



## THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL SURGEONS OF SASKATCHEWAN

### WHO WE ARE

#### Regulated, healthy members enabling a healthy public

The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan is the legal governing body for close to 500 dentists in our province, which includes 62 specialists. The College licenses dentists and attempts to ensure that the members of the public receive a competent and timely delivery of quality care within the bounds of clinical circumstances. Members operate clinic facilities in 45 communities, 10 southern health regions and more than 25 agency clinics in 3 northern health regions. The advancement of quality oral health care to all members of society is the goal of the college.



### WHAT WE DO IN SASKATCHEWAN

#### We enforce standards that ensure safe, comprehensive dental care to the highest quality



- Set up a complaints committee to resolve complaints from the public
- Set up a mandatory continuing education system, to help individuals maintain and update their level of knowledge and skills.
- Assures through licensing regulations that practitioners are qualified to provide the services they offer to the public.

## **MAKING A GREATER DIFFERENCE**

### **The Saskatchewan Chief Dental Officer**



The Saskatchewan chief dental officer would be an official position created by the Saskatchewan government to improve the oral health status of people living in the province, and to increase the awareness and prevention of oral diseases.

#### **Potential Mandate**

- Provide evidence-based oral health perspectives on a wide range of health policy and program development issues
- Provide expert oral health advice, consultation and information to the provincial government
- Integrate oral health promotions with general health (wellness) initiatives
- Assist in gathering epidemiological information for program planning on provincial/community levels and establish priorities for research
- Develop integrated collaborative approaches to preventing and controlling oral and associated diseases
- Provide a point of contact/liaison with professional associations, academic institutions, and other non-government organizations within the province on oral health issues

## **WHY CARE ABOUT ORAL HEALTH CARE?**

### **The key to an overall healthy lifestyle begins with a focused approach to oral health care**

- Dental disease is the most common chronic disease in children and adolescents in North America
- It is five times more common than asthma
- In Canada we spend \$10 billion dollars annually on oral health care
- Dental disease is one of the main reasons for preschool children to receive a general anesthetic