

PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD
OF
NOVA SCOTIA



PROCEEDINGS
2020

2020 BOARD PROCEEDINGS

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PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA
December 31, 2020



Chair – Dr. Daniel Albert
Vice-Chair – Dr. Shelly Anderson
Registrar – Dr. Martin Gillis
Deputy Registrar – Dr. Curtis Gregoire

Board Membership 2020

| <u>Member</u> | <u>Appointment</u> | <u>Term</u> |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 (3) |
| Dr. Shelly Anderson, Vice-Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 (3) |
| Dr. Russell MacSween | NSDA | Dec. 2023 (2) |
| Dr. Terrie Logue | NSDA | Dec. 2023 (3) |
| Dr. Kevin Walsh | NSDA | Dec. 2022 (3) |
| Dr. Sachin Seth | Government | Nov. 2023 (1) |
| Dr. April Nason | Government | Nov. 2023 (1) |
| Dr. Sunita Sharma | Government | Nov. 2023 (2) |
| Ms. Donna Rushton, RDA | NSDAA | Dec. 2022 (3) |
| Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA | Government | Nov. 2023 (3) |
| Mr. Greg Fevens, Public | Government | Oct. 2022 (2) |
| Mr. David Melvin, Public | Government | Oct. 2022 (2) |
| Dr. Ben Davis, Dean | Observer | |



Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

Seated -Left to right: Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar, Ms. Jane Donovan, Executive Assistant, Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair, Ms. Valerie Benoit, Receptionist, Ms. Donna Rushton, RDA, Dr. Sachin Seth, Dr. Shelly Anderson, Vice Chair, Mr. Chris Holland, IT; Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Deputy Registrar, Dr. Kevin Walsh, Dr. April Nason, Dr. Sunita Sharma, Dr. Russell MacSween, Dr. Terrie Logue, Mr. Greg Fevens, Public, Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA, Mr. David Melvin, Public.

Functional Committees 2020

Discipline Committee

Dr. Tom Boyle, Chair

Discipline Committee Membership

Complaints Committee

Dr. Richard Raftus, Chair

Complaints Committee Membership

| | | | |
|----------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------|
| Dr. Tom Boyle | Oct. 2023 | Dr. Richard Raftus | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Janet Cullinan | Oct. 2023 | Dr. Lee Erickson | June 2023 |
| Dr. Wayne Ramier | Oct. 2023 | Dr. Claire Karst | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Ian Ross | May 2021 | Dr. Nada Haidar | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Natalie Brothers | Oct. 2023 | Dr. Earle Carson | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Peter Thomson | Oct. 2023 | Dr. Blair Raddall | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Chris Baker | Nov. 2023 | Dr. Tom Raddall, III | April 2022 |
| Dr. William Whyte | Oct. 2023 | Ms. Donna Dickie, RDA | Oct. 2023 |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|-----------|
| Dr. Stuart Kirby | Oct. 2023 | Ms. Alma Layden, RDA | June 2022 |
| Dr. Daniel MacLellan | Nov. 2023 | Ms. Shirlene Dancause, RDA | Aug. 2023 |
| Dr. David Quigley | Oct. 2023 | Ms. Janelle Gray, Public | Oct. 2023 |
| Dr. Mark Sutherland | Oct. 2023 | Mr. Bill Watson, Public | Oct. 2023 |
| Ms. Michelle Fowler, RDA | Oct. 2023 | | |
| Mr. R. Desborough, Public | June 2023 | | |
| Mr. Michael Muise, Public | Oct. 2023 | | |
| Mr. John Scott, Public | June 2023 | | |

MCDE Committee

Dr. Erin Hennessey, Chair

MCDE Committee Membership

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Dr. Erin Hennessey, Chair | Oct. 2022 (2) |
| Dr. Sayed Mirbod | Jan. 2022 (1) |
| Dr. Reena Kapadia | Jan. 2021 (3) |
| Ms. Jackie Snooks, RDA | Oct. 2022 (2) |
| Ms. Audra Hayden, RDA | Jan. 2022 (1) |

DPR Committee

Dr. Mariette Chiasson, Chair

Dental Practice Review Committee Membership

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Dr. Mariette Chiasson, Chair | Jan. 2022 (2)) |
| Dr. David Ingham | Apr. 2022 (1) |
| Dr. Stuart A. MacDonald | May 2022 (1) |

