

**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD
OF
NOVA SCOTIA**



**PROCEEDINGS
2018**

2018 BOARD PROCEEDINGS

INDEX

Report of the Chair

Report of the Registrar

Report of the Complaints Committee

Report of the Discipline Committee

Report of the Registration Appeal Committee

Report of the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee

Report of the Dental Practice Review Committee

Report of the National Dental Examining Board

PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA
December 31, 2018



Chair – Dr. Kevin Walsh
Vice-Chair – Dr. Daniel Albert
Registrar – Dr. Martin Gillis

Board Membership 2018

<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term</u>
Dr. Kevin Walsh, Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019 (2)
Dr. Daniel Albert, Vice-Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019 (2)
Dr. Russell MacSween	NSDA	Dec. 2020 (1)
Dr. David Dignan	Government	Nov. 2020 (3)
Dr. Sunita Sharma	Government	Nov. 2020 (1)
Dr. Chris Baker	Government	Nov. 2020 (3)
Dr. Shelly Anderson	NSDA	Dec. 2019 (2)
Dr. Terrie Logue	NSDA	Dec. 2020 (2)
Ms. Donna Rushton, RDA	NSDAA	Dec. 2019 (2)
Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA	Government	Nov. 2020 (2)
Mr. Greg Fevens	Government	Oct. 2019 (1)
Mr. David Melvin	Government	Oct. 2019 (1)



Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

Front Row: Dr. Daniel Albert, (Vice-Chair); Ms. Valerie Benoit (Receptionist); Dr. Terrie Logue; Dr. Shelly Anderson; Dr. Sunita Sharma;

Second Row – Left to Right: Ms. Donna Rushton; Ms. Jane Donovan (Executive Assistant); Ms. Marina Crawford; Dr. Dave Dignan; Mr. Greg Fevens;

Back Row- Left to Right: Mr. David Melvin; Dr. Russell MacSween; Dr. Chris Baker; Dr. Martin Gillis (Registrar) and Dr. Kevin Walsh (Chair).

Functional Committees 2018

Discipline Committee

Dr. Tom Boyle, Chair

Discipline Committee Membership

Complaints Committee

Dr. John S. Christie, Chair

Complaints Committee Membership

Dr. Tom Boyle	Oct. 2020	Dr. John Christie	June 2020
Dr. Janet Cullinan	Dec. 2020	Dr. Lee Erickson	June 2021
Dr. Wayne Raimer	Oct. 2020	Dr. Claire Karst	Oct. 2020
Dr. Ian Ross	May 2021	Dr. Paul MacEachern	Oct. 2020
Dr. Natalie Brothers	Oct. 2020	Dr. Richard Raftus	Oct. 2020
Dr. Peter Thomson	Oct. 2020	Dr. Earle Carson	Oct. 2020
Dr. Yvon Belliveau	Oct. 2020	Dr. Blair Raddall	Oct. 2020
Dr. William Whyte	Oct. 2020	Dr. Nada Haidar	Oct. 2020
Dr. Stuart Kirby	Oct. 2020	Ms. Alma Layden, RDA	June 2019
Dr. Karen Furlong	Oct. 2020	Ms. Donna Dickie, RDA	June 2020
Dr. David Quigley	Oct. 2020	Ms. Shirlene Dancause, RDA	Aug. 2021
Dr. Mark Sutherland	Oct. 2020	Ms. Janelle Gray, Public	Jan. 2020
Ms. Michelle Fowler, RDA	Oct. 2020	Mr. Bill Watson	Oct. 2020
Mr. R. Desborough, Public	June 2020		
Mr. Michael Muise, Public	Oct. 2020		
Mr. John Scott, Public	June 2020		

MCDE Committee

Dr. Doug Mackey, Chair

MCDE Committee Membership

Dr. Doug Mackey, Chair	Jan. 2020 (3)
Dr. Erin Hennessey	Oct. 2020 (1)
Dr. Reena Kapadia	Jan. 2019 (2)
Ms. Jackie Snooks, RDA	Nov. 2020 (1)
Ms. Krista Emino-Savory, RDA	Jan. 2020 (3)

DPR Committee

Dr. Joanne Thomas, Chair

Dental Practice Review Committee
Membership

Dr. Joanne Thomas, Chair	Jan. 2021 (2)
Dr. Mariette Chaisson	Jan. 2022 (2)
Dr. Curtis Gregoire	Jan. 2022 (2)

