

# CANADIAN DENTAL REGULATORY AUTHORITIES FEDERATION

## MINUTES OF MEETING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Friday, February 5, 2021  
Via Zoom videoconference

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A meeting of the CDRAF Board of Directors took place on Friday, February 5, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. EST.

### **PARTICIPANTS:**

Dr. Maurice Coady, Registrar, (CDRAF Chair), Dental Council of Prince Edward Island

Dr. Randall Croutze, Chief Executive Officer, Alberta Dental Association and College

Ms. Caroline Daoust, Directrice générale et secrétaire, (CDRAF Vice-Chair), L'Ordre des dentistes du Québec

Mr. Daniel Faulkner, Registrar and CEO, (CDRAF Treasurer), Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ms. Andréa Foti, Assistant Registrar, Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Dr. Martin Gillis, Registrar, Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

Dr. Chris Hacker, Registrar, College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia

Mr. Dan Leger, Registrar, New Brunswick Dental Society

Dr. Arun Misra, Registrar, Manitoba Dental Association

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

Dr. Mitch Taillon, Registrar, College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

### **STAFF:**

Dr. Jack Gerrow, CDRAF Executive Director

Ms. Angie Sherban, CDRAF Executive Assistant

### **THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS AND OBSERVERS:**

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

Dr. Nancy Auyeung, CDRAF representative to the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada

Dr. Mintoo Basahti, President-Elect, Alberta Dental Association and College

Ms. Lee Callan, Manager, Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada  
Dr. Christopher Cottick, President, Manitoba Dental Association  
Dr. Marie Dagenais, Registrar/Executive Director, National Dental Examining Board of Canada  
Dr. Andrea Esteves, President, Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry  
Colonel Jean-Pierre Picard, Royal Canadian Dental Corps.  
Dr. James Richardson, President, National Dental Examining Board of Canada  
Dr. Amarjit Rihal, President, Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada  
Dr. James Taylor, Chief Dental Officer of Canada  
Dr. Bruce Yaholnitsky, President, Alberta Dental Association & College

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair, Dr. Coady, welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. EST.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Coady advised of three additional items for discussion under 'New Business':

- 7.1 Delay of the NDEB Examinations
- 7.2 COVID-19 Task Force
- 7.3 COVID-19 Cross-Country Update

There were no other items added and the agenda was approved, as amended.

**MOTION #1: Croutze/Taillon**

**THAT the agenda of the meeting of February 5, 2021 be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The CDRAF Board was provided with draft minutes from the following meetings:

(a) CDRAF Members meeting of October 16, 2020

These draft minutes were provided for information. Dr. Coady asked Board members to remind the DRA members to send their approval for these minutes to Ms. Sherban.

(b) CDRAF Board meeting of October 16, 2020

Dr. Coady advised that two typographical errors were identified by Dr. Gillis (lines 116 and 173) and the minutes would be amended accordingly. There being no further revisions, the minutes were approved, as amended.

**MOTION: Faulkner/Taillon**

**THAT the minutes of the CDRAF Board meeting of October 16, 2020 be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

(c) CDRAF Board meeting of January 11, 2021

Dr. Coady advised that Dr. Misra requested two sentences (lines 136 and 145) be removed from the draft minutes and the minutes would be revised accordingly. There being no further revisions, the minutes were approved, as amended.

**MOTION: Misra/Taillon**

**THAT the minutes of the CDRAF Board meeting of January 11, 2021 be approved, as amended.**

**CARRIED**  
*(Unanimously)*

**4. BUSINESS ARISING**

4.1 Process for Recognition of a New Dental Specialty

Dr. Coady reminded the CDRAF Board that this document has been presented for approval over the past several meetings. The approval of the Boards/Councils in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick was

pending and Dr. Coady asked the Registrars from those provinces for an update.

New Brunswick: Mr. Leger advised that the Board will meet in March and the document will be approved.

Saskatchewan: Dr. Taillon reported that the Board is in support of the document, as presented.

Manitoba: Dr. Misra reported that the Board of the Manitoba Dental Association met on January 30, 2021 and reviewed the document. It was very appreciative of the work on this and asked that Step 2 of the process be revised to include the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) as a third party provider, as follows:

Step 2

*..... Additionally, CDRAF third party providers (Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC), National Dental Examining Board (NDEB), **Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC)** and Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD)) will be asked to provide comment and provide any implications on their respective processes.*

Dr. Misra advised that this revision is requested as the RCDC currently offers a Fellowship examination which specifically applies to dental specialists and the MDA Board felt it would be appropriate to include RCDC for consultation on the process of a new dental speciality. Additionally, currently RCDC is a third-party provider in Manitoba.

