

# CANADIAN DENTAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FEDERATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, February 9, 2024  
(Via Zoom videoconference)

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A meeting of the CDRAF Board of Directors took place on Friday, February 9, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. EST.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Dr. Denis Bourgeois, Registrar, New Brunswick Dental Society

Ms. Caroline Daoust, Directrice générale et secrétaire, L'Ordre des dentistes du Québec

Mr. Daniel Faulkner, Registrar & CEO, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Dr. Chris Hacker, Registrar, (CDRAF Treasurer), British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals

Dr. Richard Holden, Registrar, Dental Council of Prince Edward Island

Dr. Doug Mackey, Registrar, Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

Dr. Arun Misra, Registrar, (CDRAF Chair), Manitoba Dental Association

Dr. Paul O'Brien, Registrar, Newfoundland and Labrador Dental Board

Dr. Dean Zimmer, Registrar, College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

### **STAFF:**

Dr. Jack Gerrow, CDRAF Executive Director

Ms. Angie Sherban, CDRAF Executive Assistant

### **REGRETS:**

Dr. Randall Croutze, Chief Executive Officer, (CDRAF Vice-Chair), College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta

### **MEMBER REPRESENTATIVES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:**

Dr. Paul Allison, Executive Director, Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry

Dr. Chris Baker, CDRAF representative, CDAC Accreditation Review Committee

Dr. Daron Baxter, President, Manitoba Dental Association

Dr. Marie Dagenais, Executive Director & Registrar, The National Dental Examining Board of Canada  
Ms. Andr ea Foti, Deputy Registrar & Privacy Officer, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario  
Mr. Sean Gehring, Director of Examinations, Royal College of Dentists of Canada  
Ms. Amandine Perdebat, General Manager, Royal College of Dentists of Canada  
Dr. Harinder Sandhu, President, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario  
Dr. James Taylor, Chief Dental Officer of Canada  
Ms. Jennifer Tewes, Board Chair, Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Misra called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. EST. He welcomed Board members and guests to the meeting. In particular, he introduced the following attendees:

- Dr. Richard Holden, Registrar of the Dental Council of Prince Edward Island,
- Dr. Daron Baxter, President of the Manitoba Dental Association
- Dr. Chris Baker, CDRAF appointment to the CDAC Accreditation Review Committee.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved, as circulated.

**MOTION #1: Daoust/Mackey**

**THAT the agenda of the meeting of February 9, 2024, be approved, as circulated.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The CDRAF Board was provided with draft minutes from the meeting of October 13, 2023, for review and approval.

**MOTION: Faulkner/Mackey**

**THAT the minutes of the CDRAF Board meeting of October 13, 2023 be approved, as circulated.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

The draft minutes of the CDRAF Members' meeting of October 13, 2023 was circulated for information.

**4. PRESENTATION: HEALTH CANADA**

Dr. Misra introduced Mary Frances Wright, Executive Director, Program Performance & Data, Oral Health Branch, Health Canada, to give a presentation on Dental Human Health Tracking. Anca Anghel from Health Canada and Bing Li from Statistics Canada also attended for this presentation. The presentation covered opportunities to improve understanding of the supply and availability of dentists in Canada.

Ms. Wright reported that with the implementation of the Canadian Dental Care Plan, Health Canada began to explore the supply and availability of dentists across Canada. It was recognized that dental regulators obtain human health resource data through their annual renewal process, but there is limited information available about the number of dentists providing direct care to patients in Canada and how many hours individual dentists actually provide patient care. Ms. Wright asked the CDRAF Board for its assistance in obtaining this information and providing it to Health Canada.

She provided two questions for the CDRAF Board's consideration to include in annual renewals:

1. At this time, are you actively providing services and/or treatment to patients?
2. How many direct care hours do you work as a dentist in an average week? This would include what percentage is spent in clinical work and what percentage is spent in teaching (if applicable).

The CDRAF Board provided feedback. There was some discussion on privacy concerns, but Ms. Wright confirmed that Health Canada was only interested in obtaining the grouped data information and would not use any personal or confidential information to identify a dentist.

There was discussion on considering a Data Sharing Agreement with each province.

All CDRAF Board members were in support of providing this information and asked Ms. Wright to send a written request to each President of regulatory Councils/Boards and copied to the Registrars. Ms. Wright asked regulators to share a copy of their renewal form with her, for information.

Dr. Misra thanked Ms. Frances for her presentation.

## **5. CANADIAN DENTAL CARE PLAN**

Dr. Misra introduced Marika Nadeau, Director General, Engagement and FPT Relations, Oral Health Branch, and Lynne-René de Cotret, Assistant Deputy Minister, Oral Health Branch of Health Canada to present on the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP).

Ms. de Cotret reported that one in four Canadians have not seen an oral health professional because they cannot afford to pay for treatment. The recently introduced Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is intended to help ease financial barriers to accessing oral health care services and provide coverage to eligible Canadian residents who currently do not have access to dental insurance.

She reviewed the phased roll-out program, with eligibility requirements, for this initiative that already started for seniors aged 72 and older. Service Canada will share applicant information with Sun Life for the purpose of enrolment into the CDCP.

