



**CDSA**

College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

THE CDSA  
ACKNOWLEDGES THAT  
WHAT WE CALL ALBERTA  
IS THE TRADITIONAL AND  
ANCESTRAL TERRITORY OF  
MANY FIRST NATIONS,  
MÉTIS, AND INUIT PEOPLE  
WHOSE FOOTSTEPS HAVE  
MARKED THESE LANDS  
FOR CENTURIES.





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**2024** has been a productive year for the CDSA. This year was our second full year of the single mandate of public protection, and we have been able to refine and focus on our three core areas of responsibility: Registration, Standards of Practice, and Professional Conduct.

That focus is enhanced by a dedicated and diverse group that make up the Council. On the elected member side, we have skilled and dedicated council directors. We have been very fortunate to have Public Members of council who bring dynamic skill sets to our decision-making processes. Their contributions help to ensure that decisions made reflect the diverse perspectives and needs of the communities we serve.

Together as a Council, we work towards consensus on policies and issues of importance to the organization with group decision-making authority, and in anticipation of the evolving trends in governance. This has been demonstrated by the way our governance has been progressing.

With regards to the Professional Liability Insurance Program, we continue to see success, and throughout 2024 we focused on its continued evolution and improvements. Professional Liability as a part of registration and annual renewal greatly enhances our mandate to protect the public by guaranteeing that all registered dentists have proper liability coverage.

2024 furthered the work the Council has accomplished regarding Standards of Practice (SOP). The Continuing Competence SOP was adopted. Informed Consent, Patient Records, Privacy and Management of Patient Health Information, Facial Esthetic Therapies and Adjunctive Procedures, and Radiation are still out for review, and we are anticipating that these will be returned soon. We also started the process of modernizing the standard of practice on Sleep Disordered Breathing. It has been making significant progress and promises to be a standard that other jurisdictions will be emulating in the future.

In November, I, along with our CEO & Registrar and Deputy Registrar, attended a positive and productive meeting with Alberta's Minister of Health. This is testament to the strong and professional relationship, built on open and honest lines of communication, that the CDSA has with the Ministry of Health. At this meeting, we highlighted projects such as the Supportive Pathway to NDEB Certification, among other CDSA initiatives.





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The goals of the government and CDSA are in good alignment.

The CDSA's Professional Conduct Department has been steadily evolving to match the growing scope and demand. Its processes have been improving to the benefit of both the public and members. Through enhanced communication and education for members and improved capacity to interact in a positive manner with the public we are seeing significant improvement in the handling of complaints (increased resolutions leading to a significant reduction in complaints proceeding to hearings), as well as dentists being able to prevent situations that lead to complaints.

This department's reputation for success is being recognized and gaining reach far beyond our College, such as being nominated for the prestigious Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Investigative Excellence Award.

With regards to registration, the College has been developing the processes that will lead to the implementation of the Supportive Pathway to NDEB Certification for registration and permitting of internationally trained dentists.

Bill 46: *The Health Statutes Amendment Act 2020 (No. 2)* moved provisions from individual profession regulators into common provisions of the HPA. This allowed the CDSA and other professions to require English Language Proficiency, which was not previously available. In 2024 the College developed the English Language Proficiency registration policy.

A highly anticipated and significant evolution in bringing greater access to important core modalities with recognition of the Dental Anesthesia Specialty has been received.

It has been reassuring to see the continued collaboration between the national organizations such as the National Dental Examining Board, Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation and the CDSA. We remain confident that these organizations fulfill their roles of

providing the highest quality of accreditation and examinations to ensure the highest standards of candidates for becoming registered dentists. In 2024, very talented personnel from the ranks of the CDSA worked with these organizations and can be highlighted as significant participants in the successes we see.

The communication department's 3-year strategy of educating the public and the regulated members on the CDSA's role as a regulator has been proceeding very well. Focus throughout 2024 has been on the content and accessibility so the public and members know how to access support and resources from the CDSA. The CDSA website underwent enhancements to conform with W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) Level AA guidelines. These changes improved user experience for users with disabilities who navigate using assistive technologies or a keyboard. The website is continually undergoing revisions to improve content and access, as well as many of the departments improving their public facing online content.

This past year has allowed me to reflect upon my journey through the CDSA from council director through to president. I have been able to connect with my colleagues in fundamental ways and come to understand the broad spectrum of concerns that exist beyond my own personal experience. I want to thank everyone at the CDSA from executive, council, and all the amazing staff for the heavy and hard work that has built a sense of pride and accomplishment far beyond what I could have expected at the beginning of this experience.

Dr. Neil Strembiski  
President

College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta

## VISION

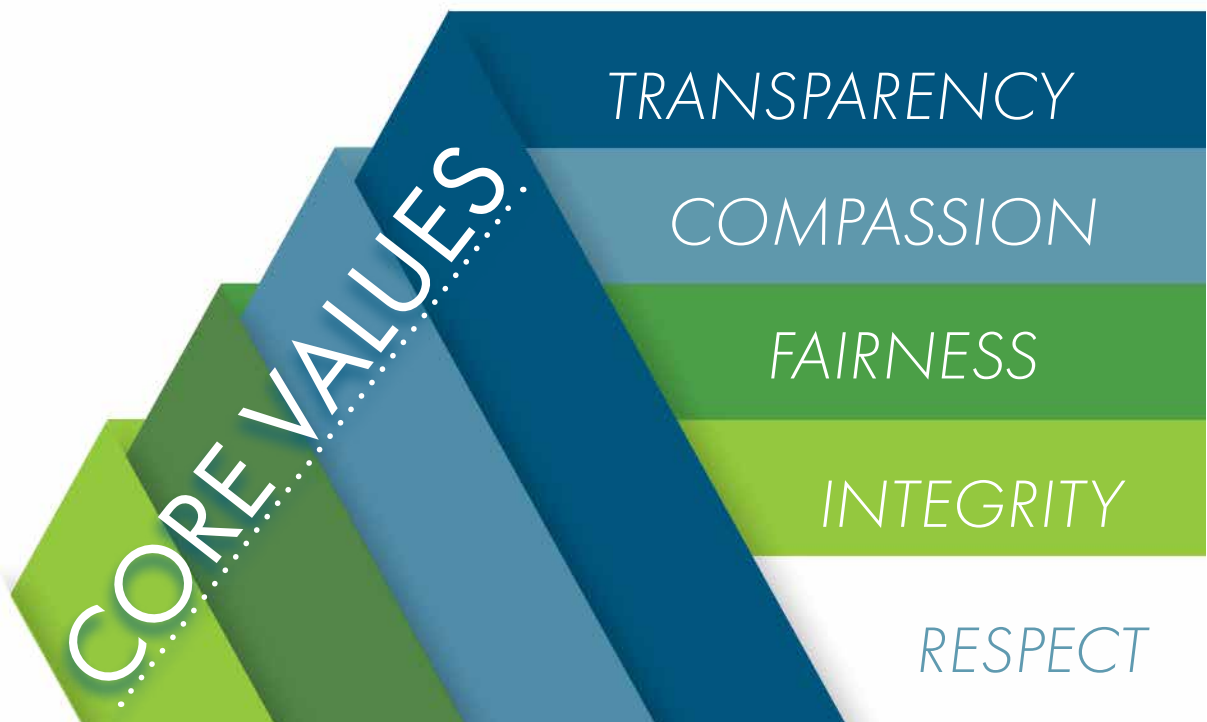
TO PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN REGULATION WHILE  
UPHOLDING THE PUBLIC INTEREST  
AND SETTING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