Registration Appeal Committee

Dr. Gorman Doyle, Chair

Registration Appeal Committee Membership

| | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Dr. Gorman Doyle, Chair | April 2023 (1) | Ms. Judy Oakley, RDA | June 2021 (2) |
| Dr. Ian Doyle | June 2021 (2) | Mr. Doug Lloy, Public | June 2021 (2) |
| Dr. Clare Champoux | June 2023 (1) | Ms. Gwen Haliburton, Public | June 2021 (2) |

Board Committees

Finance & Audit Committee 2020

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Dr. Terrie Logue, Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2023 |
| Dr. Kevin Walsh | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Mr. Greg Fevens | Public | Oct. 2022 |

Human Resources and Governance Committee 2020

| | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Dr. Shelly Anderson, Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Dr. Sunita Sharma | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Mr. David Melvin | Public | Oct. 2022 |
| Dr. Russell MacSween | NSDA | Dec. 2023 |
| Dr. Sachin Seth | Government | Nov. 2023 |

Standards and Guidelines Committee 2020

| | | |
|---------------------|------------|-----------|
| Dr. April Nason | Government | Nov. 2023 |
| Ms. Marina Crawford | Government | Nov. 2023 |
| Ms. Donna Rushton | NSDAA | Dec. 2022 |

Executive Committee 2020

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Dr. Shelly Anderson, Vice-Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Dr. Kevin Walsh, Past Chair | NSDA | Dec. 2022 |
| Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar | Ex-officio | |

Ad-hoc Committees

Radiography / CBCT 2020

Dr. Russell MacSween (Chair)
Ms. Donna Ruston, RDA
Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar
Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Deputy Registrar

Registration Review 2020

Dr. Kevin Walsh

Ms. Donna Rushton, RDA
Dr. Martin Gillis

Dental Assisting 2020

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

Legislative Amendments 2020

Dr. Daniel Albert (Chair)
Dr. Shelly Anderson (Vice-Chair)
Dr. Kevin Walsh (Past Chair)
Mr. David Melvin (Public)
Ms. Marina Crawford (RDA)
Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar
Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Deputy Registrar

Obstructive Sleep Apnea 2020

Dr. Sunita Sharma
Dr. Reginald Goodday
Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar
Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Deputy Registrar

Report of the Chair 2020

In January 2020, Dr. Albert assumed the Chair of the PDBNS, Dr. Shelly Anderson assumed the Vice-Chair position. At the first PDBNS meeting of the year, one minute of silence was observed to mark the passing of Dr. Sharieh Faghihi and Dr. Eric Hatfield. A bulletin was received from the office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Strang about a novel 2019 coronavirus...

A special bulletin was sent to all Registrants as a FYI.

On February 4th Dr. Gillis and Dr. Albert met with the honourable Randy Delorey Minister for DHW.

Dr. Albert, Dr. Walsh and Dr. Gillis attended the Professional Standards Authority (PSA) Conference in London England on March 5-6. This provided the opportunity to learn different approaches to deal with challenges which face health regulators, as well as network with other provincial and international health regulators. Dr. Gillis was a presenter at the conference.

Also presenting was Sir Harry Cayton the undisputed world leader in health care regulation. Many Provincial Ministers of Health in Canada are using "The Cayton Report" as a template when updating health legislation.

In March the Covid-19 Pandemic unfolded. The PDBNS focused on public safety. A Covid Team was assembled which brought in outside consultants for expertise in different domains.

Terms of Reference for this team were developed with direction from the Department of Health and Wellness as well as the Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health Dr. Strang and his team.

The Covid-19 Team oversaw: 1) the shutdown of Oral Health Care delivery, 2) the safe and efficient delivery of emergency care through the set up of 8 emergency dental clinics throughout the province, 3) the resupply in PPE for these clinics.

In May Dr. Strang (CMOH) directed the oral health professions (Dentistry, Registered Dental Assisting, Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, Denturists) to create a joint reopening plan. "The COVID-19 Return to Work Guidelines for Nova Scotia Oral Health Professions" was presented to Dr. Strang and Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety for approval.

Two webinars helped disseminate the new guidelines to oral health care providers.

All this required unprecedented collaboration, coordination and communication between all health care Regulators as well as their respective Associations.

Retrospectively the low case numbers of Covid 19 in the province shows that all the collective and individual hard work and sacrifice was not in vain.

Thank you and well done everyone!

Concurrent to the Pandemic, the PDBNS continued it's regular work. Dentists, registered dental assistants and corporations were registered. Complaints were received and processed.

Dental Practice Reviews resumed in August.

Committee work continued and produced new standards for Sedation, Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Cone Beam Computed Tomography.

The 1992 Dental Act is undergoing legislative amendments (the process that Government uses to make changes to legislation).

