

Report to the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

January 2023

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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

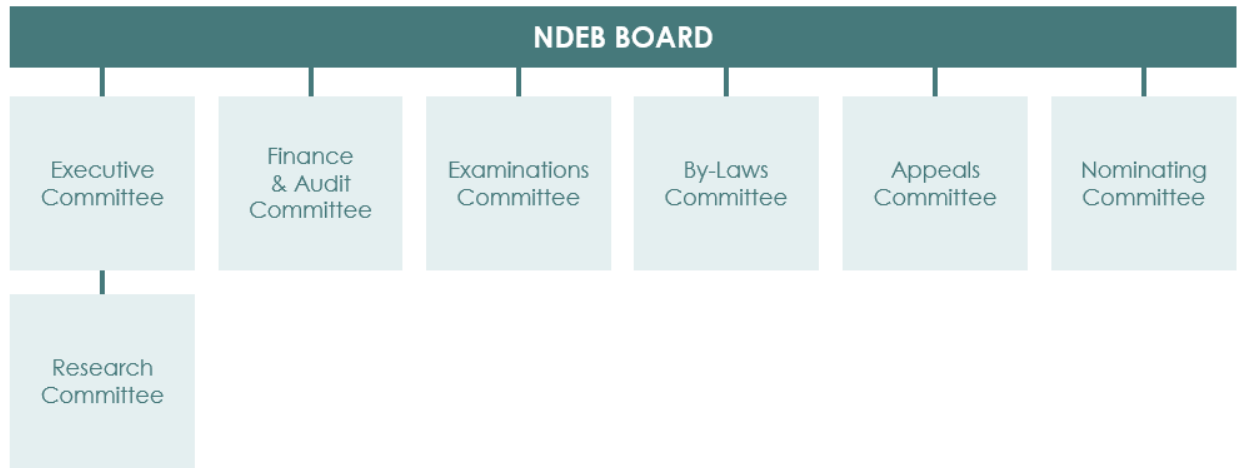
The NDEB Board comprises 12 members. Each provincial Dental Regulatory Authority appoints one member, and two members are appointed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). There is also a public representative appointed to the Board. The Board meets twice a year and other times as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

During the 2022 Annual Meeting, Dr. Amarjit Singh Rihal was appointed NDEB President for a two year term. Dr. Rihal succeeds Dr. Jim Richardson. In 2002, Dr. Dennis Fuchs completed his term on the NDEB Board and a new representative from the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan, Dr. Stefan Piche was appointed to the Board in December 2022.

Current Board Members	
Amarjit Singh Rihal, President	Manitoba
Jim Richardson, Past President	British Columbia
Stefan Haas-Jean, Vice President/Treasurer	Quebec
Mintoo Basahti	Alberta
Stefan Piche	Saskatchewan
Ron Yarascavitch	Ontario
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

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



During the Annual Meeting in October 2022, elections were held for various committee positions and the NDEB welcomed new members to the Executive Committee, Finance and Audit Committee, Appeals Committee and By-laws Committee.

By-laws

In October 2022, the NDEB adopted new By-laws effective November 1, 2022. Numerous revisions were made to account for the transition to the Virtual OSCE in 2023. Additionally, a new Appeals Committee structure was outlined, and By-laws regarding misconduct and appeals were modified. The By-laws are available through the NDEB website.

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. During the Annual Meeting in October 2022, the Board appointed the following representatives of the CDSS as recommended examiners:

Last Name	First Name
Andrews	Stewart
Arcand	Steven
Berthiaume	Rhonda
Bumbac	Jamie
Butler	Russell
Cheetam	Michael
Churchill	Stacie
Fowler	Mike
Friesen	Blaine
Fuchs	Dennis
Gallagher	Kelly
Goos	Kristin
Graham	Todd
Haunsperger	Chris
Junek	Jack
Kapoor	Ulias
Klassen	Melinda
Krainyk	Drew
Markewich	Leonard
Meyers	Craig
Morrow	Casmeara
Piche	Stefan
Prestie	Mike
Roberts	Cam
Sachdev	Arjunn
Stock	David
Thiessen	Derek
Thomson	Wes
Torrie	Heather
White	Kristin
Woo	Doug

Dental Regulatory Authorities are encouraged to recommend individuals to act as NDEB examiners and can submit recommendations at any time. Nominations take place twice a year at the Interim and Annual Meetings of the Board.