## MISSION

TO LEAD THE PROFESSION VIA  
GOVERNANCE IN A MANNER THAT  
PROTECTS AND SERVES PUBLIC INTEREST

## GOALS

- QUALITY HEALTH SERVICES FOR ALBERTANS THAT ENSURES SAFE, APPROPRIATE, & ETHICAL HEALTH CARE IN-LINE WITH CDSA'S CORE VALUES
- FURTHER THE TRUSTED RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PROFESSION AND THE PUBLIC, AS WELL AS OTHER STAKEHOLDERS



# HPA & GOVERNANCE

The College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta (CDSA) carries out its activities and governs the profession of dentists in a manner that protects and serves the public according to the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). This is achieved by providing direction to and regulating the practice of dentists through establishing, maintaining, and enforcing standards for registration, continuing competence, standards of practice, and a code of ethics. The CDSA also acts on a complaint about a dentist by resolving, investigating or referring to a hearing, and enforcing any orders that a hearing tribunal may make.

The College is governed by a Council that is made up of dentists who are elected and members of the public who are appointed by the provincial government. The Council is the highest leadership body of the CDSA and is responsible for the organization's stewardship. The value of the Council comes from the knowledge, skills, and diverse backgrounds of its directors, both public and regulated members, their cohesion as a team, their commitment to CDSA and its work, and their collaborative relationship with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the administrative team.

Together, the Council, CEO, and administrative team are fully engaged in advancing the CDSA's mission: to lead the profession via governance in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

The Council ensures the College stays true to its vision, mission, and values by setting strategic priorities assessing opportunities and risks, approving the annual budget, and monitoring performance. Additionally, the Council maintains strong communication with the Government of Alberta, the public, and other stakeholders.

Several committees support the Council in fulfilling its responsibilities. Unless otherwise authorized by the Act, committees serve in an advisory capacity by reporting to and making recommendations for the Council's consideration.

The Executive Committee, established under the Bylaws as a Committee of the Council, supports the Council's work by meeting between Council meetings and providing recommendations as needed. The Executive Committee is comprised of the President, President-Elect, Executive Public Member, Past President, and the CEO.

The Audit Committee is primarily responsible for the financial reporting, information systems, risk management, and internal College controls.

The Governance and Human Resources Committee is responsible for reviewing governance practices to enhance the College's effectiveness and support the Council by recommending members for appointment to various committees.

The HPA outlines requirements for specific committees including Competence, Registration, Dental Facilities Accreditation, Complaints Review, and Hearing Tribunals. The Complaints Review and Hearing Tribunal committees are required to have a minimum of 50% public member representation appointed by the Government of Alberta.

Standing committees have been established to ensure competent practice in areas related to specific restricted activities, including sedation, facial esthetic therapies and adjunctive procedures, and unforeseen events.

# REGULATING DENTISTS IN ALBERTA FOR OVER 100 YEARS

FOUNDED IN 1906 BY AN ACT OF LEGISLATION, THE CDSA WAS INITIALLY KNOWN AS THE ALBERTA DENTAL ASSOCIATION, WHICH BECAME THE REGULATORY BODY FOR DENTISTS IN THE NEWLY ESTABLISHED PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

In 2001, the government proclaimed the Alberta Health Professions Act, introducing self-regulating health professions. Under the new Act, the Alberta Dental Association incorporated the “College” designation. The Alberta Dental Association and College (ADA&C) would continue to function as the regulatory and registering body for dentists in the province and promote and advocate for the continued oral health of Albertans.

In December 2020, the Government of Alberta passed Bill 46, The Health Statutes Amendment Act, 2020 (No. 2). This bill required health professional regulatory colleges to cease and divest of professional association functions and activities. With this amendment to the legislation, the ADA&C Council adopted a new name and began the process of divesting association functions and activities.

On June 1, 2022, the Alberta Dental Association and College began operating as the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta (CDSA). In December 2023, by Royal Assent of the Miscellaneous Statutes Amendment Act, 2023 (Bill 9), the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta was officially recognized.

The College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta continues to carry out its activities and govern the profession of dentists in a manner that protects and serves the public and patients.

## OMBUDSMAN’S REVIEW

From time to time, the Alberta Ombudsman contacts the CDSA regarding concerns they have received about processes at the College.

The College welcomes the Ombudsman’s input and dialogue as part of continuous quality improvement processes, and to nurture regulatory and system excellence.

In the 2024 reporting period, the College was advised by the Alberta Ombudsman that an inquiry was received related to a complaint about a dentist. The complainant was concerned that since resolution efforts were unsuccessful, the matter was sent for an investigation. The College was able to inform the Ombudsman’s Office that when resolution efforts are not successful, the complaint is sent for an investigation.