Registration Appeal Committee

Dr. Eric Hatfield, Chair

Registration Appeal Committee Membership

Dr. Eric Hatfield, Chair	June 2021 (2)	Ms. Judy Oakley, RDA	June 2021 (2)
Dr. Ian Doyle	June 2021 (2)	Mr. Doug Lloy	June 2021 (2)
Dr. David Moore	June 2021(2)	Ms. Gwen Haliburton	June 2021 (2)

Board CommitteesFinance & Audit Committee 2018

Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019
Dr. Terrie Logue	NSDA	Dec. 2020
Mr. Greg Fevens	Public	Oct. 2019

Human Resources and Governance Committee 2018

Dr. Shelly Anderson, Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019
Dr. Sunita Sharma	Government	Nov. 2020
Dr. Russell MacSween	NSDA	Dec. 2020
Dr. Chris Baker	Government	Nov. 2020
Mr. David Melvin	Public	Oct. 2019

Standards and Guidelines Committee 2018

Dr. Dave Dignan, Chair	Government	Nov. 2020
Ms. Donna Rushton	NSDAA	Dec. 2019
Ms. Marina Crawford	Government	Nov. 2020

Executive Committee 2018

Dr. Kevin Walsh, Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019
Dr. Daniel Albert, Vice Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2019
Dr. Chris Baker, Past Chair	Government	Nov. 2020
Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar	Ex-officio	

Ad-hoc Committees

Radiography / CBCT 2018

Dr. Russell MacSween (Chair)
Dr. David Dignan
Dr. Curtis Gregoire
Ms. Donna Ruston
Dr. Martin Gillis

Registration Review 2018

Dr. Chris Baker (Chair)
Dr. David Dignan
Ms. Donna Rushton
Dr. Martin Gillis

Botox 2018

Dr. Shelly Anderson (Chair)
Dr. Daniel Albert
Dr. Chad Robertson
Ms. Marina Crawford (RDA)
Dr. Martin Gillis

Dental Assisting 2018

Dr. Daniel Albert (Chair)
Ms. Donna Rushton (RDA)
Ms. Marina Crawford (RDA)

Legislative Amendments 2018

Dr. Kevin Walsh (Chair)
Dr. Chris Baker
Dr. Daniel Albert
Mr. David Melvin (Public)
Ms. Marina Crawford (RDA)
Dr. Martin Gillis

Sedation 2018

Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair
Dr. Terrie Logue
Dr. Archie Morrison
Dr. Curtis Gregoire
Dr. Jennifer MacLellan
Dr. Ben Schelew
Dr. Martin Gillis

Obstructive Sleep Apnea 2018

Dr. Chris Baker, Chair
Dr. Sunita Sharma
Dr. Reg Goodday
Dr. Brian Cadden
Dr. Martin Gillis

Report of the Chair 2018

The Provincial Dental board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) held six full Board meetings in 2018. Two regular meetings were held at the Board Room of Burchells law office on January 26 and May 25. The third regular Board meeting was held at Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry in conjunction with the homecoming and clinic renewal opening ceremony. In addition, two conference calls were conducted April 5 and June 27. Our 6th meeting was held in conjunction with a Professional Development session was on November 24, 2018. The PD session involved presentations from Drs. John Christie and Tom Boyle, Chairs of the Complaints and Discipline Committees respectively.

Dr. Kevin Walsh began his two-year term as Chair, while Dr. Dan Albert became the new Vice Chair. The Board would like to welcome Dr. Russell MacSween, the newest NSDA appointee. Dr. MacSween fills the vacancy left by Dr. Clare Champoux, who completed her third term, ending on Dec. 31st, 2017. The Board thanks Dr. Champoux for her 9 years of very valuable contribution, recently chairing the Human Resources and Governance Committee. The Board will also be hiring a part time Deputy Registrar in early 2019 to assist the PDB in achieving its strategic goals.

In 2016, The PDBNS developed and adopted a Strategic Plan, setting a clear direction for Board members and staff, and serving as a decision making tool for the organization. With strict consideration of our mandate of public protection, all activity, guided by the core values will support the strategic mission and vision of the organization. The operational plan that was formalized to aid in implementation of the strategies outlined has been invaluable as the board moves forward. At our Sept 28 Board meeting, the Board reviewed the Strategic Plan to ensure that we are on track, making minor revisions. This important document has helped chart a clear path and we are very pleased with the progress to date.

