

NDEB Report to CDSS Fall Council October 24-26 2018

Thank-you for giving me the opportunity to present this update of the National Dental Examining Board. I have enclosed the most current annual report that summarizes the activities of the NDEB for 2018 (which is the same as my report for the AGM of the CDSS in September). I will be at an Executive, Finance, and Annual General meeting of the Board ,October 17th -20th. I will update my report to CDSS on any new information I am made aware of at that meeting.

It has again been a busy year for the NDEB as can be seen from the annual report. The following is just a brief summary of NDEB's activities. The NDEB is preparing to enter into its first year of a new strategic plan. This new plan will help guide the NDEB through the next phase of growth. NDEB continues to move forward with the transition of most exams to electronic versions. The Equivalency process continues to take a large amount of NDEB's resources as numbers continue to be approximately 1200 -1300 participants entering the process each year. The NDEB also continues to face legal challenges within the equivalency process when it comes to third time failures. These challenges in the form of Appeals and Judicial reviews are very costly monetarily as well as in staff time. The NDEB continues to diligently upgrade processes to mitigate our exposure in these situations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those CDSS members who are involved in the the examination, assessment, and appeals process. Saskatchewan has great representation in all aspects of the NDEB's activities.

I look forward to any questions and discussion of the information enclosed in my report.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dennis G. Fuchs D.M.D.

Report to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

September 2018

The National Dental Examining Board of Canada



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Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction.....	3
Governance	3
Strategic Plan	3
By-laws	3
Legal	3
Examiners	4
Examinations and Assessments.....	5
Equivalency Process Blueprint Review	5
Electronic Delivery	5
Certification Process.....	6
Equivalency Process.....	7
Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination.....	8
Program Services	9
Appeals.....	9

Introduction

The National Dental Examination Board of Canada (NDEB) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1952. The Act makes the NDEB responsible for the establishment of qualifying conditions for a national standard of dental competence for general practitioners, for establishing and maintaining an examination facility to test for this national standard of dental competence, and for issuing certificates to dentists who successfully meet this national standard.

The following report highlights the NDEB's key activities relating to the certification of dentists in Canada

Governance

Strategic Plan

The NDEB is in the final stages of developing a new five-year strategic plan. The Board, Executive Committee and management team have held multiple planning meetings over the last several months to finalize key result areas, objectives and performance measures. The plan will be circulated to stakeholders in September for feedback before it is presented to the Board for approval in October 2018.

By-laws

The By-laws Committee met in February of this year to review recommended changes to the 2018 By-laws. Specifically, the By-laws regarding misconduct and appeals of the Assessment of Clinical Skills. The revised By-laws were approved by the Board at the Interim Board Meeting in May 2018.

Legal

The NDEB continues to face legal challenges from participants who have failed the Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS). These challenges take up a significant amount of resources both human and financial. The NDEB is working closely with representatives from Dentons LLP on six different Judicial Review applications.

The NDEB is also actively searching for copyright and trademark infringement and sending take down or cease and desist notices as appropriate.

Examiners

The Board annually appoints individuals recommended by the Dental Regulatory Authorities (DRAs) to be NDEB Examiners. As an NDEB Examiner, individuals may be asked to participate in question selection workshops, the administration and/or evaluation of the Assessment of Clinical Skills, or to work as a content expert and assist in the construction of examination questions.

Table 1 below is a list of current Examiners recommended by the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan and the activities in which they have participated. The NDEB appreciates the DRAs cooperation in providing the names of individuals to act as Examiners and encourages DRAs to regularly recommend individuals to the NDEB.

Last Name	First Name	NDEB Activities
Andrews	Stewart	
Berthiaume	Rhonda	ACS Evaluator
Bumbac	Jamie	ACS Evaluator
Butler	Russell	ACS Evaluator
Cheetam	Michael	
Churchill	Stacie	ACS Evaluator
Friesen	Blaine	ACS Evaluator
Fuchs	Dennis	Executive Committee member, Chair Finance and Audit Committee, ACS Assistant Chief Examiner, Examinations Committee member, ACS Evaluator
Goos	Kristin	ACS Evaluator
Graham	Todd	ACS Evaluator
Haunsperger	Chris	OSCE Review, ACS Evaluator
Johnstone	Clay	ACS Evaluator

Junek	Jack	ACS Evaluator
Klassen	Melinda	ACS Evaluator
Markewich	Leonard	ACS Evaluator
Piche	Stefan	ACS Evaluator
Prestie	Mike	
Roberts	Cam	ACS Evaluator
Torrie	Heather	Appeals Committee
Underwood	Ed	ACS Evaluator
White	Kristin	ACS Evaluator
Woo	Doug	ACJ Selection, OSCE Review, Appeals Committee member, Written Selection

Table 1

Examinations and Assessments

Equivalency Process Blueprint Review

The NDEB has begun a process to review the blueprint for the Equivalency Process. Invitations to participate on a working group have been sent to identified stakeholders. It is anticipated that the working group will meet for the first time in the fall of 2018.