The Alberta Ombudsman concluded that since a final decision had not yet been reached by the College, their involvement was premature, and they thanked the College for the quick response.

The College was also notified by the Alberta Ombudsman of a complainant requesting a copy of an investigative report. The complainant was directed by the Alberta Ombudsman to the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta.

There were no further interactions with the Alberta Ombudsman in 2024.





# 2024 COUNCIL



## TOP L-R:

DR. NEIL STREMBISKI,  
DR. BRANT ALFARO  
MS. SCARLETT CROCKATT,  
DR. COLIN WIEBE,  
MS. SHARI LAPERLE

## BOTTOM L-R:

MS. BARBARA CHIPEUR,  
DR. TROY BASARAB,  
MR. TERRENCE BAYROCK  
DR. LEE DARICHUK,  
DR. MICHAEL PIEPGRASS



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Neil Strembiski, President, Central District  
Dr. Troy Basarab, Past President (Non-voting)  
Dr Brant Alfaro , President-Elect, Edmonton District  
Ms. Shari LaPerle, Executive Public Member

## DIRECTORS

Dr. Lee Darichuk, Calgary District  
Dr. Michael Piepgrass, Northern District  
Dr. Nathaniel Podilsky, Edmonton District  
Dr. Colin Wiebe, Calgary District

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

Mr. Terrence Bayrock    Mr. Ken Hawrelko  
Ms. Barbara Chipeur    Ms. Patricia Pelton  
Ms. Scarlett Crockatt    Ms. Nickolletta Sandie

# NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS



KEN HAWRELKO

Ken has worked in the electric utility and associated industries for over 38 years and is currently a consultant assisting utilities in technical, regulatory and management areas.

He has served on corporate boards since approximately 2005 and is currently board chair of a publishing and educational services delivery company.

Ken is a Professional Engineer with a M.Eng from the University of Calgary and B.Sc. from the University of Alberta.

He is a Fellow of the Engineers of Canada and an Honorary Fellow of the Geoscientists of Canada. He has volunteered with the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Alberta (APEGA) since 2001 including service as Chair of the Appeal Board, where he received training in governance essentials, administrative law and adjudication. He was elected to APEGA Council in 2023 and is currently serving a 3 year term as Councillor.

He also currently volunteers with the Calgary Food Bank, the Calgary Zoo and the Al Azhar Shriners.



PATRICIA PELTON

Patricia Pelton is the Immediate Past President of World YMCA. Elected in Thailand in 2018, Patricia was the first woman and the first Canadian to hold this position since its founding 175 years ago. She continues to govern on the International Board, serving on several committees while representing YMCAs in 120 countries.

She has extensive governance experience some of which include Chair, YMCA Canada, Vice Chair SEARCH Canada, and Vice Chair, Health Quality Council of Alberta.

Patricia is a Senior Healthcare Professional based in Alberta and has held numerous operational leadership positions including CEO of two of Alberta's Health Authorities, continuing to consult in the healthcare sector. Growing up in small business has provided a business mentality which has served her well in her career.

Patricia also sits on the Board of Careers, the Next Generation; its Mission is, 'To enable Youth on their Path to Rewarding Careers' and serves thousands of young Albertans, working in partnership with industry and government.

Patricia recently served six years on the CCOA Regulatory College; supporting regulatory college governance and accountability is critical to the regulation of Alberta's health professions.

Patricia runs, sails, hikes, skis, reads, and spends wonderful time with family and friends.



# PUBLIC MEMBERS' REPORT

In 2024, there were five public members on the CDSA Council. The public members are appointed by the Minister of Health. One public member was elected by Council to serve in the role of Executive Public Member on the CDSA Executive Committee.

The dentist directors and public directors of the College work together toward our shared goals of protecting the public, adhering to statutory requirements, and developing and fostering appropriate professional standards. Throughout the year, public members of Council engaged fully in decision making at meetings of Council, participated on CDSA subcommittees, and took part in appeal hearings regarding allegations of unprofessional conduct.

In 2024, the public members of the CDSA attended a symposium with the other oral health regulatory colleges of Alberta to discuss regulating in the public interest.