Ms. de Cotret reported that the majority of services covered under the CDCP will be available as of May 2024, the start date of when claims can start to be submitted by participating providers. Some oral health

services (approximately 10%) will require pre-authorization and will only be available beginning in November 2024.

Health Canada has established reimbursement fees for each applicable procedure code under the CDCP, for each provincial and territorial jurisdiction and for each profession. Ms. de Cotret added that the CDCP benefit grids are now available on the SunLife website and include the full list of procedure codes covered under the CDCP. She stated that all oral health providers are encouraged to participate in the CDCP and will be able to confirm their participation, on a voluntary basis, as of March 11, 2024.

The CDRAF Board members asked questions about the CDCP covering investigation of complaints, and audits conducted by regulators. There was also discussion on the differential in fees that could affect oral health providers' enrollment in the program. Ms. de Cotret remarked that Health Canada will continue to work on a fee structure, but it is hoped there will be a good support from oral health providers to ensure the success of the CDCP.

Dr. Misra thanked Ms. Cadeau and Ms. de Cotret for their presentation.

## **6. BUSINESS ARISING**

### **6.1 National Competency Standards for General Dentists**

Dr. Gerrow reported that since the October 2023 Board meeting, the Working Group met to review further feedback from DRAs and revise the KSA document. He thanked members of the Working Group for their work and support on this initiative: Dr. Jim Lai (ACFD), Dr. Sachin Seth (CDRAF on the recommendation of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia), Dr. Amarjit Rihal (formerly CDAC), Dr. Carolyn Nguyen and Dr. Marie Dagenais (NDEB). Dr. Gerrow provided staff support to the Working Group. Dr. Chris Baker (CDRAF representative to the CDAC Accreditation Review Committee) also attended some recent meetings to provide input.

A copy of the revised document was provided in the resources for the CDRAF Board's consideration. It was noted that this is a living document and will be reviewed and revised on a regular basis (every two years).

Dr. Gerrow reported that revisions to the format and style were made for consistency, and he reviewed other minor revisions to the document:

- Group A:
  - Minor wordsmithing.
  
- Group B:
  - 4.1: Radiology  
“Acquire panoramic radiographs” (changed from Experience in Pre-clinical to Exposure in Clinical). This may change to Experience in the future.
  - “Prescribe CBCT imaging” (Taught and Tested but may be revised to exposure at a later date).
  - 5.1: Periodontics  
“Manage peri-implant disease” (Taught and Tested but may be revised to Exposure at a later date).
  - 7.1: Prosthodontics  
“Provide a partially edentulous patient with a fixed partial denture” (Competence in Pre-clinical may change to Exposure at Clinical in future).  
“Manage a partially edentulous patient with an implant supported restoration” (Exposure in Clinical may change to Experience in Clinical at a later date).
  - 9.1: Operative  
“Perform a CAD/CAM procedure” (Experience in Pre-Clinical may change to Experience in Clinical at a later date).
  - 11: Pediatric, Geriatric and Special Needs Dentistry – this is a new category.
  
- Group C:
  - Rewording for consistency and to reduction in duplication was made in these areas.

Dr. Misra asked each CDRAF Board member for feedback and approval:

British Columbia: In agreement – regular review is important. Efforts to engage other professions for alignment would be helpful.

Alberta: (Absent from discussion).  
Saskatchewan: Council has evaluated and is in support.  
Manitoba: Appreciate the work - in support.  
Ontario: In support.  
Québec: Pleased with revisions – in support.  
New Brunswick: Board is in support.  
Nova Scotia: (Absent from discussion).  
PEI: In support.  
Newfoundland &  
Labrador: In support. Need consistency with other professions.

**MOTION: Hacker/Holden**

**THAT the CDRAF Board accepts the KSA document, as circulated.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

Dr. Dagenais noted that NDEB will be conducting a blueprint review in April and would make the necessary changes based on the KSA document. There may be a need to expand on the professionalism questions for Canadian-trained dentists, as it is not tested in the virtual OSCE examination.

**6.2 Specialty Assessment**

Sean Gehring, RCDC Director of Examinations, provided a status update on the work of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada.

He referred to the RCDC National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) project plan and highlighted the following:

- The NDSE Committee met in November 2023 to review and approve policies and procedures and the NDSE protocol.
- The NDSE website was launched in December 2023.
- Registration was opened in January 2024.
- A new psychometrician was engaged, and blueprint review and examination development has started.
- A translation vendor was selected.
- An Examiner-in-Chief was appointed.

- Numerous workshops are being held for specialty examiners.

Dr. Gerrow referred to the letter dated February 7, 2024, from RCDC requesting feedback on its competency review process for dental specialists. He asked RCDC for further information on RCDC's strategy before CDRAF responds.

### 6.3 Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC)

Jennifer Tewes, Chair, CDAC Board, provided an update on CDAC activities.

She reported that CDAC is completing its CEO search through Boyden Recruitment, and it is anticipated that a candidate recommendation will be made to the CDAC Board for consideration on February 29, 2024. During the transition period, she acknowledged the work of staff and Board members for their support. She added that CDAC is evolving and open to new ideas and looked forward to a focussed and progressive future for CDAC.