Electronic Delivery

Over the past several months, the NDEB has run three electronic examination pilot tests. The first test took place at the Prometric test centre in Ottawa. Eight NDEB staff members and Dr. Jim Posluns, DSCKE Assistant Chief Examiner, participated in the e-exam tutorial and practice test prior to attending the examination. At the test centre, they were exposed to Prometric check-in procedures before taking the exam. In a focus group following the test, valuable information was collected about the tutorial, check-in, and user interface. This feedback was used to make changes ahead of the second pilot test by NDEB Board members in April. The NDEB administered

a third pilot test in June 2018 with members of the Examinations Committee. Based on feedback from the pilot tests, the NDEB is moving forward with delivery of the September 2018 DSCKE and May 2019 Assessment of Clinical Judgement at Prometric centres.

Certification Process

The Written Examination and OSCE are administered three times a year, in March, May, and November. Historical pass rates can be found in Table 2.

Historical Pass Rates – Certification Process				
	Written		OSCE	
	# of candidates	% pass	# of candidates	% pass
2015	1209	88	1165	95
2016	1262	87	1229	93
2017	1363	88	1295	97
2018*	1060	84	1002	92

*March and May only

Table 2

NDEB certification is a requirement prior to registration as a general dentist in Canada. To become certified an individual must successfully complete the NDEB Written Examination and OSCE.

In 2017, the NDEB certified 1101 individuals. Table 3 shows a breakdown of certified candidates by stream for the last two years. This information is made available to the public through the NDEB website.



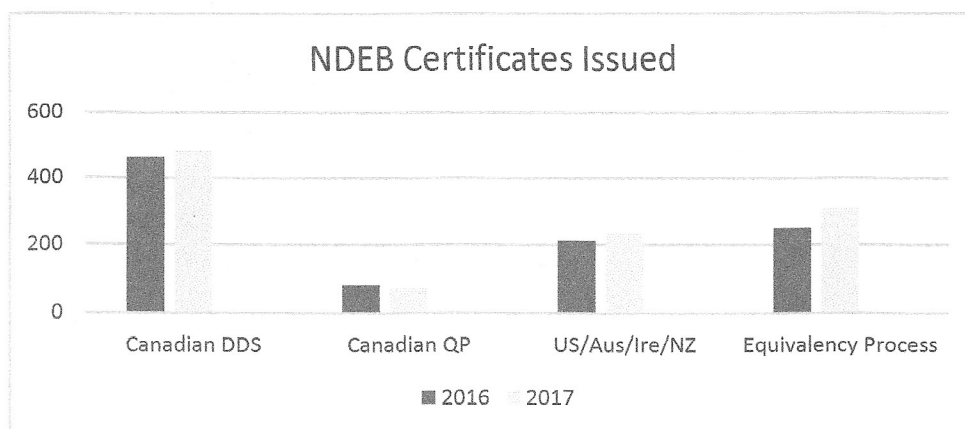


Table 3

Equivalency Process

Graduates of non-accredited dental programs who want to be certified as general dentists in Canada must successfully complete the NDEB Equivalency Process or an accredited Qualifying/Degree Completion Program prior to being eligible for participation in the Certification Process.

The Equivalency Process includes three assessments, the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge (AFK), Assessment of Clinical Judgement (ACJ), and Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS). Details of each of the assessments can be found on the NDEB website under Non-Accredited Programs. Each of the assessments is administered twice a year.

Assessments in the Equivalency Process are offered twice a year. Table 4 shows the historical pass rates for the Equivalency Process over the last three years.

Historical Pass Rates - Equivalency Process						
	AFK		ACS		ACJ	
	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass
2016	1238	51	732	37	754	75
2017	1384	46	812	39	836	34
2018*	679	46	351	40	410	43

*Feb and June only

Table 4

Credential Verification

After a lengthy investigation, the NDEB has determined that it can no longer accept applications to the Equivalency Process from applicants with documents for Magadh University in India.

The NDEB Executive Committee reviewed the results of the investigation in June and accepted a recommendation that the NDEB has insufficient information regarding the validity and authenticity of documents issued by Magadh University; therefore, those documents would no longer be eligible for verification until the NDEB is confident in the validity and authenticity of the documents provided. This is the first time a decision of this type has been made since the implementation of the Equivalency Process in 2010.

NDEB has notified all applicants affected by this decision and will be in contact with the Canadian DRAs, Dental Council of India, University Grants Commission, and Magadh University to inform them of the NDEB's decision.

Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination

Graduates of non-accredited dental specialty programs who are interested in becoming licensed specialists in Canada may apply to take the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE). The DSCKE is a tool used by accredited specialty programs to evaluate individuals for admission to the Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Programs.

Since 2015, the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination (DSCKE) is administered at the NDEB office annually in February and September. Table 5 shows the results of the DSCKE.

DSCKE Results		
	Range	Mean
Sept 2015	65-86	67.91
Feb 2016	52-91	78.85
Sept 2016	64-95	80.5
Feb 2017	51-92	82.62
Sept 2017	69-89	81.78
Feb 2018	66-90	77.8

Table 5

Program Services

Appeals

The NDEB has two types of appeals, appeals of the Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS), and compassionate appeals. ACS appeals are heard by the Appeals Committee and Compassionate Appeals are heard by the Executive Committee. Tables 6 and 7 show summaries of appeals heard, upheld and dismissed/denied.

ACS Appeals

2016			2017		
Total Appeals	Upheld	Dismissed	Total Appeals	Upheld	Dismissed
253	32	221	270	43	207

Table 6

Compassionate Appeals

2017			2018*		
Total Appeals	Upheld	Denied	Total Appeals	Upheld	Denied
48	26	22	54	30	24

Table 7

* As of July 18, 2018