MOTION: Misra/Leger

THAT the document entitled, Process for Recognition of a New Dental Specialty, be revised to revise the wording under Step 2, as follows:

Step 2

*..... Additionally, CDRAF third party providers (Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC), National Dental Examining*

*Board (NDEB), **Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC)** and Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD)) will be asked to provide comment and provide any implications on their respective processes.*

During an in-depth discussion on this request, several Board members stated that the document has been revised multiple times and has now been formally approved by multiple DRA Boards/Councils. They supported the wide circulation of all applications received for the new process. This would include RCDC. However, they advised that their Boards/Councils approved the current draft of the document and it would need to be circulated again for approval. They would not support the motion to revise the document.

A suggestion was made to not approve the document at this meeting, and table it until the next CDRAF Board meeting.

**MOTION: Daoust/**

**THAT the Process for Recognition of a New Dental Specialty document be tabled to the next CDRAF Board meeting.**

*(In Favour: Leger, Coady,  
Hacker, Misra, Daoust  
Against: Taillon,  
Faulkner, Croutze, O'Brien)*

Drs. Gerrow and Hacker advised that there is an organization that has indicated that it intends to submit an application for a specialty and the document needs to be finalized soon.

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

##### (a) CDAC Governance Review Steering Committee – Terms of Reference

The CDRAF Board was provided with the draft Terms of Reference for CDAC's Governance Review Steering Committee, as requested by CDRAF.

Dr. Rihal asked for feedback on the document by February 19, 2021. He added that the CDAC Documentation Committee is scheduled to meet on February 22 to review the responses and to finalize the document for adoption in March.

Dr. Rihal summarized CDAC's timeline and plan for the governance review and establishment of the Steering Committee. In response to a question about the Director of CDAC, Dr. Rihal was pleased to advise that it is anticipated Mr. Duguay would be returning from leave the week of February 8, 2021.

He added that the CDAC staff (Diane, Susie and Lee) continue to work in the best interest of stakeholders and the profession. CDAC is looking to extend another coordinator position.

#### 4.3 National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

Dr. Dagenais reported that there was nothing new to report since the last CDRAF Board meeting.

The CDRAF Board was provided with a copy of a letter sent to the RCDC and NDEB, as directed by the CDRAF Board, to invite them for a meeting to discuss the rationale for and the ongoing sustainability of examinations for dental specialists in Canada. Dr. Gerrow reported that this meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, February 17, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. EST.

### 5. **FINANCIAL**

The CDRAF Board was provided with a copy of the financial summary at December 31, 2020 for information. There was no discussion.

Dr. Gerrow reported that the audit is anticipated to start on February 15, 2021.

### 6. **CDRAF REPRESENTATIVES AND OBSERVERS AT OTHER STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS 2021-2022**

The CDRAF Board was provided with a listing of the third-party providers and stakeholder meetings scheduled so far for 2021 and 2022, and the CDRAF representatives who will attend those meetings.

## 7. NEW BUSINESS

### 7.1 Delay of the NDEB Examinations

Mr. Faulkner advised that in Ontario there is increased pressure from students concerning the delay in NDEB examinations. He is working with Dr. Dagenais at NDEB to help obtain examination sites.

Mr. Faulkner added that he is giving consideration to the concept of provisional licensing if OSCE and written examinations cannot take place due to the pandemic. This would likely require an emergency regulation change, if possible. He emphasized this would have to be under a rigorous supervisory process and be patient-safety assured.

He reported that he was aware of at least one letter written the Office of the Fairness Commissioner, as well as contact from a local MPP. Dr. Taylor also advised that he provided responses to two letters of concern.

Dr. Dagenais provided an update on the delay in examinations.

- All universities will be able to take charge for the administration of the OSCE and written exams for their own students only.
- NDEB is not permitted to rent hotel rooms to administer the exams. If restrictions are lifted before March, this may change – in Ontario it will likely be limited to 10 candidates, plus an invigilator, per room.
- ProMetric is able to deliver exams and there may be 8-12 sites available in Toronto.
- Dr. Dagenais assured the CDRAF Board that NDEB is using its best efforts to administer exams, but have to follow public health rules.
- For the Equivalency Process, NDEB had to cancel two ACS exams and it is likely the exam in June will not be able to proceed.
- Since opening applications for the Equipment Process at the end of November 2020, NDEB received 1,200 applications. The pandemic has created limitations on the number of candidates for the AFK exams. However, since the exam has been converted to electronic format, Prometric can offer 282 seats for those candidates.
- An analysis of the December AFK concluded that the results were not valid and, on advice of the psychometrician's report, the December AFK were voided.

