 10, 2020 regarding the license renewal process. The letter was included in the resource material for information purposes. A letter of response has been sent to Dr. Michaud.

Agenda 11. New Business

a) NSDA – IPAC (Infection Prevention and Control Guideline)

The Nova Scotia Dental Association (NSDA) has been tasked with updating the IPAC guidelines. They have surveyed nationally and have decided to mirror the Saskatchewan IPAC document. A draft copy has been provided to the Provincial Dental Board for review and feedback by January 29, 2021.

b) CBBC Hybrid Dental Assisting Program

The Provincial Dental Board received email correspondence from Mr. Brian MacArthur with Cape Breton Business College (CBBC) on November 2, 2020. Over the past year CBBC has been working on developing a Hybrid Dental Assisting program which they will be seeking accreditation for through CDAC. Due to the timing of accreditation site visits and the uncertainty if this Hybrid program will become accredited, CBBC is questioning if the new dental assistants from CBBC's Hybrid program can be granted temporary

licenses to work in the field. The Board had a very robust discussion and it was agreed that because the students are graduating from a non-accredited program, they will therefore need to complete the NDAEB Clinical Practice examinations (CPEs), as well as the written NDAEB exam in order to get registered and licensed in Nova Scotia. A letter of response will be sent to Mr. MacArthur.

Agenda 12. Legislative Amendments

Dr. Albert provided an update on the Legislative Amendments and said that the Board has put the process on a short pause until the Registrar returns.

The next step for the legislative amendments process will be for public consultations which Mr. Don Moors will be sending out an advertisement through newspapers to advertise the sessions coming up and a webinar presentation will also be held.

Agenda 13. In Camera

There was a motion to move *in camera*

It was moved and seconded – Mr. Greg Fevens and Dr. Russell MacSween

Motion 2020 – 89

“To move the meeting *in camera*.”

Motion Carried

Agenda 14. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:19 pm.

It was moved and seconded –Ms. Donna Rushton and Dr. Sachin Seth

Motion 2020 - 90

“To Adjourn the Meeting”

Motion Carried

Next Board Meeting – January 28, 2021

Approved,

Daniel Albert
Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair

1 February 2021
Date