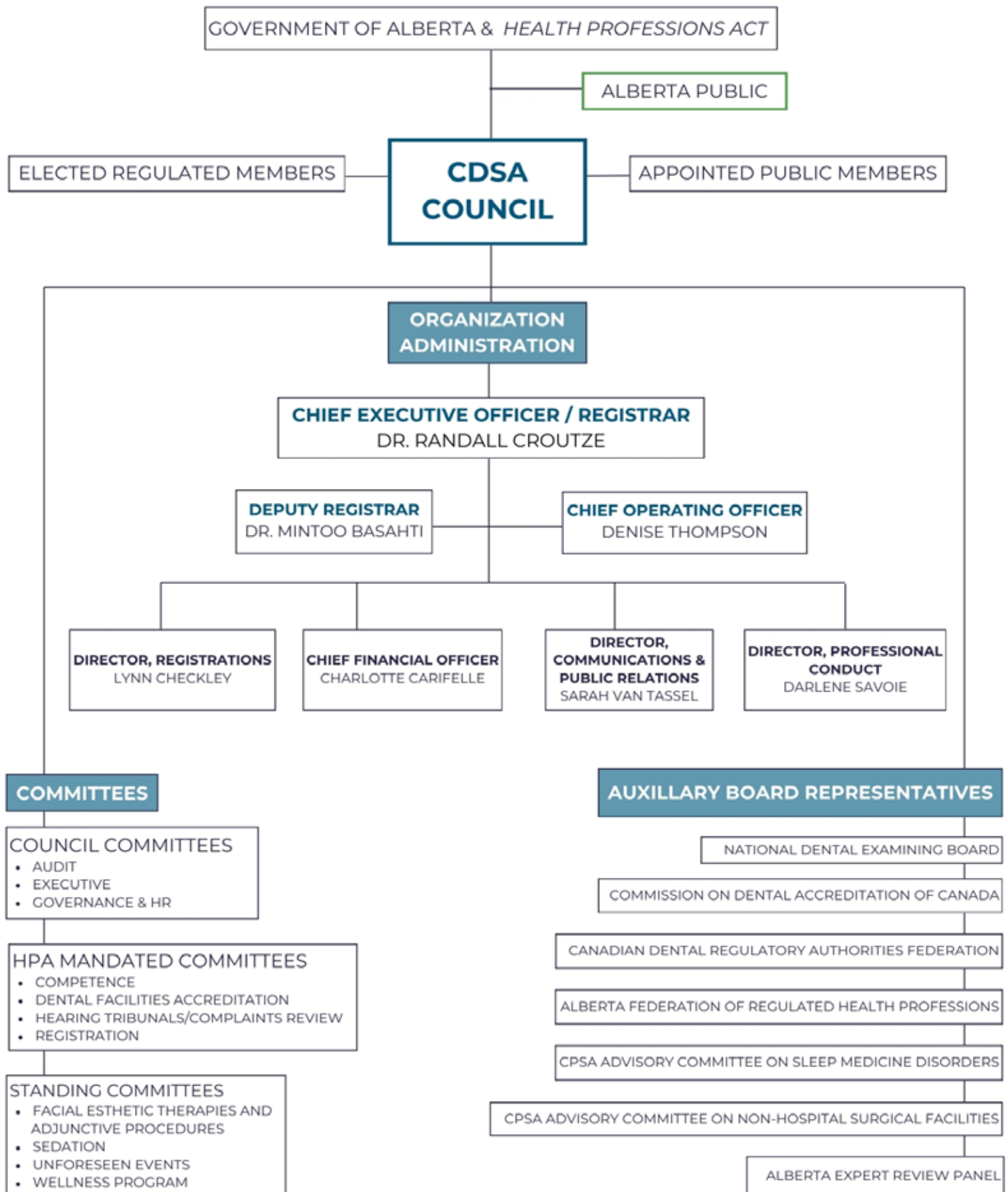
The public members and Council as a whole are actively engaged in the creation of a new pilot project to support the success of internationally trained dentists in Alberta. It is in our shared public interest to ensure that competence of dentists is assessed fairly. The CDSA works with and supports other organizations who deliver accreditation and national testing methodologies, resulting in a skilled and professional workforce.

In 2024, the College's Professional Liability Insurance Plan continued to protect the public by insuring all dentists registered in Alberta.

*Mr. Terrence Bayrock, Ms. Barbara Chipeur, Ms. Scarlett Crockatt, Mr. Ken Hawrelko,  
Ms. Patricia Pelton, Ms. Nickolletta Sandie*

*Mr. Hawrelko was appointed to the Council on September 24, 2024. Ms. Pelton was appointed to Council on October 9, 2024. Ms. Sandie concluded her term on October 9, 2024. Mr. Hawrelko and Ms. Pelton will serve three-year terms on Council.*

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





# REGISTRATION & RENEWAL OF PRACTICE PERMITS



TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA, A DENTIST MUST BE REGISTERED WITH A PRACTICE PERMIT FROM THE CDSA.

## GENERAL DENTIST

General dentistry covers the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of oral health conditions. This means that general dentists are responsible for routine checkups, examinations, cleanings, and restorations. They develop customized dental care plans for their patients, which include things like teeth cleaning, tooth scaling, and x-rays.

Disease prevention is an important part of general dentistry. Diagnostic equipment and regular checkups allow general dentists to detect and treat problems as early as possible.

To apply for registration as a general dentist in the province of Alberta, an applicant must provide a copy of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) certificate.

## DENTAL SPECIALIST

Dental specialists play a significant role in protecting the public, nurturing the art and science of dentistry and improving quality of care through the provision of treatment where advanced knowledge and skills are needed to maintain or restore oral health.

To apply for registration as a dental specialist in the province of Alberta, an applicant must provide a copy of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada–National Dental Specialty Examination (NDEB NDSE) certificate.

## GENERAL DENTIST & DENTAL SPECIALIST

To apply for registration as both a general dentist and dental specialist in the province of Alberta, an applicant must provide a copy of the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) certificate and the National Dental Examining Board of Canada–National Dental Specialty Examination (NDEB NDSE) certificate.



# THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACT OUTLINES NINE NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED DENTAL SPECIALTIES:

## DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH

Dental public health is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis, prevention and control of dental diseases, and the promotion of oral health through organized community efforts. Dental public health serves the community as the patient (rather than the individual) through research, health promotion, education, and group dental care programs.

## ENDODONTICS

Endodontics is the branch and specialty of dentistry that is concerned with the morphology, physiology and pathology of the dental pulp and periradicular tissues. Its study and practice encompass the basic clinical sciences including biology of the normal pulp, and etiology, diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and injuries of the pulp and associated periradicular tissues.

## ORAL PATHOLOGY AND ORAL MEDICINE

Oral medicine and oral pathology is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis, nature, and primarily non-surgical management of oral, maxillofacial and temporomandibular diseases and disorders, including dental management of patients with medical complications. Oral medicine and oral pathology are two applied components of this specialty.

## ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY

Oral and maxillofacial surgery is the branch and specialty of dentistry which is concerned with and includes the diagnosis, surgical and adjunctive treatment of disorders, diseases, injuries and defects involving both the functional and aesthetic aspects of the hard and soft tissues of the oral and maxillofacial regions and related structures.

## ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL RADIOLOGY

Oral and maxillofacial radiology is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the prescription, production, and interpretation of diagnostic images for the diagnosis and management of diseases and disorders of the craniofacial complex.

## ORTHODONTICS AND DENTOFACIAL ORTHOPEDICS

Orthodontics and dentofacial orthopedics is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the supervision, guidance, and correction of the growing or mature dentofacial structures and the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of any abnormalities associated with these structures.

## PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY

Pediatric dentistry is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with providing primary and comprehensive preventive and therapeutic oral health diagnosis, care, and consultative expertise for infants and children through adolescence, including those of all ages with special care needs.