Ms. Tewes referred the CDRAF Board to the written report in the resources and added the following information:

- CDAC is preparing for its first audit as an independent entity.
- Although fees have been increased by 22% from 2023, expenses have been reduced to project a balanced budget.
- Next year regulators will be consulted on the budget structure and funding model.
- CDAC has looked at ways to make accreditation survey reports publicly available; however, funding agreements specify the reports as a service and CDAC would have to collect taxes from DRAs.
- DRAs were thanked for attending CDAC's information event in December 2023 and providing valuable feedback.
- Priorities for the incoming Executive Director will be:
  - Enhancing transparency.
  - Updating website.
  - Re-establish trust with stakeholders.
  - Create a more equitable funding model.



There was discussion on the budget. Ms. Tewes confirmed that \$27.85 is requested for dentists for 2024. She noted that the invoices for grants are being processed and will be sent to dental regulatory authorities by the middle of February. The invoice for each province will be based on the number of dentists reported in 2023.

Ms. Tewes encouraged questions from regulators, and she looked forward to providing regular updates to CDRAF.

#### 6.4 The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB)

Dr. Misra referred to the NDEB Annual Report and invited Dr. Dagenais to review the examination protocols and technical reports included in the meeting resources. She advised that the protocols are designed to assist candidates, and all documents are available on NDEB's website.

Dr. Misra led a review of the NDEB protocols, technical reports for 2022.

#### NDEB National Repository

Dr. Dagenais reported that NDEB has set preliminary timelines for this project but requires further information at this time. She contacted individuals at the Medical Council of Canada and the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada to schedule future meetings to obtain further information on their experiences with developing national repositories.

As part of this initiative, Dr. Dagenais stated that NDEB will contact each DRA to assess their future needs.

#### 6.5 CDRAF Multi-Stakeholder Working Group to review Certification Processes

Mr. Faulkner, Chair of this Working Group reported on its meeting of February 3, 2024, in Vancouver, B.C. Outcomes from that meeting included:

- NDEB will look at their own transparency and prepare a critical analysis of their processes.
- Reduced timelines are being considered.
- Seat capacity for examinations are being increased.

The CEO of the Medical Council of Canada (MCC), Dr. Viren Naik gave a presentation to the Working Group on MCC's development of systems and programs used to assess and credential internationally trained medical graduates.

The Working Group will continue discussions on looking at ways to conceptualize the pathways and evaluate risk.

Dr. Faulkner reported that some of the CDRAF Board members had the opportunity to meet with Fairness Commissioners from Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Québec and Nova Scotia on December 4, 2023. It was an open dialogue to learn more about the Fairness Commissioners' issues and concerns.

#### 6.6 Working Group on Virtual Care

Dr. Misra reported that the CDRAF Board reviewed draft Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Oral Health Care Provided Remotely at its meeting on October 13, 2023. Following that meeting, Dr. Misra, Dr. Hacker and Dr. Gerrow re-drafted the document that included a minor rewording to the name - CDRAF Working Group on Remote Provision of Oral Health Care.

The revised document was provided to the CDRAF Board for its consideration.

The CDRAF Board was pleased with the revised document.

**MOTION: Daoust/Bourgeois**

**THAT the CDRAF Board approves the Terms of Reference for the CDRAF Working Group on Remote Provision of Oral Health Care.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

Dr. Misra advised that he and Dr. Hacker are interested in being part of the Working Group and he asked the CDRAF Board for other volunteers.

The Terms of Reference suggests five members with governance and content expertise. It was confirmed that it is not a requirement for the members to be Registrars.

Dr. Misra asked the CDRAF Board members to forward him names of persons who would be interested in being appointed to the Working Group. He and Dr. Gerrow would make a final selection.

Ms. Daoust expressed an interest in being on the Working Group and Dr. Hacker agreed to be Chair.

**7. CDRAF STRATEGIC PLAN**

The strategic plan was provided to the CDRAF Board for information, together with a progress tracking sheet.

**8. CDRAF BY-LAWS**

A copy of the CDRAF By-Laws was provided to the CDRAF Board for information.

**9. CDRAF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS AT EXTERNAL MEETINGS**

A meeting schedule for external stakeholders for 2024 was provided for information.

**10. NEW BUSINESS**

There were two New Business items on the agenda for discussion:

- 10.1 Requirement for Graduation Certificate
- 10.2 HPV Vaccinations by Dentists

These items have been tabled for the next CDRAF Board meeting.

**11. MEETING DATES FOR 2024**

- Friday, April 19, 2024 (Virtual)
- Thursday, August 22 and Friday, August 23, 2024 (Winnipeg, MB)
- Friday, October 18, 2024 (Virtual – Board & Members)

There was discussion on moving the meeting in April to an in-person meeting, but Board members asked for it to remain virtual.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence provided.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

**MOTION:           Faulkner**

**THAT the CDRAF Board members meeting of February 9, 2024  
be adjourned.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*