



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN

College of Dentistry

USASK.CA/DENTISTRY

November 10, 2020

Dr. Mitch Taillon, Registrar
College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan
201 1st Avenue S.
1202 The Tower at Midtown
Saskatoon, SK S7K 1J5

Dear Dr. Taillon:

Since its inception, the USask College of Dentistry (COD) has enjoyed a successful symbiotic relationship with the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS) and Saskatchewan dentists in general. The COD has provided the province with many skilled, home-grown members of the profession, while at the same time, benefitting from those CDSS members who chose to share their time and expertise by serving as Part-Time Faculty members at the COD.

The CDSS has, in the past, been generous as the COD sought to attract patients to their student clinic. This understanding has also been mutually beneficial as slightly altering the application of rules pertaining to advertising of reduced fees has allowed the COD to attract patients from segments of the population (refugees, new Canadians, retirees, working poor) who are not otherwise able to obtain access to care. Patients have received necessary care and students have received a sound clinical education, both with minimal impact in demand for services in area private practices. Many of these patients simply would not have received care due either to an inability to pay or an inability to access public assistance programs or private dental insurance coverage.

Recently, the COD has been made aware that the CDSS is contemplating a change to this long-standing arrangement and will no longer allow the COD to advertise provision of care at a reduced fee. While this change may appease those who feel the rules need to be applied in the same manner in every case, this position fails to recognize the fundamental differences between the provisions of care in professional private practice clinics compared to the COD student dental clinic. Patients will be much less likely to ask for an appointment at the COD clinic, where they know they will need more appointments to complete their treatment plan, each of those appointments will be longer and there are periods of the year when care is not readily available, if they cannot be assured a reduced fee will provide partial compensation for the inconvenience.

The COD respectfully asks the CDSS to reconsider and continue to approve COD advertising that includes some mention of reduced fees. Not only is the viability of the clinical program at the COD at stake, but also the ability of the CDSS to speak to its role in providing access to care for disadvantaged segments of our population.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Respectfully,

Alan Heinrichs DMD
Assistant Dean - Clinic