PDBNS has developed a discussion paper outlining 5 proposed concepts. This was sent to stakeholders for feedback in advance of a webinar presenting the proposed changes. A timeline has been struck that would have the process completed by the Fall of 2021. The new legislation will then be presented to the Legislative Assembly by the Minister of Health for approval.

The PDBNS has undergone an updating of its Strategic Plan 2021-2023. The Operational Plan sees the completion of the New Dental Act as well as Regulations and By-Laws.

Two Board Members Dr. Chris Baker and Dr. Dave Dignan completed 9 years of service to the PDBNS. Both took on leadership roles during their term and did so at a high level. They are replaced by Dr. Sachin Seth and Dr. April Nason who commence their term under a Pandemic!

Other new appointments / reappointments:

MCDE:

Dr. Erin Hennessy - Chair

Dr. Sayed Mirbod – Member

Ms. Audra Hayden – Member

Ms. Jackie Snooks -Member (reapt)

Registration Appeals Committee:

Dr. Gorman Doyle – Chair

Dr. Clare Champoux – member

Complaints Committee:

Dr. Rick Raftus – Chair (reapt)

Dr. Nada Haidar – Member (reapt)

Dr. Paul MacEachern – Member (reapt)

Dr. Claire Karst – Member (reapt)

Dr. Earle Carson – Member (reapt)

Dr. Blair Raddall – Member (reapt)

Dr. Lee Erickson – Member (reapt)

Ms. Janelle Gray – Member (reapt)

Ms. Shirlene Dancause – Member (reapt)

Mr. Bill Watson – Member (reapt)

Ms. Donna Dickie – Member (reapt)

Discipline Committee:

Dr. Tom Boyle – Chair (reapt)

Dr. Janet Cullinan – Member (reapt)

Dr. Wayne Ramier – Member (reapt)
Dr. Natalie Brothers -Member (reapt)
Dr. Peter Thompson – Member (reapt)
Dr. William White – Member (reapt)
Dr. Stuart Kirby – Member (reapt)
Dr. David Quigley -Member (reapt)
Dr. Mark Sutherland – Member (reapt)
Ms. Michelle Fowler – Member (reapt)
Mr. Michael Muise – Member (reapt)
Dr. Chris Baker – Member
Dr. Daniel MacLellan – Discipline Committee
Mr. Rod Desborough – Discipline Committee (reapt)
Mr. John Scott – Discipline Committee (reapt)

Ms. Donna Rushton – PDBNS member representative to NDAEB (reapt)

NSDA REPS to PDBNS:

Dr. Terrie Logue – Member (reapt)
Dr. Russell Macsween -Member (reapt)

License Fees for 2021:

DDS 1145.00
RDA 235.00
Student 66.00
Temporary authorisation 66.00
Corporation 176.00

2020 has been a challenging and tumultuous year. I would like to congratulate and thank the Board Members and staff who accomplished so much under very difficult conditions.

Respectfully submitted
Dr. Daniel Albert, Chair

Report of the Complaints Committee 2020

During 2020 the Complaints Committee met on 5 separate occasions. There were 2 in person meetings; January 6 and March 2 and 3 meetings that took place via Zoom; September 18, November 18 and December 21.

Two of the meetings were held in an emergency capacity under section 34(1) of the Dental Act.

In urgent and compelling circumstances, the Complaints Committee may, without a hearing, in the interests of the public, immediately suspend the licence of a dentist or a dental assistant or may immediately impose restrictions on a temporary basis on the registration or licence, or both, of a dentist or dental assistant.

In both of these cases the committee voted unanimously to suspend the licence of each

dentist.

Each of the 3 remaining meetings were called as regular scheduled hearings. One to dispose of 2 complaints that had been tabled in 2019, another to dispose of 2 new complaints and another to deal with a settlement agreement arising as a result of the disposition of one of the new complaints.

In the end during 2020 the Complaints Committee made the following decisions;

- immediately suspended the licence of 2 dentists
- referred one complaint to the Discipline Committee which was subsequently resolved by a settlement agreement.
- issued 2 letters of reprimand both including future dental practice reviews.
- issued a council and included a future dental practice review.

For the 5 meetings that were called this past year two different panels were used. I would like to thank everyone involved for their professionalism, all their hard work and their ability to adapt in these very challenging times.