Strategic Priorities

In 2019, the NDEB adopted a five-year strategic plan that identified four key result areas: transition to electronic exam delivery, review the Equivalency Process blueprint, strengthen communication with stakeholders, and manage risk. The NDEB continues to make progress in obtaining the goals outlined in the strategic plan.

Plans for the development of a new strategic plan will begin in early 2023.

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.

The last Written Examination and OSCE were administered in November 2022. In March 2023 first administration of the Virtual OSCE will take place. The Virtual OSCE is a summative examination that assesses the problem solving and critical decision-making skills required of beginning dental practitioners in Canada. Examination items are based on the knowledge, skills, and abilities of beginning dental practitioners in Canada. The Virtual OSCE will be the national standard of competence for dentists in Canada.

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
2022*	1045	83	1144	78

* Does not include November 2022

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 the NDECC.

NDECC

The NDECC replaces the former Assessment of Clinical Skills (ACS). Like the ACS, the NDECC is designed to test the clinical competence of graduates of non-accredited dental programs, but it has been significantly reformulated and unlike the ACS, consists of two components, namely Clinical Skills and Situational Judgement. A candidate must pass all seven of the clinical skills to be successful on the clinical skills component. To be successful on the situational judgement component and candidate must pass six of 10 scenarios and cannot fail two scenarios in the same category.

Coincident with its review of the ACS and replacement with the NDECC, the NDEB also reviewed and revised its appeal procedures. Candidates will no longer have the opportunity to view their typodonts or to appeal their grade on dentistry grounds. The NDEB considers that the robustness of its assessment setting and evaluation procedures does not warrant the delays and additional resources inherent in providing for a second-level review of its Examiners' evaluation of a candidate on the NDECC.

The first NDECC was held on September 7-8, 2022 in the NDEB's new NDECC Test Centre in Ottawa. Since that time 380 candidates have taken the examination. NDECC sessions take place over two days and are offered continuously throughout the year. A calendar for the NDECC has been incorporated on the NDEB website identify examination session through the end of 2023.

In October 2022, the first evaluation session for the NDECC took place. The NDEB hosted 82 evaluators in Ottawa to grade the NDECC. Evaluators are general dentists who have been recommended by the Dental Regulatory Authorities and have been appointed by the Board as NDEB Examiners. The results of the NDECC were released to candidates at the end of December.

Historical Pass Rates

Historical Pass Rates - Equivalency Process						
	AFK		ACS		ACS	
	# 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
2022	902	40			232	75

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.

NDEB examination fees are established on a cost recovery basis. Due to the low number of test takers in the DSCKE, the examination fee has been approved at \$3000 for the last several years. The NDEB has ongoing concerns about the high costs of the DSCKE, an admission test, and in the fall of 2022, the NDEB requested that the Commission on Dental Accreditation consider revising the admission requirements for the DSATPs to remove the requirement for the DSCKE. This would allow the NDEB to phase out the DSCKE.

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
Sept 2022	10	70-95	84

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. The examination of delivered electronically at locations across Canada and in the US. The following tables shows a breakdown of NDSE candidates by specialty for the last three years.

NDSE Candidates by Specialty

Specialty	Sept 2020	June 2021	June 2022
Dental Public Health	2	1	5
Endodontics	22	16	20
Oral Maxillofacial Radiology	4	8	4
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	22	16	22
Oral Medicine	2	2	1
Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology	0	2	3
Oral Pathology	0	0	1
Orthodontics	40	39	40
Pediatric Dentistry	22	36	26
Periodontics	16	30	30
Prosthodontics	12	12	16
Totals	142	162	168

Table 6

Pass Rates by Year

		2020	2021	2022
Graduates of Canadian Programs	Number of test takers	86	85	98
	Pass rate %	92	89	78
Graduates of American programs	Number of test takers	56	77	70
	Pass rate %	86	68	66
Total	Number of test takers	142	162	168
	Pass rate %	89	79	73

Table 7