



**Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities  
Federation (CDRAF) Strategic Plan**

2021-2022



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the CDRAF Board decided to delay formal strategic planning until face-to-face sessions could be held. As face-to-face sessions were still not prudent in 2021, the Board decided to update the current plan. Board members were requested to provide potential strategic initiatives or comments on potential strategic initiatives for consideration to the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Executive Director. This group confirmed that the CDRAF had completed most of the strategic initiatives in the old plan and confirmed that a focused plan was appropriate. The group also identified four initiatives. The Executive Director provided a draft to the group for review and revision. Following revision, the plan was considered by the CDRAF Board during a Special Meeting.

## HISTORY OF THE CDRAF

The Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF) is a forum constituted of the provincial dental regulatory authorities (DRAs). These bodies hold the exclusive, legislated mandate of public protection.

The Letters Patent of the Federation were issued on March 3, 2004 marking the official creation date of the CDRAF.

In April 22, 2004, the first meeting of the Federation as a legally constituted organization was held in Ottawa.

At that first meeting in April 2004, Dr. Gordon Thompson was elected by the Federation board as its first President and Chair. Dr. Thompson was at the time the Executive Director and Registrar of the Alberta Dental Association and College.

Since its inception, the CDRAF has experienced success on very important initiatives notably by ratifying a Mutual Recognition Agreement (2009) for the profession of dentistry in Canada with respect to general dentistry and dental specialties and developing a Memorandum of Understanding (2014) with respect to a uniform Canadian process for the certificate and licensure of internationally trained dental specialists.

These achievements were possible because of the CDRAF's members' vibrant determination to act in the public interest and their willingness to work together in a generous spirit.

In 2018, significant changes were made to the Bylaws creating a Board made up of the ten Registrars (or equivalent). The Bylaws were modified again in 2020 to clarify the role of member representatives.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We recognize and respect the breadth of expertise within our Federation and we support collaboration that contributes to shared knowledge.

We seek every opportunity to share freely and with a generous spirit.

We are sensitive to individual jurisdictional and legislative differences as we strive for consensus.

We practice, in good faith, a willingness to be open and honest with each other.

Our work will be guided by improving outcomes for patients and the public.

## CDRAF MISSION AND VISION

### MISSION

The Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation fosters collaboration, consistency of approach and supports best practices in dental regulation.

### VISION

The CDRAF serves, protects and acts in the interest of the public.

## CDRAF STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

### **1. Develop national competency standards for general dentists and dental specialists**

- To embrace and promote standards with regard to cultural safety and humility.
- Develop a national approach for fair and objective evaluations and/or assessments for:  
(1) graduates of accredited specialty programs; and  
(2) graduates of Canadian Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Programs.
- Collaborate with the National Dental Examining Board of Canada to enhance the development and delivery of examinations for graduates of accredited and non-accredited undergraduate dental programs.

### **2. Form alliances and partnerships with others to achieve our mission**

- Promote regulatory expectations for the accreditation of educational programs by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, including support for the independence of CDAC from the CDA.
- Continue meetings with government agencies and NDEB, ACFD and CDAC.

### **3. Collaborate on regulatory responses to emerging trends**

- Facilitate discussions on emerging regulatory trends to establish priorities for future agendas and the next strategic plan.
- Develop a consistent and evidence-informed provincial approach to the regulation of dentistry (or oral health care) delivered remotely (including tele-dentistry).

**Outcomes and Timelines**

<b>Develop national competency standards for general dentists and dental specialists</b>		<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
	To embrace and promote standards with regard to cultural safety and humility.	Review every agenda to ensure that all participants are made aware of the importance of cultural safety and humility.	Ongoing
		Include assessment of cultural safety and humility in all decisions.	Ongoing
	Develop a national approach for fair and objective evaluations and/or assessments for: (1) graduates of accredited specialty programs; and (2) graduates of Canadian dental specialty training programs.	Support a certification process for beginning dental specialists that provides fair assessments.	Investigate option for specialty certification and present to CDRAF Board meeting in October 2022.



	<p>Collaborate with the National Dental Examining Board of Canada to enhance the development and delivery of examinations for graduates of accredited and non-accredited undergraduate dental programs.</p>	<p>In collaboration with ACFD, CDAC and NDEB develop and achieve adoption of National Competency Standards for beginning general dentists in Canada.</p>	<p>Draft framework to CDRAF Board in August 2021.</p> <p>Circulation to Stakeholders with comments received by January 2022.</p> <p>Adoption by CDRAF, NDEB, ACFD by October 2022.</p> <p>Inclusion in CDAC Standards by November 2023.</p>
		<p>Provide oversight of NDEB certification processes for general dentists.</p>	<p>Appoint NDEB Board members – Ongoing.</p> <p>Review examination results and processes yearly during CDRAF Board meeting.</p>

<b>Form alliances and partnerships with others to achieve our mission</b>		<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
	<p>Promote regulatory expectations for the accreditation of educational programs by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, including support for the independence of CDAC from the CDA.</p>	<p>CDAC becomes an independent legal entity with sustainable and transparent governance</p>	<p>November 2021.</p>
	<p>Continue meetings with government agencies and NDEB, ACFD and CDAC.</p>		<p>Ongoing with reports to the CDRAF Board.</p>

<b>Collaborate on regulatory responses to emerging trends</b>		<u>Outcome</u>	<u>Timeline</u>
	Facilitate discussions on emerging regulatory trends to establish priorities for future agendas and the next strategic plan.		Include identification of trends on every agenda and registrars call.
	Develop a consistent and evidence-informed provincial approach to the regulation of dentistry (or oral health care) delivered remotely (including tele-dentistry).	Identify issues, assign to working groups to develop background document	Issues identified and working groups established by January 2022.  Draft guidance documents by October 2022.

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