To everyone, I wish safety, happiness and health.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Richard Raftus, Chair

Report of the Discipline Committee 2020

There is nothing new to report for 2020. Due to Covid, no hearings were held. But late in 2020 and early in 2021, things began to happen. There are a few cases in the works that you will hear about soon. Maybe we'll need an update in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Thomas H. Boyle, Chair

Report of the Registration Appeals Committee 2020

The Registration Appeals Committee has not had to convene in 2020. Therefore, there is no activity to report.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Gorman Doyle

Report of the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee 2020

The Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) Committee of the Provincial Dental

Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) met for regular business on February 7, 2020. A special meeting to discuss an extension to the CE cycle due to COVID-19 was held on April 2, 2020. A second special meeting was held by Zoom on August 17, 2020 to discuss revisions to the MCDE guidelines to allow online/webinar CE credits.

In attendance at all meetings were:

Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar

Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Deputy Registrar

Dr. Erin Hennessy, Chair

Dr. Reena Kapadia

Dr. Sayed Mirbod

Jaqueline Snooks, RDA

Audra Hayden, RDA

Jane Donovan, PDBNS

Valarie Benoit, PDBNS

Jason Cooke*, PDBNS Legal Counsel (*April meeting only)

Under the 2020 Audit Review process for the 3-year cycle ending December 31, 2019, a sample of 32 Registered Dental Assistants and 17 Dentists were randomly selected for audit.

Of the 32 RDA audits, 24 successfully completed the audit. One DA had been struck for failing to meet the continual practice requirement and advised the Board that she had not practiced since 1995. Another relinquished her license in April and if she decides to relicense will be required to provide her 36 hours of CE as a requirement to license. Of the 6 remaining incomplete audits, they were given until the end of 2020 to provide their CE and all have done so.

Of the 17 DDS audits, 12 were successfully completed. Of the 5 incomplete audits, 1 requires CPR course; 2 need to provide verification documents; 1 short CE hours and CPR course; 1 did not provide their log and supporting documents. The Registrar is now waiting on the 2 remaining dentists to submit their CE and will have to do so prior to November 30, 2021 in order to be able to renew their license.

At the special meeting in April, the MCDE committee approved a motion that RDAs and DDSs within the current audit 2020 cycle (Jan 1, 2017 – Dec 31, 2019) be given a one year extension to meet any shortfall in MCDE credit hours identified in the 2020 audit. Additionally, they recommended that deadlines for MCDE cycles ending on Dec 31, 2020, Dec 31, 2021, and Dec 31, 2022 be extended by one year.

At the special meeting in August the committee made recommendation to the PDBNS that guidelines be changed to allow for “Live Webinars” to count as Category 1 CE. Additionally, study clubs would be permitted to meet virtually. These changes were approved by the PDBNS at the September 2020 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Erin Hennessy, Chair

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee

Report of the Dental Practice Review Committee 2020

In January 2020 a stratified random sample set of 80 dentists was identified to complete the annual Dental Practice Review Self-Assessment document. As in previous years, Dr Sam Stewart of the Medical Informatics Division of the Faculty of Computer Science, Dalhousie University facilitated the sample selection: 1) initial random sample of 15% of eligible clinicians; 2) Second sample 15% of initial sampling stratified by region.

The sampling resulted in:

- 1) 45 dentists from 296 eligible clinicians practicing in the Halifax Regional Municipality.
- 2) 14 dentists from 93 eligible clinicians practicing in the South Shore/ Valley/ Yarmouth region.
- 3) 21 dentists from 128 eligible clinicians practicing in the Cape Breton/ North Eastern region.

These clinicians received the 202 self-assessment document.

The practice review committee planned to meet on March 2020 to review the returned self-assessment documents. However, the Covid-19 pandemic changed those plans as all dental practices, with the exception of the designated emergency clinics, were closed from mid-March to the beginning of June, 2020.

With return to practice, Board committee work also resumed. Respecting health protocols, the committee met via Zoom on July 16, 2020 rather than the customary meeting at the Board office. The completed self-assessment documents were reviewed. Site visit locations were identified as well as incomplete or information deficient assessment documents.

A total of 13 sites were identified for site visits: 7 in HRM; 3 in Cape Breton/ North Eastern; and 3 in South Shore/ Valley/ Yarmouth.

Due to provincial Covid restrictions and guidelines, the visits were conducted by Dr. M. Gillis and Dr C. Grégoire. Prior to the site visits, the clinics' "Covid-19 Reopening Plan" were requested for review. Again, due to the restrictions, the process has been more laborious and lengthier. The goal is to have all 13 site visits completed by end of March 2021.

The review process was conducted with the support and cooperation of the members. Compliance was demonstrated with the recommendations to date.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr Mariette Chiasson, Chair