In 2015 the PDBNS was tasked by the Department of Health and Wellness to move forward with legislative amendments to the 1992 *Dental Act*, the purpose of which is to become current with legislative expectations pertaining to the PDBNS's mandate and role as a regulatory authority. This necessitates the separation of the Nova Scotia Dental Association from being a component of the same *Act* that regulates the Board and its activities. The Association has been responsible for the production of it's own legislation, and this legislation, along with a revised *Dental Act*, is moving forward to gain government approval in tandem. After several meetings of the Executive Committee, with guidance from legal counsel, a draft *Act* has been composed. The draft *Act* has been sent for stakeholder review, feedback was received and the draft *Act* has been forwarded to the Department of Health and Wellness for review. There are currently 20 requests for changes to *Act* regulations in the health professions, and we have been informed by Government that there are 9 ahead of us for review.

The Finance Committee forwarded a balanced Budget for 2018, which was adopted at the June 27 teleconference meeting. The PDBNS approved no increase in fees in

all licensing categories for 2019, resulting in the following license fees: Dentists - \$1145.00; Dental Assistants - \$235.00; Students - \$66.00; and Corporation Permit Fees - \$176.00.

The Board currently has ad hoc committees struck for the review and update of several important guideline documents. New Sedation Guidelines have introduced facility visits by an inspection team and all offices performing moderate and deep sedation have now been visited with reports of their findings provided. Guidelines for the use of Botox remain under development, and will focus on determining competency for the delivery of care. Other documents under development include guidelines for the appropriate treatment of obstructive sleep apnea. Both the Sedation and OSA guidelines should be completed in 2019. In addition, a guideline document regarding the best practices for the prescribing of opiates and benzodiazepines by dental practitioners.

After completing a new Recordkeeping Guideline document last year, we are in the process of developing an online resource to assist licensees with implementing and understanding this important document. This effort has been assisted by Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry and should be available shortly.

Radiography inspections were completed by Biomedical Engineering Inc. over the last two years, with the last reports being sent out to licensees in 2018. All practices in Nova Scotia have been inspected now, and all offices that received reporting requirements have complied with them by implementing any changes needed.

Marijuana use by patients has been discussed by the board, in particular pertaining to patient's ability to give informed consent. At our May Board meeting it was decided that our current guideline on Informed Consent also applies to marijuana use by patients. This guideline adequately provides licensees with the guidance regarding how to handle this issue in our practices.

An Observership Program for International Educated Dental Professionals (IEDPs) was approved and launched in 2018. The goal of the program is to provide IEDPs with the opportunity to get first hand contact with dental care as practiced in Nova Scotia. It is not intended to fill gaps in knowledge or dental training but rather to give the IEDP a chance to observe, with no hands-on component, how a typical dental practice functions in Nova Scotia. The program is a volunteer arrangement between an IEDP observer and a host dentist. A host dentist or dental assistant may earn up to 5 credit hours of category 3 CDE per calendar year.

The Board continues to play an active role in our National Regulatory organization, the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation- the CDRAF. The Registrar, Dr. Martin Gillis, became the Chair of the CDRAF this year. Working groups are currently involved with the following projects: *Academic/Restricted Licensure*; *National Recognition of Dental Specialty*; *Process for National Dental Specialty Recognition*; and *National Competency Standards for General Dentists*.

In August, Ms. Valerie Benoit was hired as our new receptionist. Ms. Benoit and her family recently moved here from Newfoundland and she has experience working in the health care industry. The Board also engaged a summer student, Mr. Ryan Christen, to assist at the Board office. Mr. Christen is a 2nd year law student and he assisted the Registrar and Executive Assistant in several capacities, including research and Information technology projects. The PDB would like to welcome both Ms. Benoit and Mr. Christen as valuable members to our team.

