

College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

April 2022

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Introduction

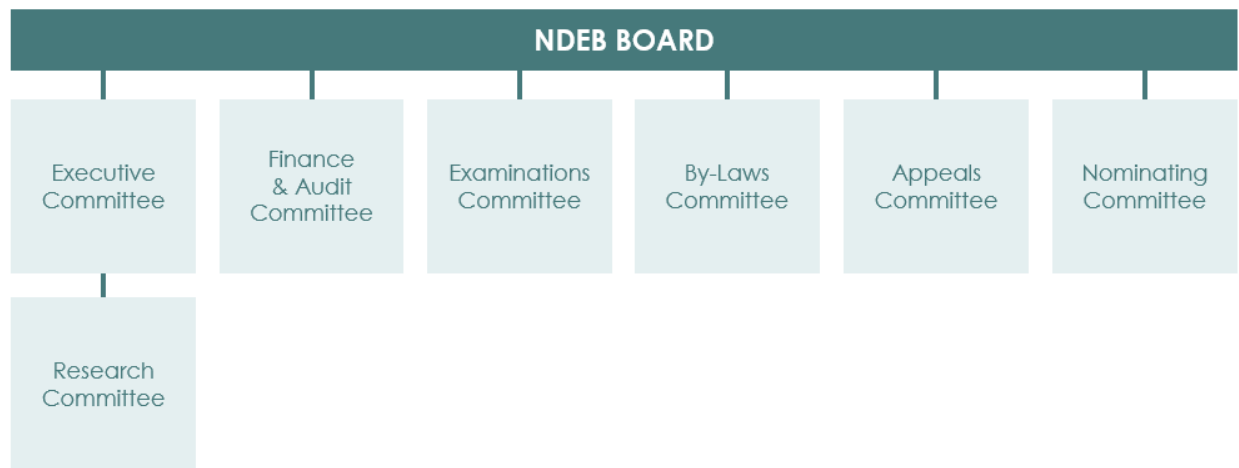
The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB®) was established by an Act of Parliament in 1952. The Act makes the NDEB® responsible for the establishment of qualifying conditions for a national standard of dental competence for general practitioners, for establishing the qualifying conditions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

Governance

Board Members

The NDEB Board comprises 12 members. Each provincial Dental Regulatory Authority appoints one member, and two members are appointed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). There is also a public representative appointed to the Board. The Board meets twice a year and other times as needed.

The NDEB® currently has seven standing committees. Each standing committee reports to the Board.



In April 2021, the NDEB® welcomed two new Board members. Dr. Debora Matthews and Dr. Jim Posluns have joined the Board as the new CDAC representatives.

Current Board Members	
James Richardson, President	British Columbia
Dennis Fuchs, Past President	Saskatchewan
Amarjit Singh Rihal, Vice President/Treasurer	Manitoba
Mintoo Basahti	Alberta
Ron Yarascavitch	Ontario
Stefan Haas-Jean	Québec
Andrew Rowe	New Brunswick
Alan Robinson	Prince Edward Island
Tanya Cook	Nova Scotia
Sneha Abhyankar	Newfoundland
Debora Matthews	CDAC Representative
Jim Posluns	CDAC Representative
Jan Sheppard Kutcher	Public Representative

Table 1

Finance

Capacity and travel restrictions in place across the country as part of the COVID-19 response continued to impact examination administration in 2021. Despite decreased testing capacity, the NDEB finished the year with a 1.8 million surplus.

This surplus can be attributed in part to reduced costs in line with the reduction in available exam seats and workshops and Committee meetings being held virtually. The NDEB also benefited from wage and rent subsidies provided by the Federal government.

In October, the Finance Committee recommended the following updates to the fee schedule:

Equivalency Process Re-application fee	\$400
NDECC™ examination fee	\$9000
NDECC™ rescore fee	\$200

The fees were adopted by the Board in October 2021.

The 2021-22 budget will be presented to the Board for approval during the Interim Board meeting in May 2022.

Recommended Examiners

The NDEB maintains a list of examiners recommended by the provincial Dental Regulatory Authorities, Canadian Faculties of Dentistry, Canadian Forces Dental Service, Royal College of Dentists, and the Dental Council of New Zealand. Examiners may be asked to participate in question development or selection workshops, the administration and/or evaluation of the ACS, or to work as a content expert and assist in the construction of examination questions.

The following is list of CDSS members who have participated in NDEB activities over the past year.