## PERIODONTICS

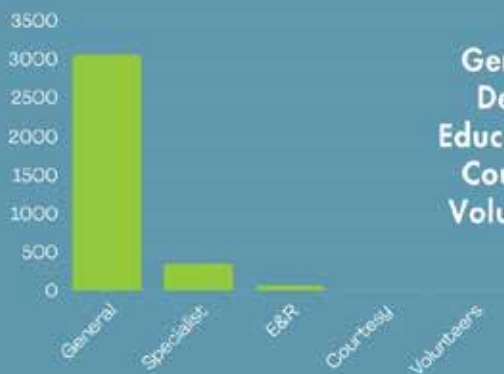
Periodontics is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of diseases and conditions of the supporting and surrounding tissues of the teeth or their substitutes and the maintenance of the health, function, and aesthetics of these structures and tissues.

## PROSTHODONTICS

Prosthodontics is the branch and specialty of dentistry concerned with the diagnosis, restoration and maintenance of oral function, comfort, appearance, and health of the patient by the restoration of the natural teeth and/or the replacement of missing teeth and contiguous oral and maxillofacial tissues with artificial substitutes.

# Registration Statistics

**TOTAL REGULATED MEMBERS: 3,194**



General Dentists: 3,060  
Dental Specialists: 351  
Education & Research: 66  
Courtesy Registration: 5  
Volunteer Registration: 4

**Professional Corporations:**  
**3,003**

## New registrants as of December 31, 2024: 243

General Dentist: 213  
General Dentist & Dental Specialist: 14  
Dental Specialist: 8  
General Practice Residency (GPR): 6  
OMFS Fellowship: 2

## New Specialist Registrations totals: 22

Pediatric: 3  
Periodontic: 5  
Endodontic: 3  
Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon: 2  
Orthodontic: 7  
Prosthodontic: 2

## New registrations including applications: 229\*

Canadian: 213  
International: 6

## New Graduate totals: 82

Canadian: 53  
International: 29

## Education & Research totals: 66

Instructor: 29  
Graduate Student: 32  
Satellite Clinic Rotation: 5

\* Excluding New Graduates



# PRACTICE VISITS

Practice Visits are crucial for public protection because they help ensure dental practices in Alberta adhere to standards by assisting dentists in improving their competency through preventative, educational, and proactive support. This enhances the overall quality of care and safeguards public health.

The College conducts practice visits as part of the Continuing Competence Program as directed by Council, and as a requirement of the *Health Professions Act*. The visitations are designed to assist dentists in the guidance and implementation of the Standard of Practice: *Infection Prevention and Control Standards and Risk Management for Dentistry*, and the Standard of Practice: *Minimal and Moderate Sedation Deep Sedation and General Anaesthesia in Non-Hospital Dental Practice*, along with other SOPs and the Code of Ethics.

A TOTAL OF 96 PRACTICE VISITS WERE COMPLETED FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2024.



# CONTINUING COMPETENCE

Ensuring dentists in Alberta meet continued competency requirements protects the public by maintaining standards of care and up-to-date knowledge. It holds professionals accountable, builds public trust, and safe and effective treatments. Overall, it leads to improved health outcomes and greater confidence in the healthcare system.

The Council and the Competence Committee of the College continue to review the program requirements for Continuing Education in terms of the accountability that is required under the *Health Professions Act*. The Continuing Competence requirement is 60 program credits over a two-year cycle (e.g., January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025). Continuing Competence requirements must be met prior to permit renewal at the end of the two-year cycle.

If a dentist has not met their required program credit amounts, they may apply for a 60-day extension for the two-year cycle. Additionally, if the dentist has not met the required program credit amounts, they are suspended and could have their practice permit cancelled until they obtain the required credits.

Dentists are responsible for self-reporting their continuing education credits online. Dentists must also submit verification by the provider as this is mandatory or no program credits are given. Credits are granted based on one hour of lecture time is equal to one credit time. It is the dentist's ethical responsibility to ensure that all reporting of continuing education is accurate. Failure to do so may constitute unprofessional conduct and may result in disciplinary action by the College.

Continuing education and credits may be earned from directed education, which contains two categories, Regulatory-Directed and Self-Directed.

Regulatory-Directed learning is a process in which dentists take mandatory education courses implemented through motions by Council, Standards of Practice, or compliance with the *Health Professions Act* (e.g.: CPR/BLS, Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct).

Self-Directed Learning is a process in which dentists take the initiative, with or without the help of others, in assessing their learning needs, formulating learning goals, and identifying resources for learning, choosing, and implementing appropriate learning strategies.

Sources where dentists may obtain courses, lectures, or equivalents that are recognized for continuing education credit, subject to limitations, are outlined in the Continuing Competence/Education Program Requirements – Updated January 2022.

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# DENTAL FACILITIES ACCREDITATION

The College safeguards public health by ensuring dental facilities and non-hospital dental practices comply with established Standards of Practice and meet rigorous requirements for registration and permits. Through collaboration with the Dental Facilities Accreditation Committee and regulated members, it upholds the integrity, efficiency, and effectiveness of the accreditation process.

Accreditation is required by law in Alberta under the HPA, the *Dental Surgical Facility Accreditation Regulation*, and the *Health Facilities Act*, and is carried out by the Dental Facilities Accreditation Committee.

**THE COLLEGE CARRIES OUT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF ACCREDITATION (AS OUTLINED IN THE HPA, SCHEDULE 7) BY:**

- Establishing a Dental Facilities Accreditation Committee.
- Establishing the power and authority of the Dental Facilities Accreditation Committee to accredit facilities.
- Allowing for decisions of the Dental Facilities Accreditation Committee to be appealed to Council.

The *Dental Surgical Facility Accreditation Regulation* requires Council to approve and publish standards for dental surgical facilities, and requires dentists working in accredited facilities to comply with those standards. Section 12(1) of Schedule 7 of the HPA requires that a dental surgical facility be accredited before a dentist provides dental surgical services to the public within the facility.

All non-hospital surgical facilities and dental surgical facilities where deep sedation or general anaesthesia are used in dental treatment must be accredited by the College. This process involves application, completion of a questionnaire, and an inspection to ensure compliance with the Standard of Practice: *Minimal and Moderate Sedation Deep Sedation and General Anaesthesia in Non-Hospital Dental Practice*. This process is separate from what is required by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA).







# COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION



In accordance with the *Health Professions Act* and other relevant laws, the College addresses all complaints about Alberta dentists, prioritizing the public interest to ensure safety and fairness for all parties involved.

Dentists are encouraged to address treatment concerns early with their patients to ensure mutual understanding and, if necessary, implement immediate changes to protect the public and address the patient's needs. When complaints are made to the College, dentists and complainants are encouraged to work together to resolve the issue, with support from the Complaints Director, if needed.

## THE COMPLAINT PROCESS AIMS TO REVIEW AND DETERMINE THE MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION, WHICH MAY INCLUDE:

- Encouraging direct resolution efforts between the complainant and dentist, if appropriate,
- Assisting in resolution attempts through the Complaints Director,
- Dismissing the complaint,
- Referring the complaint for investigation, or
- Referring the complaint to a hearing.

## IF A COMPLAINT PROCEEDS TO A HEARING:

- Hearings are open to the public, with notices published on the College's website.
- Witnesses, including the complainant, may be present and provide evidence.
- The focus of the hearing is to assess the dentist's conduct, rather than seeking financial compensation for the patient.
- Each hearing tribunal includes two public members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, Government of Alberta, and two dentists.
- A summary of the decision is posted on the College's website if unprofessional conduct is determined.

## CLASSIFICATION & CURRENT STATUS OF COMPLAINTS

CATEGORY	TOTAL	TREATMENT COMPLAINTS	ADVERTISING COMPLAINTS	SEXUAL ASSAULT/ SEXUAL MISCONDUCT
Complaints carried over from previous years and open as of January 1, 2024	223	222	0	1
New Complaints 2024	176	176	0	0
Complaints Concluded 2024	191	190	0	1
Complaints carried over to January 1, 2025	208	208	0	0
BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINTS				
Complaints referred to hearing by the Complaints Director	6	5	0	1
Complaints referred to hearing by the Complaints Review Committee	0	0	0	0
Hearings conducted	5	4	0	1
Hearings partly or completely closed to public	0	0	0	0
Hearing Decision Appeals	0	0	0	0
Requests for Review by the Complaints Review Committee	6	6	0	0
Reviews Completed by the Complaints Review Committee	5	5	0	0
Members assessed for incapacity	1	0	0	0



# PATIENT RELATIONS PROGRAM

The College receives and investigates all allegations of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. The College has a Patient Relations Program which provides support to patients who have been impacted by sexual abuse and sexual misconduct by a dentist. Specifically, the Patient Relations Program includes funding for therapy or counselling for patients who file a complaint alleging sexual misconduct or abuse by a dentist. Processes have been put in place to ensure access to funding in accordance with the *Funding for Treatment and Counselling Regulation*, which came into effect on June 2, 2021. This regulation out-lines the requirements relating to the eligibility, administration, and cessation of funding. The College also provides information on its website and contact information for specialized sexual abuse and sexual misconduct support services located throughout Alberta.

To make information about sexual misconduct and sexual abuse education more prominent for dentists, the College posts information on sexual abuse prevention online, and has the following requirements:

- Mandatory educational training and guidelines for all dentists, including a publicly accessible three-module resource called 'Protecting Patients from Sexual Abuse and Misconduct' which was developed by the Alberta Federation of Regulated Health Professionals.
- Mandatory educational training of employees, Council, the public and dentist tribunal members.
- The publication of a Standard of Practice: Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct, and Female Genital Mutilation.
- Information on its website regarding the process for making a complaint to the College about sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a dentist towards a patient.

The College also publishes information on its website with respect to findings of unprofessional conduct by members of the profession based in whole or in part on sexual abuse or sexual misconduct in accordance with the *Health Professions Act*.

In addition to the above, the College continues to provide funding for treatment or counselling for eligible patients who have alleged sexual abuse or sexual misconduct by a dentist.



# SEDATION

The College safeguards the public by issuing permits to dentists based on demonstrated competency, ensuring compliance with standards for administering various sedation modalities, deep sedation, and general anesthesia. These permits are specific to the dentist and, in some cases, the accredited surgical facility, and must be renewed annually.

Sedation is a pharmacologically induced, minimally to moderately depressed level of consciousness that retains the patient's ability to independently and continually maintain an airway and respond to physical stimuli and verbal command.

Deep sedation and general anesthesia in dentistry are controlled states of unconsciousness or reduced consciousness used to manage pain and anxiety during complex procedures. Deep sedation keeps patients in a semi-conscious state with limited response to stimuli, while general anesthesia renders them completely unconscious and unresponsive. Deep Sedation and General Anesthesia are provided in accredited facilities only to ensure that safe and effective care of patients is achieved.

Dentists offering sedation must adhere to the requirements outlined in the Standard of Practice: *Minimal and Moderate Sedation Deep Sedation and General Anaesthesia in Non-Hospital Dental Practice*. This Standard of Practice applies to all dentists who are administering sedation in a dental practice or Accredited Dental Surgical Facility.

The Deep Sedation and General Anaesthesia in Non-Hospital Dental Practice section of the standard of practice is the standard for administration of sedation with respect to dental surgical services in Alberta in accordance with Section 4 of the *Dental Surgical Facility Accreditation Regulation*. Specifically, the Minimal and Moderate Sedation section of the Standards of Practice applies to:

- Dental practices where sedation is administered.
- Dentists who administer sedation.
- Dentists who administer Modalities 1 through 8 in a dental practice that is within or part of a non-hospital dental practice.
- Clinical personnel who provide surgical or sedation support to dentists administering sedation.

Minimal and Moderate Sedation consists of eight modalities of sedation and is divided into eight sections representing the eight modalities. The modality determines the physical equipment and personnel requirements of the dental setting, the training requirements of the dentist administering the sedation, and the clinical personnel assisting the dentist. The requirements for each modality, when used separately or in combination by a dentist in a non-hospital dental practice, must be met.