The Mandate of the PDBNS is public protection, a role each and every member of the Board takes very seriously. Decisions are arrived at by consensus, with fairness and respect. I would like to express my gratitude to all of the Members of the Board for their hard work and unwavering commitment and to the exceptionally dedicated Board staff for their focus and strong support.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Kevin Walsh, Chair

Report of the Registrar 2018

Statistics (December 31, 2018)

DDS	570
DDS Students	19
RDA	805
Incorporations	376

Provincial Dental Board

Board Appointments

Dr. Russell MacSween	NSDA
----------------------	------

Board Reappointments

None

Functional Committees

The following appointments and reappointments to the Board's Functional Committees were approved:

Complaints Committee

Appointments	Reappointments
None	Dr. Lee Erickson

Ms. Shirlene Dancause, RDA

Dental Practice Review Committee

Appointments
None

Reappointments
Dr. Joanne Thomas, (Chair)

Discipline Committee

Appointments
None

Reappointments
Dr. Ian Ross
Ms. Michelle Fowler, RDA
Mr. Michael Muise, Public

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education

Appointments
Dr. Erin Hennessy
Ms. Jackie Snooks, RDA

Reappointments
Dr. Doug Mackey, (Chair)
Ms. Krista Emino-Savory, RDA

Registration Appeal Committee

Appointments
None

Reappointments
Dr. Eric Hatfield (Chair)
Dr. David Moore
Dr. Ian Doyle
Ms. Judy Oakley, RDA
Mr. Doug Lloy, Public
Ms. Gwen Haliburton, Public

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Martin R. Gillis, Registrar

Report of the Complaints Committee 2018

The year 2018 showed a frequency of adjudicated complaints on par with the previous year. There is consistent mix of complaints which provide varying challenges to the Committee members. Several complaints were dismissed but

regrettably our other sanction options came into play also.

Experience provides some good lessons:

1. Records

Good records frequently made the difference between a sanction and dismissal. The Committee has by times been astonished at the lack of awareness of the need for good records and the resistance to change exhibited by licensees. My advice is to have records comprehensive enough such that a third party, years later can understand what took place.

2. Consent

Obtaining consent from a patient is more than a verbal okay or signing a stock form. As providers we are obliged to confirm that our patients understand what they are agreeing to. Several recent complaints were due to actual treatment differing from what the patient thought they had agreed to.

In our experience, stock consent forms can in some circumstances be too vague. These have led to emotionally charged complaints when the actual treatment varied significantly from pre op discussion. It is imperative, when proposed treatment is at best an estimate, that the patient or parent is given a realistic description of potentials. A signed document which contains little detail but gives the operator undefined room to maneuver has proven to be problematic.

2019 will be my year for retiring as chair of the Complaints Committee. For me, my service on the committee has been a remarkable experience. I have had the pleasure to work with a superb group of individuals. Registrars, support staff, Legal advisors, public representatives, and professional members; they have all diligently applied themselves to this critical process. It is the Board's responsibility to enforce the *Dental Act*. But, it needs to do so in a fashion that is not unduly cumbersome on the licensees. This balance of interests frequently comes in to play at Complaints and can lead to lively debate. I can recall no instance when a decision was a foregone conclusion. To a person, everyone involved, past and present, has met the responsibilities and expectations placed upon them. Ladies and gentlemen: my profound thanks and respect. It has been a pleasure and privilege to serve with you.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. John Christie, Chair

Report of the Discipline Committee 2018

While 2017 had been relatively busy for the Discipline Committee, 2018 saw several false starts regarding two ongoing cases. The good thing about that situation was that negotiations conducted by the Registrar and the Complaints Committee with the parties involved moved both cases forward and closer to settlement, rather than towards a full hearing process before the Discipline Committee.

In late November, the Provincial Dental Board held a Complaints and Discipline Workshop, where Dr. John Christie and I were asked to explain the entire process that happens when a complaint is lodged against a dentist. The members of the Board had many questions for us, and hopefully a document outlining the process will be available soon, so that all Nova Scotia dentists will better understand what the discipline process actually entails and what is involved in remediation after a settlement or judgment has taken place.

Once again my thanks go out to the members of the Discipline Committee, who were scheduled to meet several times and are set to convene soon, once those dates are finalized.

Respectfully Submitted
Thomas H. Boyle, Chair

Report of the Registration Appeals Committee 2018

The Registration Appeals Committee has not had to convene in 2018. Therefore, there is no activity to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Eric Hatfield, Chair

Report of the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee 2018

The Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) Committee of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) met for regular business on February 2, 2018. The Registrar, Dr. Martin Gillis, PDBNS staff person, Ms. Jane Donovan and all Committee members were present. Also in attendance as a Consultant was Dr. Simone Abbass.

The Committee continues to find itself needing to clarify for licensees that in order to be eligible for CDE credit, CDE experiences must have a direct pertinence to dentistry.

