

# Registrar's Report to the CDSS January Council (January 2021)

## PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

Update on activities of the Registrar- **for council information.**

## REPORT

The CDSS Vision (**where CDSS is going**) is '*Regulated Healthy Members, Enabling a Healthy Public*'. The CDSS Mission (**why CDSS exists**) is '*CDSS regulates and assists members through registration, licensing and communicating professional standards to enable the provision of safe, excellent, comprehensive patient centered oral-facial health care within a well performing oral-facial and general health care system*'. These 2 statements, along with the enabling legislation under the Dental Disciplines Act, are the guiding principles for CDSS decision-making.

### New Proposed CDSS Regulatory Bylaws

The Proposed CDSS Regulatory Bylaws will be sent to the Ministry for review and approval with an implementation date that is undetermined at this time. Consultation and responses were received at the end of August 2020 from the SDHA, SDAA, SDTA and the MOH. Next steps involve review of the responses, revisions and/or explanations where appropriate and a re-submission to the MOH for consideration. The timeframe is undetermined.

### SDHA Legislation Amendment Submission

In February 2020 CDSS provided a response to the Ministry of Health on the Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists Associations proposal to the Ministry of Health requesting that *The Dental Disciplines Act, 1997* be amended to **remove Section 25 of the Act**. The CDSS response to SDHA proposal was a "all hands-on deck" effort to provide a fulsome evidence-based response to the SDHA proposal. Since the CDSS response on February 14, 2020 we have not been provided with any update on this amendment to legislation.

### Network of Interprofessional Regulatory Organizations (NIRO)

As the CDSS representative I attend regular meetings with the other 25 healthcare regulatory organizations, the MOH and SHA. The current focus is on the provincial response to the Pandemic. NIRO is also the requested portal to reach different government departments such as the MOH, CMHO, SHA, OH&S and Public Health concerning the COVID-19 pandemic. CDSS has used this portal several times. A major focus of this group has been to identify surge HR capacity to deploy for the pandemic.

At a recent NIRO AGM the issue of a regulatory body also providing member services was addressed as follows by the MOH: *The primary role of the regulator is **public protection**. There is no clear authority to advocate for members as **the role is to protect the public**. One practical consideration is contained in the administrative bylaw making powers related to the ability to make bylaws for any other thing necessary for the effective administration of the association.* Such a provision currently exists in the DDA.

## **Canadian Dental Regulatory Association Federation (CDRAF)**

As the CDSS representative I attend regular meetings. At the beginning of the pandemic these meetings happened weekly with a discussion of Pandemic protocols from coast to coast. CDRAF have passed new bylaws and will be confirming a process for identifying new dental specialties. In addition, we receive regular updates from NDEB, Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry (ACFD), Deans of the Dental Schools and Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada (CDAC). CDAC is currently transitioning to total independence from CDA where it has been housed in an arms length arrangement. All of these national organizations have been dramatically impacted in operations by the pandemic.

## **College of Dentistry (COD), University of Saskatchewan**

As the CDSS Registrar I provide lectures- Ethics, Professionalism, Practice Standards and the Complaint Review Process/Discipline Hearing Process- and attend regular meetings of the Progress and Promotion Committee and the regular faculty meetings. In my observation, the processes at the COD gives confidence that the systems are in place to monitor and confirm competency of graduating dentists.

At the request of CDSS Council, I spoke with Dr. Doug Brothwell, Dean, COD on Nov 4, 2020 to discuss the application of the CDSS Advertising Standard to the College of Dentistry.

1. I advised Dr. Brothwell that CDSS council wishes to advise the COD that in the future the CDSS Advertising Standard will apply to the COD in the same way it applies to all other CDSS members.
2. Dr. Brothwell acknowledged this wish of CDSS council. He said that the COD has concerns with this change and the impact it will have on the COD going forward. I suggested that the COD can share those concerns with the CDSS council to consider. He confirmed the COD would do so. **The COD response is attached as a resource for council discussion.**
3. I raised the operational concern that the COD has requested rushed reviews of content by the ARC and that ARC wants members to give 4 weeks lead time. He agreed to this and will advise COD staff of this.

## **Prescription Review Program (PRP), College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS)**

The *Prescription Review Program* (PRP) is Saskatchewan's educationally focused prescription monitoring program administered by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan on behalf of the Ministry of Health. One of the stakeholders is the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan. The last CDSS newsletter included an article from the PRP entitled "Codeine use in Pediatrics".

The PRP is now looking to establish an Interprofessional Education Program to deal with the issues around Opioids and Alcohol. The program will include Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Nursing and other key stakeholders with support from the MOH. I shared that the CDSS would support an educational program such as this as a means of supporting ongoing competency for CDSS members.

## **Health Canada Safety Code 30 - Radiation Protection in Dentistry**

Health Canada is seeking CDSS comments on proposed revisions to Safety Code 30 - Radiation Protection in Dentistry - Recommended Safety Procedures for the Use of Dental X-Ray Equipment (hereinafter referred to as Safety Code 30).

The last updates to Safety Code 30 were published in 2000. Since then, there have been technological advancements in dental radiography. Updates to Safety Code 30 are needed in order to reflect new dental x-ray technologies, recent amendments to Canadian regulatory requirements applicable to dental x-ray equipment, and modern radiation protection practices.

