

Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer! Unfortunately, the Spring season fell short of many expectations, but hopefully you were able to make the most of it.

During these last few Spring months, I have represented the CDSS at the CDA President's Federal Dental Program Meeting, the CDA Federal Dental Program Saskatchewan Roundtable, the CDA AGM, and the CDSPI AGM.

The Federal Dental Initiative. "On April 7, 2022, the Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, released in the House of Commons [Budget 2022: A Plan to Grow Our Economy and Make Life More Affordable](#). Budget 2022 proposes funding of \$5.3 billion over five years to Health Canada to provide dental care for low-income Canadians. Allocating additional funding to enhance access to dental care for underserved Canadians echoes the long-standing recommendations of the Canadian Dental Association (CDA). 'We applaud the federal government's commitment to improve the oral health of Canadians and increase access to dental care for those who need it most,' says Dr. Richard Holden, President of the Canadian Dental Association. 'We continue to believe that stabilizing and enhancing existing provincial and territorial dental programs is the fastest and most efficient approach to do so. This will help avoid disrupting access to dental care for the more than two-thirds of Canadians who already have access, largely through employer-provided health benefits.' The announcement of this initiative has resulted in the CDA diverting most of its manpower and resources to strategize, prepare, and lead the profession in collaborating with the government in implementing this program. Ultimately, the federal government will either choose to accept the recommendations of stakeholders or develop a plan of its own.

The CDSPI. The CDSS met with CDSPI individually and at the AGM to discuss concerns with the malpractice insurance program, the lack of opportunity with legal expense insurance, representation of dentists in the board decision making process, and the ability to access data of educational value for dentists.

The Pandemic. Hopefully, this may be the last reporting on the pandemic. Is the pandemic over, no! But with governments transitioning to an endemic strategy of living with the virus and individual responsibility, I cannot envision a return to restrictions. Again, the CDA has refocused and redirected the majority of its manpower and resources to addressing the Federal Dental Initiative, with remaining pandemic side projects being sidelined for the time being. In the end, each dental facility and each dental professional should self-reflect on the best practices and lessons learned during these pandemic years and utilize individual professional judgement going forward. Lastly, I would like to compliment and express my gratitude to all dentists and dental professionals during these last unforgettable years for their leadership, dedication, and sacrifices.

Often these sacrifices have been at the expense of our own well-being. Unfortunately, throughout the pandemic, many dentists have had the experience of being a health care worker and a business owner; both presenting a different and unique set of challenges, stress, and fatigue. Having been conditioned to isolate, distance, and minimize contact for a couple of years, now may be the time to reset and refocus on our own individual well-being. Visit your doctor for a complete physical examination, recommit to an exercise routine, travel within your comfort level, and force yourself into social encounters – again within your comfort level.

CDSS Elections. The annual general election for Council is just around the corner. If you know a colleague with an interest in or who would be compatible with organized dentistry, please encourage

the individual to submit their name for nomination to the Council or for consideration for one of the committees of Council.

Congratulations to Michael Fowler on his acclamation to the Executive Committee as incoming Vice President. Michael will be a competent addition to the group and provide the organization calm and steady leadership going forward.

I am well aware that this is my final President's Report to Council, and that fact is not lost on me. I began my participation with the CDSS as a committee member in 2005 and as a Council member in 2016. From my experience with the CDSS, the management, staff, and committees have always served as caretaker of the organization, fulfilling the mandate to regulate dentists and protect the public. And over the past four years, Council has followed suit in recognizing and messaging this mandate.

Over this past year, Council was very busy and productive. Some of the achievements:

- Governance Manual
- HR and Compensation Committee, Governance Committee, Finance and Audit Committee Development
- Council Evaluations
- CDSS Website Update
- Sedation Standard
- Code of Ethics
- Referrals and Responsible Dentist Guideline and Snoring and Sleep Apnea Guideline
- Honorarium Schedule (PCC Committee) Update
- Progress with respect to Licensing Requirements, Regulatory Bylaws, TMD Standard, and Neuromodulator Standard.