Clarification has occurred around the issue of on-line CDE experiences. In the revision of the MCDE Guidelines at the November 25, 2017 meeting of the Provincial Dental Board, the phrase “including on-line courses” was added to Category 2 (g), clarifying that these courses are eligible as self-study courses, provided there is a post-test component.

The Committee has been approached to consider giving credit for on-line peer-to-peer experiences, facilitated through a central web-based portal. While we are interested in exploring these emerging ways of learning, the Committee is mindful of the need to ensure that there is a verifiable way to validate the content and time spent engaging in the activity. We look forward to more clarification from the vendors.

Under the Audit Review process for the 3-year cycle ending in December of 2017, a sample of 17 dentists and 28 dental assistants was facilitated by Dr. Sam Stewart of Medical Informatics, Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University.

Of the dentists sampled, the Committee found 7 to have incomplete audits. All were contacted and subsequently completed their audits, thus maintaining licensure except for 1 dentist who relinquished their license.

Of the dental 28 dental assistants sampled, the Committee found 14 to have incomplete audits, which were returned to the dental assistants with requests from the Committee. Of the dental assistants in question, 12 subsequently completed their audits, thus maintaining licensure with 1 dental assistant relinquishing her license. The remaining dental assistant was struck from the Dental Assistant Register, in part for not completing their CDE audit.

In the majority of instances, the incomplete audits occurred as a result of incomplete documentation submission. There were other cases in which licensees had allocated CE experiences to incorrect categories, therefore being deficient in Category 1. This often occurs as a result of some regional dental societies assigning meeting components to incorrect categories. The Presidents/Chairs of the regional societies have been contacted again to remind them that transcripts provided to members must accurately reflect the CDE content delivered at the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Doug Mackey, Chair

Report of the Dental Practice Review Committee 2018

In January 2018 a stratified random sample of 87 dentists were selected to complete the annual Dental Practice Review Self Assessment document. The selection sample was

facilitated by Dr. Sam Stewart of Medical Informatics, Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University.

The sample included 42 dentists from Halifax Regional Municipality, 15 from Yarmouth/South Shore/Valley, and 20 from Northeastern Nova Scotia /Cape Breton.

The Dental Practice Review committee met on April 13, 2018 to review the Self Assessment forms. During this meeting the Committee noted some possible updates in the form for the next year. Participating dentists were notified if they were successful in completing the audit or if the Dental Board required additional information.

A second stratified random sample of 13 dentists were selected to participate in an onsite office visit HRM (7), Valley /South Shore/ Yarmouth (3),Northeastern NS/Cape Breton (3).

These visits were satisfactorily completed by the Registrar's office.

The review process was conducted with the support and cooperation of the members and compliance was demonstrated with recommendations.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Joanne Thomas, Chair

Report from NDEB

Introduction

The National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1952. The Act makes the NDEB responsible for the establishment of qualifying conditions for a national standard of dental competence for general practitioners, for establishing and maintaining an examination facility to test for this national standard of dental competence, and for issuing certificates to dentists who successfully meet this national standard.

The following report highlights the NDEB's key activities relating to the certification of dentists in Canada and summarizes the NDEB's accomplishments.

Governance

On October 20, 2018 Dr. Dennis Fuchs of Yorkton, Saskatchewan was elected President of the NDEB at the Annual Meeting. Dr. Fuchs succeeds Dr. Doug Mackey who held the role of President for the past two years.

Dr. Fuchs joined the NDEB as the representative from the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan in 2009. Since that time, he has served the Board in various capacities including most recently as Vice President/Treasurer from 2016-2018, and as Assistant Chief Examiner for the Assessment of Clinical Skills.

In 2018, the NDEB welcomed three new Board Members, Drs. N. Auyeung, M. Basahti, and A. Rowe. A list of current Board Members can be found in Table 1.

Dennis Fuchs, President	Saskatchewan
James Richardson, Vice President/Treasurer	British Columbia
Doug Mackey, Past President	Nova Scotia
Mintoo Basahti	Alberta
Amarjit Singh Rihal	Manitoba
Ron Yarascavitch	Ontario
Stefan Haas-Jean	Québec
Andrew Rowe	New Brunswick
Alan Robinson	Prince Edward Island
Sneha Abhyankar	Newfoundland
Nancy Auyeung	CDAC Representative
Martin Gillis	CDAC Representative
Polly Pachu	Public Representative

Table 1

Strategic Plan

In October 2018, the NDEB adopted a new strategic plan. The plan identifies the NDEB's key result areas (KRAs) for the next five years. The plan will strengthen NDEB's role in contributing to oral health in Canada, and how it can best evaluate the competence of dentists now and in the future.