Last Name	First Name	Activities
Churchill	Stacie	Jan 2022 ACST™ Evaluation Session Jun 2021 ACST™ Evaluation Session
Friesen	Blaine	Jun 2021 ACST™ Evaluation Session
Fuchs	Dennis	Executive Committee meetings Annual & Interim Board meetings Finance & Audit Committee meetings NDECC™ Technical Component meetings ACST™ Evaluation Session Jan 2022 and June 2021
Goos	Kristin	ACST™ Evaluation Session Jan 2022 and June 2021
Meyers	Craig	Annual Board meeting Oct 2021 Jan 2022 ACST™ Evaluation Session
Piche	Stefan	Jan 2022 ACST™ Evaluation Session Jun 2021 ACST™ Evaluation Session Jan 2021 Standard Setting workshop Jun 2021 AFK™ Standard Setting
White	Kristin	Jun 2021 ACST™ Evaluation Session
Woo	Doug	Mar 2021 OSCE Rx Marking May 2021 Written Selection workshop Jun 2021 AFK Standard Setting Workshop Jul 2021 ACJ™ Selection Workshop Jan 2022 ACST™ Evaluation session

Table 2

Examinations and Certification

Certification in general dentistry

To receive NDEB® certification, an individual must be a graduate of a dental program and successfully complete the Written Examination and Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE). Obtaining NDEB certification means that an individual has demonstrated that they meet the competencies required of a beginning dental practitioner in Canada. The Dental Regulatory Authorities (DRAs) in Canada rely on the NDEB® certificate as evidence that a potential licensee has met the national standard.

Historical pass rates for the Written Examination and OSCE can be found in the following table.

Historical Pass Rates – Certification Process				
	Written Examination		OSCE	
	# of candidates	% pass	# of candidates	% pass
2017	1363	88	1295	96
2018	1373	84	1279	97
2019	1295	87	1231	94
2020	991	86	938	94
2021	1124	84	1169	75

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 examinations, the Assessment of Fundamental Knowledge™ (AFK™), Assessment of Clinical Judgement™ (ACJ™), and Assessment of Clinical Skills™ (ACS™).

In 2022, the NDECC™ will replace the ACS™ and the third examination in the Equivalency Process. Following the completion of the Equivalency Process blueprint review, beginning with the August 2021 AFK, results will be reported to third parties as Pass/Fail only. Examinees will still receive their numeric score if they receive a failing grade. Additionally, beginning in 2022, examinees will be required to successfully complete the ACJ before they will be eligible to take the NDECC™. Prior to this, examinees could take the examinations concurrently.

Historical Pass Rates - Equivalency Process						
	AFK™		ACS™		ACJ™	
	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass	# of participants	% pass
2017	1384	46	812	39	836	35
2018	1585	49	693	36	943	44
2019	1684	45	747	35	978	37
2020	744	44	-	-	698	48
2021	473*	32*	401	68	434	65

Table 4

* August 2021 AFK™ only.

Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination

In July 2012, the NDEB entered into an agreement with CDRAF to administer the DSCKE, the examination for non-accredited dental specialist seeking entry into a Dental Specialty Assessment and Training Program (DSATP) at a Canadian university. The most recent DSCKE was successfully administered in September 2021 to 6 examinees at Prometric centres across Canada.

DSCKE Results			
Examinees		Range	Mean
Feb 2019	6	71-82	75.76
Sept 2019	10	77-92	83
Feb 2020	13	60-91	82
Feb 2021	14	70-94	85
Sept 2021	6	78-90	85
Feb 2022	7	79-94	88

Table 5

National Dental Specialty Examination

The National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE) is the examination required for registration as a specialist in Canada. The first NDEB® NDSE was administered in September 2020 at locations across Canada and at four locations in the US. The following tables shows a breakdown of NDSE candidates by specialty for 2020 and 2021.

Specialty	Number of Candidates	Number Candidates
	2020	2021
Dental Public Health	2	1
Endodontics	22	16
OM/OP/OMOP*	2	4
Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology	4	8
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery	22	16
Orthodontics	40	39
Pediatric Dentistry	22	36
Periodontics	16	30
Prosthodontics	12	12
Total	142	162

Table 6

In the spring, the NDEB® Board directed the Executive Committee to begin discussions with the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF) and the Royal College of Dentists (RCDC) to withdraw the NDEB from delivering the NDSE. The NDEB communicated this message to CDRAF in April. The NDEB administer the NDSE in 2022. Since that time, CDRAF has asked that RCDC and NDEB develop a joint proposal for the administration of a national examination for specialists in Canada.