One last time, the recent culture of the CDSS Council is one of self-improvement. The CDSS is not perfect, and there is always room for progress. From my perspective, some of the short comings:

- Standardized reporting from management and committee chairs of meeting summaries, meeting agenda, meeting minutes
- HR and Compensation Committee policies and evaluations advancement

Once again, "Successful change initiatives share two key characteristics: effective persuasion and a **clear understanding of organizational change as a long-term, multistep process rather than a singular event.**" In my opinion, the Council has been at its best when implementing change in manageable, incremental "bites"; and, Council has been stifled when attempting to implement change in a single, complete, and perfect decision or document.

During these past seventeen years, my involvement with the CDSS has afforded myself many learning experiences; a maturity, patience, and tolerance (probably much needed); and most importantly, some unexpected friendships.

- Mitch Taillon and Todd Graham. I am thankful for these two for introducing me to the CDSS and coercing me to join and participate with the Advertising Review Committee.
- Marion Lafreniere. Of all the staff, I collaborated with Marion the most. Marion's email is my most popular "Sender" and one of my most popular "Recipients". I truly appreciated when

Marion was on holidays. Marion did a lot of heavy lifting for the CDSS and is a main contributor for its success. I wish her the best going forward.

- Bernie White. Unbeknownst to Bernie, he was a major role model for me. It is easy to respect those who are responsible for the difficult task to do the right thing. Bernie was always positive and the epitome of camaraderie.
- Jerod Orb. I still remember meeting Jerod at the Western Canadian Dental Bonspiel. My recollection was that Jerod was wearing retro curling attire, but that may have just been his wardrobe. I have enjoyed the numerous conversations we have had over the years.
- Todd Graham and Drew Krainyk. Todd is one of my closest friends, and it was an honour, privilege, and joy to serve as his VP on the Executive Committee. And Drew is the best President the CDSS has never had. Drew is the "Better Angel" on my left shoulder, always providing sound and trusting advice. It was a joy to do CDSS Council all together.
- Derek Thiessen. Derek and I have spent many years together on both the Advertising Review Committee and on Council. Although we have never spent much time together, I consider Derek to be a good friend with much mutual respect.
- Mike Koskie. My new pandemic friend. I had never known Mike prior to the pandemic. And, I had never met someone as like-minded and who reminded me of myself. Mike, I apologize for the comparison and the insult. But whenever I collaborate with Mike, I feel like I am with an old friend.
- Gord Gillespie. Governance is interesting to me, and I am appreciative of Gord's expertise, coaching, and support. The transition of the CDSS Council to incorporate a Chair has been significant to the progress of the Council, and Gord is the right person for the task.
- Jaime Korczak. During the past five years, I had developed a list of objectives I had hoped to accomplish during my time on Council. To have Jaime available, eager, and with a shared vision to dedicate time for Council tasks allowed for the completion of a majority of these objectives that otherwise would not have been possible.
- Nancy Croll. Nancy is one of the few who have been on Council longer than me. Nancy and I share a mutual interest in governance, and for that reason, I like to think Nancy and I see eye to eye. Thank you, Nancy, for not giving up on the CDSS.

And a thank you to all of Council, my colleagues. Again, you are a remarkable committed group of individuals giving of your time and efforts to serve the public, the college, the profession, and our colleagues. It is easy to be proud of a diverse group of good people with a common goal to do the right thing with the best of intentions. It is a pleasure collaborating with all of you.

I would like to acknowledge our departing Council members, Kevin Saganski and Kelly Kudryk for their contributions to the CDSS. I hope that you will continue to serve at your leisure as committee members.

For myself, with the fatigue of the pandemic and some recent significant health concerns of some friends, I have considered stepping away for awhile. But I know myself better than that. I am not sure what it is, but I am drawn to the CDSS, it is like it is a part of me. So, I will continue to serve on some Committees of the CDSS at the leisure of the incoming President, Aaron Bazylak.

To conclude, the CDSS continues the commitment and responsibility of self-regulation to protect the public, and regulate and support dentists in the public interest.

Enjoy the Summer!

Dean Zimmer