Key Result Areas 2019 – 2024



Legal

The NDEB continues to face legal challenges from participants who have failed the Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS). These challenges take up a significant amount of resources both human and financial. In January 2019, the NDEB received its third favourable decision from the court in Ontario and fourth favourable decision from the court in British Columbia regarding a judicial review for the ACS. The NDEB is working with representatives from Dentons LLP on six other Judicial Review applications. The NDEB has filed trademark applications for all its wordmarks and logos. This process will help assure the public of the quality of the products and services which the trademark is associated. The NDEB continues to actively enforce its trademark and copyright by monitoring social media and the web and issuing take down notices.

Communications

The NDEB continues to administer post examination surveys following the administration of examinations and assessments. The survey is designed to gain information from examinees about their examination experience. Feedback gathered from the surveys is used to help improve the delivery of the examinations. In 2018, the NDEB updated its website including visual enhancements, improved navigation, and enhanced content. Feedback received from a website usability survey administered in 2017 was considered during the planning stages of the update. Based on the feedback, the design and structure of the site was reworked to make it easier to find the information visitors look for the most. Specific content areas have been

expanded to provide additional information about NDEB policies and processes. A specific area to keep stakeholders informed about the NDEB's transition to electronic delivery was added and regular updates are posted.

Financials

The NDEB Board held its Interim Meeting on May 12, 2018. During the meeting the members approved the budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. Goals for the budget are to increase the reserve fund, maintain fees, and recover costs. The approved budget included fee changes effective for examinations and assessments administered in 2019. The most significant increase is the fee for ACS Appeals. This fee will be increased to \$1700 from \$850 in 2019. Fees are established on a cost recovery basis, and the expenses to run the appeals processes have continuously exceeded the income. In October 2018, the Finance and Audit Committee recommended additional fee increases for the Assessment of Clinical Skills and the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE). These increases were approved by the Board.

Comparison of 2018 and 2019 Fees

Equivalency Process Application	\$1,150	vs.	\$1,250
Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS)	\$7,000	vs.	\$9,000
ACS Appeals Fee	\$850	vs.	\$1,700
Written Examination	\$1,100	vs.	\$1,200
OSCE	\$1,100	vs.	\$1,200
DSCKE application fee	\$1,500	vs.	\$3,000
DSCKE registration fee	\$2,000	vs.	\$3,500

The ongoing expenses related to the ACS, including appeals of ACS results and legal fees associated with judicial reviews of Appeal Committee decisions, have made it necessary for the NDEB to continue to increase the fees annually so that the assessment is not supported by fees from other NDEB programs.

Examinations and Assessments

Virtual OSCE Development

Development of a Virtual OSCE, the integrated examination replacing both the Written Examination and OSCE, is ongoing. In November 2018, the Virtual OSCE frameworks were circulated to the Canadian Faculties of Dentistry for review and comment. The Virtual OSCE Chief and Assistant Chief Examiners, the Executive Director, and NDEB staff met with a psychometrician from Yardstick Assessment Strategies. The purpose of the meeting was to determine the structure of the Virtual OSCE, including the number of questions required per examination, timing, test reliability, and standard setting options. It was decided that a pilot exam in conjunction with the Written Examination and OSCE would no longer be administered in 2020 and that the first Virtual OSCE will be administered in March 2021.

Credential Verification

After a lengthy investigation, the NDEB has determined that it can no longer accept applications to the Equivalency Process from applicants with documents for Magadh University in India.

The NDEB Executive Committee reviewed the results of the investigation in June and accepted a recommendation that the NDEB has insufficient information regarding the validity and authenticity of documents issued by Magadh University; therefore, those documents would no longer be eligible for verification until the NDEB is confident in the validity and authenticity of the documents provided. This is the first time a decision of this type has been made since the implementation of the Equivalency Process in 2010.

NDEB has notified all applicants affected by this decision and will be in contact with the Canadian DRAs, Canadian Faculties of Dentistry offering Degree Completion Programs, the Dental Council of India, University Grants Commission, and Magadh University to inform them of the decision. The NDEB is cognisant of the impact of this decision on the examinees and will continue to investigate the matter until it can confirm the validity and authenticity of the documents in question.

