February 14, 2020

Ya-Hong Song

Senior Policy Analyst - Partnerships & Workforce Planning

Saskatchewan Health

3rd Floor, 3475 Albert Street

Regina, SK S4S 6X6

Dear Ya-Hong Song:

**Re: The SDHA submission to eliminate Section 25 of the Dental Disciplines Act (The Act)**

Thank you for the opportunity for the College of Dental Surgeons (the College) to respond to this submission.

The College recognizes The Act (1997) has proven to be some of the best dental legislation in Canada and will continue to provide the public protection that was intended by the Ministry and legislature following extensive consultations with stakeholders.

The College has worked cooperatively with the Ministry, the Saskatchewan Health Authority, the University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry, as well as members and partner organizations to assist in access to care matters through the lens of the public interest.

Respectfully, our understanding of the role of regulatory authorities is to act in the public interest to regulate its members. Our College council is aware of its mandate afforded by the Ministry and has reaffirmed its commitment to this mandate. We contend that the SDHA submission is an advocacy document that promotes hygienists as key providers to resolve ‘access to care’ with the elimination of Section 25 of The Act. Our efforts to work with the SDHA on an MOU within the framework of The Act, to clarify and resolve some inter-regulatory matters over many years, has been undermined by their sole motivation to create completely independent practice for their members.

The appended document will address the SDHA submission under two main headings:

1. Current Legislation
2. Access to Care

The College will continue to execute our mandate to license and regulate our members in the public interest and will facilitate public programs by encouraging our licensed members to share their doctoral and masters level knowledge, skills and experience with the Ministry, in the public interest.

Thank you for consideration of our response.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bernie White

Registrar

BEW/ck

encl.