

October 2, 2020

CDRAF Board of Directors Report

The CDRAF Board of Directors is pleased to present this update on activities during the past 12 months.

The Board held four meetings during the last 12 months. Three of the meetings were held electronically as necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, weekly Zoom calls were held to assist in coordinating the response of the DRAs to the rapidly changing demands of the pandemic.

1. COVID-19

It has proven to be a very stressful and busy time for dental regulation. The weekly virtual meetings to report on how each jurisdiction was coping and share approaches and resources for providing safe oral healthcare were extremely useful. The calls also assisted in coordinating the response of the DRAs to the rapidly changing demands of the pandemic. CDRAF assembled summaries of current guidelines as resources for the DRAs.

2. National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) assumed responsibility for the administration of the NDSE this year. Due to the Pandemic, the NDSE has been re-scheduled and was administered on September 23-24, 2020 at Prometric centres across Canada and in four U.S. locations.

The CDRAF and NDEB are aware that the Commissaire à l'admission aux professions (Quebec Fairness Commissioner) has an active investigation based on a complaint about the NDSE mainly regarding cost. The results of this investigation may affect the sustainability of National Specialty Examinations.

The CDRAF Board has expressed its appreciation of the efforts by Dr. Dagenais and the NDEB in these difficult and challenging times.

3. National Dental Specialty Recognition

A draft document has been prepared, but unfortunately, due to the pandemic, not all Boards/Councils have had the opportunity to review it prior to the August meeting. The document will have been considered by all DRAs and will be brought to the CDRAF Board for approval at its October 2020 meeting

4. Working Group on National Competency Standards for General Dentists

The CDRAF Board agreed to continue this project with a small group comprised of one representative from each of CDRAF, ACFD, CDAC and NDEB who will meet and draft a framework for consideration. It is recognized that the intention is not to develop a completely new competencies document, but rather review and modify the current model.

The following representatives have been identified for the small group:

- Dr. Jim Lai will be the ACFD representative
- Dr. Amarjit Rihal will be the CDAC representative
- Dr. Sachin Seth will represent CDRAF
- A representative from NDEB will be confirmed shortly.

The draft framework will be brought back to the CDRAF Board at a future meeting. Once input and approval is obtained, CDAC will be requested to include the CDRAF competencies in the Accreditation Standards.

5. CDAC Initiatives

CDAC is making good progress with becoming an independent legal entity. Fairwinds Training and Development will act as facilitator for the process with a Steering Committee. Members of the Steering Committee will be appointed in consultation with the legal representatives to ensure fair representation of stakeholders.

An agreement with the ACFD Deans, CDAC and CDRAF on the format for reporting the results of CDAC Accreditation decisions to the local DRA has been completed

6. CDRAF By-Law Review

Although a majority of the members of CDRAF expressed support for the current governance structure, a request was received for CDRAF to review its

by-laws with the intent of improving the participation and engagement of representatives of the DRAS.

The Board agreed to a review of the by-laws. The review will include facilitating DRA representatives participating in meetings, as well as providing a clear definition on Members Representatives, what constitutes a majority vote, defining formal motions, process for electing Board of Directors and editorial considerations to make the by-laws consistent with the Act governing not-for-profit corporations.

7. CDRAF Strategic Plan

The CDRAF Board intended to develop a new strategic plan for the next five years at its August 2020 meeting. However, due to the pandemic and the fact that the meeting was held virtually, the CDRAF Board has decided to defer this until it is able to meet in person at a future meeting for a full discussion.

8. Deans and DRA

As a way to ensure consistent communication, the Deans and the DRAs are having regular virtual meetings to share information and discuss issues of mutual interest and concern. The meetings are informal and have been well received.

9. English Proficiency Assessment

NDEB has been exploring options for language proficiency assessments and it recommended that benchmarking be used to establish entry level language demands for the profession. The Centre of Canadian Language Benchmarks (CCLB) was interested in working with NDEB, but it is recognized that it would be costly to undertake (approximately \$100,000).

In reviewing the results of a survey of DRAs, it was concluded that three out of eight of the provinces who responded said their jurisdiction could not allow language testing requirement as part of the equivalency process prior to licensure.

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Respectfully submitted,

Dan Leger
Chair

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