The number of applications the NDEB receives for the Equivalency Process continues to increase. With significant increases over the past two years the application processing time for the has also been increased to 14-16 weeks. This increase in timing is expected to be temporary.

Certification

NDEB certification is a requirement prior to registration as a general dentist in Canada. To become certified an individual must successfully complete the NDEB Written Examination and OSCE.

The number of individuals certified by the NDEB annually has continued to increase over the last three years. The following chart shows a comparison of certified candidates by year up to December 31, 2018. This information is made available to the public through the NDEB website.

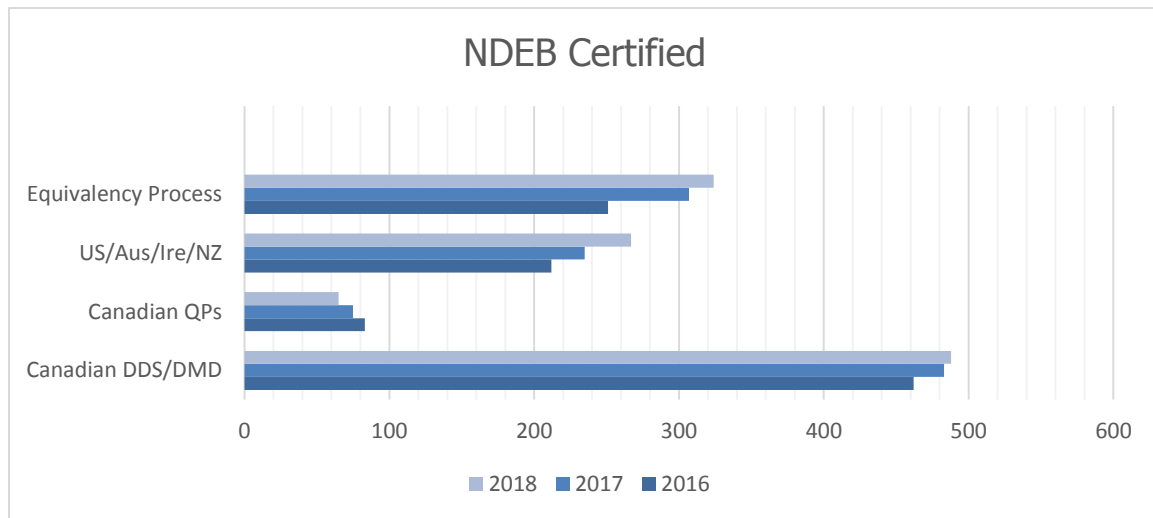


Chart 1

Historical Pass Rates – Certification Process				
	Written		OSCE	
	# of candidates	% pass	# of candidates	% pass
2016	1262	87	1229	93
2017	1363	88	1295	96
2018	1373	84	1279	97

Table 3

Equivalency Process

Graduates of non-accredited dental programs who want to be certified as general dentists in Canada must successfully complete the NDEB Equivalency Process or an accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program prior to being eligible for participation in the Certification Process. The Equivalency Process includes three assessments, the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK), Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ), and Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS).

