

March 2023; President's Newsletter Address

As we continue this journey together through these long Saskatchewan winter months our thoughts likely start to focus on the lengthening daylight hours, the increasing warmth of the sun's rays, the melting of snowflakes and to the wise springtime predictions of our trusted groundhog friends and their shadows. We are reminded not only of the cold snowy months, but of the warmer exciting opportunities and challenges of the upcoming change in seasons.

The year 2023 is already shaping up to be a busy, important, and productive year for the CDSS and dentistry in the province of Saskatchewan. I am enthusiastic to be a firsthand witness to the continued evolution and positive forward momentum of Saskatchewan dental care to keep it vibrant, healthy, modern, and even more relevant and attainable to our trusted patients.

On January 6, 2023 I was honoured to attend the University of Saskatchewan College of Dentistry Whitecoat Ceremony for the Class of 2025 and provide an address on behalf of the CDSS to these students. As we know this is an exciting day for these young professionals as they enter the fast paced world with the responsibility as student clinicians. This is another major career milestone that they have achieved. Our future of dentistry in Saskatchewan seems brighter than ever with this absolutely fantastic group of future dentists. Congratulations!

I believe a priority for the CDSS is to create new meaningful professional relationships with many other organizations and government representatives at all levels and to strengthen and enhance the relationships that already exist. On this note I am pleased to make mention of a successful initial meeting with our Provincial Minister of Health, Hon. Paul Merriman. It was an excellent opportunity to engage in a positive meaningful real world exchange of ideas and philosophies. We were able to bring the Minister up to speed with everything happening in Saskatchewan dentistry and he was able to provide us with some very promising feedback from the provincial perspective. Professional working relationships were created and a multitude of topics were openly discussed. Of particular interest was the current Canada Dental Benefit and the possibility of future enhancements.

With the privilege of being a self regulated profession, we should be trying to better our education levels and enhancing our clinical abilities and skills. We owe this to our patients. It is expected of all of us. I am sure you will agree this betterment is a lifelong professional journey with the overarching goal of safer, more effective, more comprehensive, more attainable oral health care for our patients. Furthermore, the CDSS Council approved a motion in January 2023, in principle, to allow the use of neuromodulators by registrants with proper, specific, enhanced education and hands on training for both therapeutic and cosmetic modalities, within a complete dental care model. This is very similar to what has already occurred in many other jurisdictions within Canada and worldwide. On this end the CDSS is continuing to work diligently and carefully implementation of specific levels of comprehensive

educational options within Canada. This process will take time as we move forward. As with anything new there are and will be significant challenges to work through, but these are very important steps along the journey.

I am honoured to be working with such a wonderful team of Council members from our Saskatchewan community as well as a superior management team and dedicated team members at the CDSS head office in Saskatoon. Thank you to each and every one of you. Thank you to all of our wonderful dentists and specialists who continue to make Saskatchewan the best place for safe comprehensive dental care for everyone.

It is in times of great change come the opportunities for individuals and organizations to become more than they were the day before. I leave you with the timeless words of the late American President John F. Kennedy, "For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future."

Yours truly,

Aaron