The College issues a permit based on the level of competency achieved for all dentists providing modality 5 through Modality 8 described by the Standard. This permit is specific to the dentist and expires December 31 of the calendar year.

A dentist who has successfully completed an educational program in the administration of deep sedation and/or general anaesthesia that has been credentialed and authorized by Council is issued a permit by the College. This permit is specific to the dentist and the accredited dental surgical facility and expires December 31 of the calendar year.



## THE MODALITIES ARE:

Modality 1: Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older

Modality 2: Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients under 12 years of age

Modality 3: Oral Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older

Modality 4: Oral Sedation for patients under 12 years of age

Modality 5: Oral Sedation with Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older

Modality 6: Oral Sedation with Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients under 12 years of age

Modality 7: Parenteral (intravenous only) Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older

- Single Drug IV (7S – [Benzodiazepine])

- Two Drug IV (7F – [Benzodiazepine with Fentanyl])

Modality 8: Parenteral (intravenous only) Sedation for patients under 12 years of age

- Single Drug IV (7S – [Benzodiazepine])

- Two Drug IV (7F – [Benzodiazepine with Fentanyl])

DGA Deep Sedation/General Anaesthesia

- Patients 12 years of age and older

- Patients under 12 years of age



## UNFORESEEN EVENTS

Unforeseen Events are events related to patient status or outcomes that are considered significant indicators of health and safety factors for patients which may or may not be associated with harm to the patient. An Unforeseen Event must be reported to the Chief Executive Officer of the College.

### AN UNFORESEEN EVENT IS IF A PATIENT'S RESPONSE TO SEDATION RESULTS IN:

- Death within the dental office or within 10 days of the sedation procedure.
- When a patient's response to sedation results in depression beyond the level of sedation intended or entry of the patient into levels of deep sedation or depression beyond sedation or into general anaesthesia.
- Unforeseen events that required emergency interventions inside the dental office, such as, but not limited to cardiovascular collapse where resuscitation occurred on site and the patient was not transferred to hospital.
- Transfer from the dental office to a hospital regardless of whether or not the patient was admitted.
- Unexpected admission to a hospital within 10 days of a procedure performed under sedation in the dental office (see also discharge instructions Appendix I – Discharge of Patients).
- Unexpected treatment by a Non-Hospital Surgical Facility (NHSF), Dental Surgical Facility (DSF), or hospital within 10 days of the sedation procedure.
- Clusters of infections among patients treated in the dental office.
- Any procedure performed on the wrong patient, site or side.
- Missing or non-locatable opioids or Schedule 1 controlled substances.
- When a reversal agent is used (Flumazenil and Naloxone).





PERMIT MODALITY & NUMBER ISSUED	
7f,8f*	1
7s,7f,8s,8f*	1
5,7s,7f,8s,8f*	2
5,6,7s,7f*	5
7f*	7
7s	8
5,6	14
5,7f	12
5,6,7s,7f,8s,8f*	25
7s,7f	16
5,7s	17
5,7s,7f*	144
5	521
DGA 12 years of age and older	31
DGA under 12 years of age	24
DGA 12 years of age older and under	30
<b>TOTAL PERMITS ISSUED:</b>	<b>728</b>



REGISTRATION		#
Modality 1: Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older		1,459
Modality 2: Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients under 12 years of age		1,244 *
Modality 3: Oral Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older		1,418
Modality 4: Oral Sedation for patients under 12 years of age		54
Modality 5: Oral Sedation with Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older		780
Modality 6: Oral Sedation with Nitrous Oxide Sedation for patients under 12 years of age		49
Modality 7: Parenteral (intravenous only) Sedation for patients 12 years of age and older		
	Single Drug IV (7S -[Benzodiapine])	216
	Two Drug IV (7F -[Benzodiapine with Fentanyl])	209
Modality 8: Parenteral (intravenous only) Sedation for patients under 12 years of age		
	Single Drug IV (8S -[Benzodiapine])	26
	Two Drug IV (8F -[Benzodiapine with Fentanyl])	27
DGA Deep Sedation/General Anaesthesia		
	Patients 12 years of age and older	26
	Patients under 12 years of age	31

\*combined number for the same dentist providing different modalities  
(Minimal and Moderate Sedation Deep Sedation and General Anaesthesia)

# FACIAL ESTHETIC THERAPIES &.....





# ADJUNCTIVE PROCEDURES

Issuing certificates based on competency for dentists providing facial esthetic therapies and adjunctive procedures ensures that dental practices in Alberta adhere to established standards, thus safeguarding public health and ensuring quality care. Maintaining a list of approved programs further supports this initiative.

Through competency-based certification and maintaining a list of approved training programs, the department upholds high standards of care and safety for patients.

The Standard of Practice: *Facial Esthetic Therapies and Adjunctive Procedures* applies to dentists who are administering Schedule 1 drugs such as neuromodulators (e.g. Botulinum Toxin Type A), dermal fillers, other agents (injected and/or topical), and adjunctive non-surgical or surgical therapies used to provide comprehensive therapeutic and esthetic oral and maxillofacial treatment for the restoration of a patient's appearance in form and function, or to enhance their appearance, or both.

The College issues a certificate to each dentist indicating the year of member authorization and effective date, which is valid indefinitely. Certificates are based on the level of competency achieved for all dentists providing the levels of treatment described in the Standard. The College maintains a list of approved programs at each level. Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons may provide any procedures, if their training encompassed said therapeutic procedures. Dentists may not provide any of these procedures without a certificate.

LEVEL OF CERTIFICATION	# OF DENTISTS
Level 1: Applied Anatomy Review and Introduction to Neuromodulators (Level 1 does not authorize the dentist to provide any patient treatment)	1013
Level 2: Basic Neuromodulators: Upper Face and Bruxism Treatment	942
Level 3: Advanced Neuromodulators: Mid-Face and Lower Face/Neck Regions and Myofascial Pain and Dysfunction Treatment	243
Level 4: 4a – Dermal Fillers: Basic Facial Dermal Fillers	71
Level 4: 4b – Dermal Fillers: Advanced Facial Dermal Fillers	31
Level 4: 4N – Neuromodulators for Deep Muscles of Mastication	21
Level 5: Advanced Non-Surgical Esthetic Procedures	19
Level 6: Advanced Surgical Esthetic Procedures	18

# RADIATION HEALTH AND SAFETY PROGRAM

Radiation plays a vital role in dentistry, enabling our members to diagnose dental issues with precision and care. By following proper safety measures, we ensure the well-being of patients, dental staff, and the public while harnessing the benefits of this essential technology.