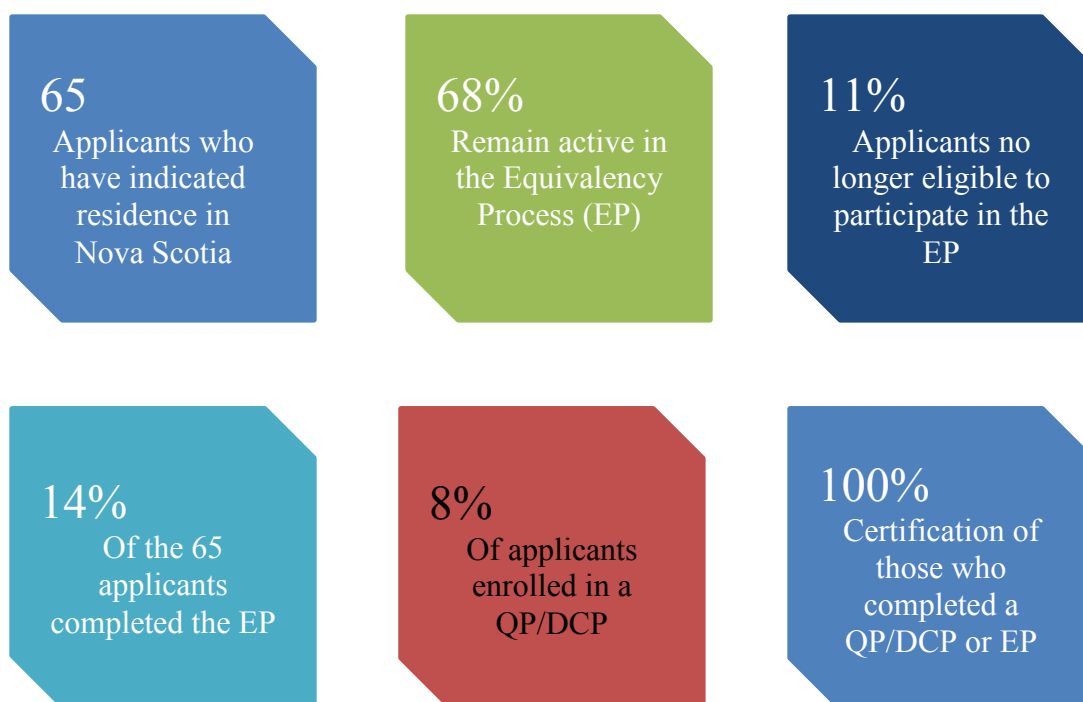
Table 4 is a summary of the pass rates for the AFK, ACS, and ACJ from 2016 to 2018.

Historical Pass Rates - Equivalency Process						
	AFK		ACS		ACJ	
	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass
2016	1238	51	732	37	754	75
2017	1384	46	812	39	836	35
2018	1585	49	351*	40*	410*	43*

Table 4

* June administration only

The following information is specific to residents of Nova Scotia between 2010 and October 2018.



Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE)

In July 2012, the NDEB entered into an agreement with CDRAF to administer the DSCKE, the examination for non-accredited dental specialist seeking entry into a Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Program (DSATP) at a Canadian university. Due to the low number of participants, the DSCKE has run at a loss since the NDEB assumed responsibility for administration. The NDEB has been uncomfortable raising the DSCKE examination fee because the DSCKE is an admission test and available positions in DSATPs are limited. The 2019 increase in the cost of the application and registration fee for the DSCKE is of concern for the NDEB. During the NDEB Annual Meeting, the Board directed staff to continue to investigate viable alternatives to the DSCKE and report back to the Interim Board Meeting in May 2019. The NDEB will be communicating with Faculties of Dentistry and dental regulatory authorities to look at alternatives to DSCKE.

DSCKE Results			
	Examinees	Range	Mean
Feb 2016	13	52 - 91	78.85
Sept 2016	12	65 - 86	73.5
Feb 2017	8	51 - 92	82.62
Sept 2017	9	69 – 89	81.78
Feb 2018	5	66-90	77.8
Sept 2018	10	52-93	77.9

Table 5

Electronic Delivery

The NDEB is moving forward with its plan to move all paper and pencil examinations to electronic delivery. On September 7, 2018, the NDEB administered its first computer-based examination at Prometric testing centres in Canada. The Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE) was administered flawlessly to a small cohort of examinees.

Leading up to the administration of the DSCKE, the NDEB ran three pilot tests. The first test took place at the Prometric test centre in Ottawa. Eight NDEB staff members and Dr. Jim Posluns, DSCKE Assistant Chief Examiner, participated in the e-exam tutorial and practice test prior to attending the examination. At the test centre, they were exposed to Prometric check-in procedures before taking the exam. In a focus group following the test, valuable information was collected about the tutorial, check-in, and user interface.

This feedback was used to make changes ahead of the second pilot test by NDEB Board members in early April. The NDEB administered a third pilot test in June 2018. Next, the NDEB will transition the Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ) to the digital platform for the May 2019 administration. The cohort for the ACJ will be significantly larger than that of the DSCKE and the NDEB intends to make all Prometric test centers across Canada and centres in select other countries available to participants, allowing for easier access and decreased travel expenses. A summarized roll-out plan can be found below.

Electronic delivery Roll-out Plan

Exam	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
DSCKE	X				
ACJ		X			
Virtual OSCE				X	
AFK					X

Table 6

Respectfully Submitted,
 Dr. Doug Mackey, Past President
 NDEB