Health Canada's goal in updating Safety Code 30 is to provide a user-centred safety code that provides up-to-date radiation safety guidance for all individuals and organizations that are concerned with radiation safety in dentistry.

Health Canada is seeking input on specific sections of the proposed document that represent important changes and additions to the Safety Code.

CDSS has engaged the services of Dr. Richard Bohay, Oral and Maxillo-Facial Radiologist, College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan to perform the review. Dr. Bohay will provide the review to CDSS by December 31, 2020.

### **Saskatchewan Oral Health Professions (SOHP)**

CDSS continues to engage with the other Oral Health Professions on a regular basis. I was asked by CDSS council to contact the SDAA Registrar with regards to: SK PolyTech and the Dental Assisting Program. The summary of that conversation is:

1. There is no intake of new students for this academic year- they are in the process of finishing the student group that was put on pause by the pandemic in March 2020. I believe this group wrote their National Board exam on December 11, 2020.
2. As of now the SK Polytech plan is still to have another class begin in Fall 2021.
3. The SDAA Job Board is growing- it was at 50 before Covid and is now closer to 100.
4. The dental programs at SK Polytech have requested from Gov't a 6-million-dollar renovation to accommodate the new protocols/update the facility- no final word to date on this request. They are cautiously optimistic. They will be reaching out to the dental industry to see if they can also support the project.
5. They hope to continue offering the extra modules as they usually do. These modules do not have an in-person patient component and are easier to continue.
6. The SDAA Registrar did mention a new program out of Alberta that is starting a distance education for dental assisting. She did stress that this program does not have CDAC accreditation yet (keep in mind CDAC is not doing any accreditation site visits at the moment) <https://www.risiodental.com/>

CDSS continues to benefit from a supportive collaborative relationship with the other oral health professionals vis-à-vis the COVID-19 protocols. This is unique in Canada as many other jurisdictions have significant challenges in reaching consensus between Oral Health Professions on COVID-19 protocols.

## **CDSS N95 Disposable Respirator Program**

As of the writing of this report community spread continues at unprecedented rates, case numbers are increasing, hospitalizations are increasing and the demands for N95 continues to increase. The supply chain for N95s has still not recovered. The CDSS program continues to provide N95 respirators to CDSS participants. CDSS has communicated with participants that the current maximum they can order is 1 box (20 respirators) per dentist/ month and 1 box (20 respirators) per assistant/ month. There may also be a shortage of certain models that may require members to move to another model that may require a new fit test.

## **Covid-19: The Current Reality**

Nine months into the Covid-19 public health pandemic CDSS members have demonstrated that following CDSS standards and bylaws together with CDSS Covid-19 protocols is a professional safe approach to providing dental care. Safety for patients, families, dental providers, staff and communities, while challenging during these times, continues as the foundation for all direction and communication to CDSS members. CDSS followed SHA/CMHO advisories with regards to dental office protocols and mandated closures. As of December 2020 CDSS, has provided over **36** Covid-19 Alerts on the CDSS public website, over **32** CDSS member support postings, **3** Webinars, regular TV ads and the development of <http://yoursaskdentist.ca/> into a Covid-19 homepage with information for the public. Traffic to these websites by members and non-members has been significant.

The Covid-19 Phase 5 protocols (effective December 10, 2020) considers the following:

- As COVID-19 community spread continues at unprecedented rates and COVID-19 hospitalization numbers climb significantly in Saskatchewan, the CDSS feels it is appropriate to review the current CDSS COVID-19 IPC Protocol and make adjustments to the protocol where required in the interest of safety for our patients, the public, Saskatchewan Oral Health Professional (SOHP) teams, communities and the province.
- In addition, CDSS has received confirmation from Saskatchewan Public Health on revised Public Health requirements for providing safe dental care. These revised Public Health requirements focus on the provision of Aerosol Generating Procedures at a time of increased community spread and rising case numbers of COVID-19.
- Currently Saskatchewan Public Health considers all AGPs in a dental setting High Risk. Saskatchewan Public Health current requirements for a High Risk AGP are:
  - **Aerosol Controlled Environment (ACE):**  
AGP operatory rooms must be isolated rooms from floor to ceiling with an entry or entries that must be closed and secured during the AGP.
  - **N95 Respirator** that has been fit tested with documentation
  - **Appropriate “Settle time”** following the AGP that is dependent on the Air Changes per Hour (ACH) for the ACE. If the number of ACH is known for the ACE, a specific “settle time” can be calculated. ACH is unknown, the “settle time” for an ACE has been determined to be 2 hours or 120 minutes.
  - Failure to follow any one of these three Saskatchewan Public Health requirements could result in a Public Health requirement for all involved patients, subsequent patients and SOHP to self-isolate for 14 days, instead of self-monitor for 14 days.

As the newest member at the CDSS office I have witnessed the commitment of council, executive and CDSS staff dedicating countless hours during this pandemic. CDSS staff have made themselves available 24/7, often taking on new tasks without hesitation and delivering professional results. I feel very fortunate to work with such a dedicated team.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Mitch Taillon, Registrar.