

October 13, 2023

CDRAF Board of Directors Report

This is an update on activities during the past 12 months.

The Board held four meetings (three virtual and one in-person with some remote attendance) during the past year.

1. National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

In 2022, The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) gave notice that it would not be able to continue administering the National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) but agreed to offer the 2023 examination.

The Royal College of Dentists (RCDC) and NDEB are working collaboratively to transfer the administration of the NDSE from NDEB to RCDC for 2024.

The CDRAF Chair and Executive Director attend meetings of the RCDC Board. Caroline Dauost, Dan Faulkner and Randall Croutze are the CDRAF representatives on the NDSE Examination Committee.

2. National Dental Specialty Recognition

The CDRAF Board reviewed an application from the Canadian Academy of Dental Anesthesia (CADA) for recognition of Dental Anaesthesia as a specialty of dentistry.

At its meeting in February 2023, the CDRAF Board determined that the application met the criteria and approved the application to recognize Dental Anaesthesia as a specialty of dentistry.

Implementation of the new specialty will vary with each dental regulatory authority over a period of time. There will be legislative amendments required in some provinces and DRAs will ensure their standards of practice address issues related to the new specialty.

3. National Competency Standards for General Dentists

A working group comprised of one representative from each of the CDRAF, ACFD, CDAC and NDEB developed a draft framework that was widely circulated to stakeholders. A final draft is currently out for a second circulation for feedback and will be reviewed for approval by the CDRAF Board. Following approval, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) will be requested to include the document in its Accreditation Standards.

4. Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC) Independence

CDAC became an independent not-for-profit organization in December 2022 and has established a new Board of Directors and governance structure.

There are ongoing discussions with CDAC on a proposed new funding model for regulators and stakeholders.

5. CDRAF Strategic Plan

The CDRAF Board approved its strategic plan for 2023-2026, with seven strategic initiatives:

- Embrace and promote cultural safety, reconciliation and humility.
- Promote the development of regulatory policies, which support equity, diversity, inclusion and accessibility.
- Establish national entry-level competency standards for general dentists and dental specialists.
- Collaborate with the National Dental Examining Board of Canada and other stakeholders to ensure that the certification processes for graduates of accredited and non-accredited undergraduate dental programs are fair, reliable, valid, accessible and timely.
- Collaborate with stakeholders to ensure that the certification processes for graduates of accredited and non-accredited dental specialty programs are fair, reliable, valid, accessible and timely.
- Provide the regulatory requirements of Accreditation to the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada.
- Facilitate collaboration on regulatory responses to emerging trends and issues.

The strategic plan drives the CDRAF Board agenda and progress is reported at each Board meeting.

6. CDRAF Multi-Stakeholder Working Group to review Certification Processes

As part of the Strategic Plan, the CDRAF Board identified the need to establish a multi-stakeholder collaborative working group to understand the efficacy of the Reciprocal Accreditation Agreements, the NDEB Equivalency Process and Qualifying Programs and to explore potential changes to the established processes and additional pathways to certification and licensure.

The working group has held several meetings to learn more about the processes, including a two-day workshop with the NDEB. The NDEB is considering suggestions related to the delivery of NDECC, the Fairness Commissioners from across the country will be invited to meet with and learn more about NDEB and NDECC, and consistent communications are being developed for various target audiences, including internationally trained dentists.

In January 2023, ACFD submitted an application for funding to Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). The application is for development, implementation and evaluation of a new pathway that would allow internationally-trained dentists with knowledge and skills comparable to graduates from accredited dental programs to receive focused training in areas of deficit, and to access the certification process in a timely manner.

ACFD recently received notice from ESDC that the application was successful and ACFD is now entering into a negotiation phase of the process.

7. Virtual Care Standard

The CDRAF Board have discussed developing a Standard on Virtual Care. Terms of Reference are being drafted for a working group.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Faulkner
Chair