- This will not be well-received by candidates and possibly Fairness Commissioners. Dr. Dagenais asked DRAs for their support in that the unprofessional behaviour was not acceptable. NDEB wishes to offer the AFK as soon as possible and is working on question and blueprint development for a new examination.

Dr. Dagenais was assured that CDRAF gave its unconditional support to NDEB on its decision to cancel the December AFK. Dr. Dagenais was asked to provide a standard message to DRAs that could be used to ensure consistent messaging.

Dr. Coady thanked Dr. Dagenais and it was agreed that CDRAF is appreciative of the all the work and challenges that NDEB has endured over the past year.

#### 7.2 COVID-19 Task Force

Dr. Coady reported on two recent invitations received to the following events:

- (a) COVID-19 Exchange Forum on testing and screening for oral health professionals on February 16, 2021. Dr. Gerrow and Mr. Faulkner will participate on behalf of CDRAF.
- (b) A meeting of the national bodies representing dentists, dental hygienists and denturists with Colonel Scott Martin, Deputy Surgeon General, of the Public Health Agency of Canada to discuss health human resources for COVID-19 vaccine rollouts. Several Registrars expressed interest in participating in the discussion and a meeting will be arranged.

#### 7.3 COVID-19 Cross-Country Update

The CDRAF Board was invited to provide an update on the COVID-19 situation in their jurisdictions:

##### British Columbia

- No changes since last update.
- Case numbers are decreasing, but healthcare and long-term care workers continue to be suffering with COVID-19.



- A letter of intent is going to the Minister to start work on amalgamation.
- The BC Dental Association has asked government to prioritize dentists for vaccinations.

#### Alberta

- Contact tracing shows no community spread of variants.
- Hospitalization numbers are decreasing.
- Restaurants will be opening on February 8, 2021, but if there is an increase in variant numbers, may have to close again.

#### Saskatchewan

- Public Health extended its order for 2 more weeks.
- Weekly meetings with oral health regulators.
- Physicians, nurses, pharmacists and paramedics have received vaccinations. General populations expected to receive it in April-May.
- Dental protocols in place since December. Generally, dentists are very compliant.
- Saskatchewan has highest number of cases per capita.

#### Manitoba

- No change to guidance for members.
- In December, a public order was issued by the Ministry of Health identifying dentists as vaccinators (this includes retired dentists and dental students). Many dentists have volunteered to administer vaccinations.
- Malpractice insurance coverage is unclear.
- No evidence of transmission in the dental office.

#### Ontario

- Ontario remains in State of Emergency and stay-at-home lockdown declared in early January and it has been effective. Consideration was given to restricting the scope of practice for dentists during this time, but instead it is suggested that members triage cases and defer non-essential treatment if possible.

- An announcement has been made that schools will be opening on February 8 in most areas of the province – Toronto, Peel and York will open on February 16.
- Nurses and pharmacists have regulation changes to allow them to administer vaccinations during the pandemic.
- No increase in complaints or issues in dental practices re COVID.
- There is no evidence that there is transmission of COVID between dentists and patients.

#### Quebec

- The provincial curfew is working. Rules may be relaxed in some areas of Quebec on February 8, 2021 – new curfew of 9:30 p.m.
- Case numbers are decreasing.
- 8 cases of the UK variant have been reported but contained for now.
- No gatherings are permitted.
- Dental offices are cooperating well.
- Inspections of dental offices are continuing.
- More than 10,000 deaths reported – a study is being done on Quebec's handling of the pandemic.

#### New Brunswick

- Case numbers are decreasing.
- One zone in province has high number of infections.
- Protocols in place in dental offices appear to be working. 2 offices were closed for 14 days, but no infections of dentists or staff reported.

#### Nova Scotia

- One new case, and 10 active cases reported.
- Continue to work with oral health regulators to ensure guidelines are adhered to and that there is no variance in messaging.

#### Prince Edward Island

- No change.

Newfoundland & Labrador

- Case numbers are increasing slightly. Most cases are as a result of travel.
- Self-isolation rules have changed – cannot practice dentistry if in isolation.

**8. NEXT MEETING**

The next meetings of CDRAF are scheduled as follows:

- Friday, April 23, 2021
- Friday, August 20, 2021
- Friday, October 15, 2021 (CDRAF Board & Members' Meetings)

**9. CORRESPONDENCE**

The CDRAF Board was provided for its information with the Notice of Change to the Board of Directors submitted to Industry Canada this year.

**10. IN-CAMERA BUSINESS**

The meeting was moved *in-camera* for discussion on three items. Everyone except Boards members, DRA elected members and staff were asked to leave the meeting at 3:00 p.m.