To ensure that X-rays and lasers in dental facilities are used safely, the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta (CDSA) administers the Radiation Health and Safety Program as an Authorized Radiation Health Registration Agency.

By enforcing necessary legislation, such as the *Occupational Health and Safety Act* and Code, compliance and educational support helps dental facilities adopt best practices, including proper equipment maintenance and controlled radiation doses. This approach helps safeguard the public from potential radiation hazards.

As the number of dental facilities in Alberta continues to grow, the CDSA has increased staff numbers to accommodate this expansion. This ensures that inspections, compliance checks, and support services remain efficient and effective, allowing the program to uphold high safety standards. By investing in additional personnel, the CDSA reinforces its commitment to maintaining public safety in the face of increasing demand.







# PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Professional Liability Insurance Program (PLIP) was created by a motion of Council and took effect for all dentists on January 1st, 2022. The *Health Professions Act* specifically gives Council the authority to govern “the minimum coverage and type of insurance required to be carried” by dentists.

Including the base coverage with regulated members’ practice permit guarantees that every dentist has the minimum amount of coverage required by the Council to protect the public in the event of injury resulting from dental negligence or wrongdoing.

The program is also structured to indemnify current, former, and retired dentists as well as a dentist’s professional corporations, volunteers, and dental students.

The PLIP is administered by Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers; an Alberta commercial insurance broker, and Victor Canada; an expert in professional liability insurance in Canada since 1964. The program’s risk is diversified amongst eight different insurance companies, specifically: Arch, Aviva, Berkley, Beazley, Chubb, Everest, Temple, XL, and Lloyds of London.

In addition to the \$2 million in base coverage that is included with a dentists’ practice permit, an additional \$23 million in excess coverage is available through Lloyd Sadd Insurance Brokers, or a broker of a dentists’ choice.

The College is provided an anonymized, generic update of incidents and claims quarterly. The College is not privy to any specific information and are only provided with the date the incident was reported and/or closed, the type of incident, whether a claim was paid, any expenses incurred, and whether the insurance manager, Victor Canada, has placed any reserves against future claims on the paid premiums.

Summary Financial Statements of

**COLLEGE OF DENTAL  
SURGEONS OF ALBERTA**

Year ended December 31, 2024



**KPMG LLP**

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Edmonton, AB T5J 0H3  
Canada  
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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Members of College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta

### ***Opinion***

The summary financial statements of College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta (the Entity), which comprise:

- the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2024
- the summary statement of operations for the year then ended
- the summary statement of changes in fund balances
- and related note are derived from the audited financial statements of College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta as at and for the year ended December 31, 2024 (the audited financial statements).

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria disclosed in Note 1 in the summary financial statements.

### ***Summary Financial Statements***

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the Entity's audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

KPMG LLP, an Ontario limited liability partnership and member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. KPMG Canada provides services to KPMG LLP.



### ***Management's Responsibility for the Summary Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria disclosed in Note 1 in the summary financial statements.

### ***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standards 810, Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'KPMG LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, stylized font. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.

Chartered Professional Accountants

Edmonton, Canada

May 20, 2025



# COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

## Summary Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
<b>Assets</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 12,102,303	\$ 3,707,498
Accounts receivable	229,061	606,494
Investments	14,303,728	20,327,072
Prepaid expenses	215,066	179,891
	26,850,158	24,820,955
Capital assets	8,558,430	7,516,144
	<b>\$ 35,408,588</b>	<b>\$ 32,337,099</b>

## Liabilities and Fund Balances

Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 5,077,107	\$ 4,724,564
Deferred membership and other fees	10,415,520	9,872,260
	15,492,627	14,596,824
Fund balances:		
Invested in capital assets	8,558,430	7,516,144
Internally restricted	2,532,962	2,330,970
Unrestricted	8,824,569	7,893,161
	19,915,961	17,740,275
	<b>\$ 35,408,588</b>	<b>\$ 32,337,099</b>

See accompanying note to summary financial statements.

On behalf of the Board:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

## Summary Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	2024	2023
Revenue:		
Permit fees	\$ 10,012,330	\$ 10,492,935
Other income	545,510	673,638
Investment income	854,717	725,661
Professional corporation fees	428,200	406,300
Registrations	356,300	247,900
Documents	-	3,861
	12,197,057	12,550,295
Expenditures:		
Council and Committee	1,036,484	1,052,294
Reserve Contributions and External Dues	146,311	4,880,008
General Administration	7,504,657	7,265,484
Communications	112,716	161,573
Professional Conduct	1,182,358	1,207,040
Regulatory Compliance	38,845	29,441
	10,021,371	14,595,840
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	\$ 2,175,686	\$ (2,045,545)

See accompanying note to summary financial statements.



## COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

### Summary Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended December 31, 2024, with comparative information for 2023

	Invested in capital assets	Internally restricted	Unrestricted	2024	2023
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 7,516,144	\$ 2,330,970	\$ 7,893,161	\$ 17,740,275	\$ 19,785,820
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	(404,767)	201,992	2,378,461	2,175,686	(2,045,545)
Net investment in capital assets	1,447,053	-	(1,477,053)	-	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 8,558,430	\$ 2,532,962	\$ 8,824,569	\$ 19,915,961	\$ 17,740,275

See accompanying note to summary financial statements.

## COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF ALBERTA

### Note to the Summary Financial Statements

Year ended December 31, 2024

#### 1. Basis of presentation:

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements. The summary financial statements are comprised of the summary statement of financial position, the summary statement of operations and summary statement of changes in fund balances and do not include any other schedules or a summary of significant accounting policies. The summary statement of financial position, summary statement of operations and summary of changes in fund balances are presented with the same amounts as the audited financial statements.



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