



Board Report

Date Report Authored: December 15, 2023

SUBJECT: Registrar's Report
PREPARED BY: Judith Rigby, Registrar

GOVERNANCE

Strategic Priorities

- **Unauthorized Practise Superior Court Hearing** - CDTO initiated a Superior Court proceeding against an unauthorized practitioner. The application can be reviewed on page 116 of the June 23, 2023, Board Package. I attended the hearing on December 1, 2023, along with our legal counsel, Jordan Glick. We are currently waiting for a decision and will provide an update when available.
- **Equity Diversity and Inclusion** – CDTO Board, Staff and Registrants were invited to attend a weeklong Truth and Reconciliation workshop held during lunch to further our understanding of the need for National Truth & Reconciliation. Registrants were provided with CPD points for attending.
- **Standards of Practise** - Recognizing our limited human resources, we engaged in discussions with Pivotal Research Inc. to explore how they could assist us in advancing our Standards of Practice project. Pivotal Research Inc., based in Edmonton, is a national provider of research services with more than 25 years of experience in delivering comprehensive market research. Their extensive portfolio includes collaboration with nearly 50 regulators and associations across the country, such as CDHO, BC College of Oral Health Professionals, and CAPR. They actively engage system partners to shape regulation and policy, enhance practice standards, increase member engagement, and facilitate evidence-based strategic initiatives. They are currently in the process of scoping the project.

REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT AND PROGRAMS

Ministry of Health (MOH)

- **Scope Change Proposals** – Since the dissolution of the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council (HPRAC) in 2021, the MOH has not entertained scope change proposals. However, to counter the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on patient health and safety, the MOH has worked with specific colleges to regulate new health professions and approve scopes of practice. On October 3, 2023, the MOH met with HPRO members regarding its draft guide for submitting Scope of Practice Change Proposals. A proposal can be submitted by a health regulatory college or association for a scope of practice expansion opportunity for the ministry's consideration, or the ministry may request that a health regulatory college submit a scope of practice change, in the form of a regulation or regulation

amendment, when the ministry/government seeks to make targeted improvements to the healthcare system. The ministry expects health regulatory colleges, professional associations, and other affected partners/stakeholders to work together to ensure that a proposal is as complete as possible, is supported by all parties, and public protection and public interest considerations are appropriately represented. A Model for the Evaluation of Scopes of Practice in Ontario (MESPO) will be used to evaluate scope of practice change proposals. It takes a patient and system-centred approach, considering factors such as patient and health system needs, provider competencies, patient safety, public protection, fiscal sustainability, integration with the healthcare system, and alignment with current priorities of Ontario's healthcare system. The MOH met with the HPRO Board on December 12, 2023, indicating that the documents have been approved and will be made public.

- **Non-Emergency Class Registration Amendments** – I have corresponded with Jason Maurier at the MOH and was informed that given the number and complexity of changes proposed, it will take several months to get to all the colleges' requests. Some colleges reported at the December 12th HPRO Board meeting that their Registration amendments have been approved.
- **College Performance Measurement Framework (CPMF)** - On December 5, 2023, the Ministry of Health soft launched the 2023 CPMF Reporting Tool and Technical Specifications Document. This document is in draft to provide colleges with an opportunity until December 15, 2023, to ask questions or request further clarification regarding any of the Measures or Evidence. The Ministry also announced that this year there would be no System Partners meeting prior to the completion of the 2023 CPMF reporting cycle. We look forward to the formal launch of the 2023 CPMF and reporting on our performance against best practices.

Federal Government

- **Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and Oral Health Statistics Program (OHSP)** - The Government of Canada has committed a significant investment of \$13 billion over five years (starting in 2023-2024) and \$4.4 billion in ongoing funding. Currently, a third of people living in Canada do not have dental insurance, and, in 2022, one in four Canadians avoided visiting an oral health professional due to cost. RDTs were sent notice of Health Canada's Information sessions on the CDCP. The December 12th session which I attended was directed towards oral health professionals that are patient facing and direct billers and provided an opportunity to ask questions. I suggested that statistics be collected to better understand the interface between oral health providers who are direct billers and dental technologists who are not. The findings may be used to inform policy decisions that prevent unauthorized practice and ensure a patient receives safe and quality dental prosthetics.
- **Access to Dental Technology Phase II** – CADTR has received conditional approval from the federal government for the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition initiative. The project, if approved will take place over 3 years starting in December 2023 and will be funded through the Foreign Credential Recognition Programs (FCRP) for approximately \$600,000. As the project sponsor and lead, the agreement will be signed by CDTO. Details will be released after the Agreement is approved by the Board and a public announcement made by the Minister.

Access to Oral Health Care

- [Dentistry for Everyone](#) – A new dental clinic in Toronto has received widespread attention for finding innovative ways to offer quality dental care and improve access to oral healthcare with more affordable fees. The article states that the clinic is doing this without compromising the quality of dental materials used and that all team members are registered health professionals.
- Canadian Federation of Dentistry (CFD) – In collaboration with the Denturists Group of Ontario (DGO)

will launch an event for a "Million Dollar Year of Dental Giving", a philanthropic plan that ties into Canada Dental Care Plan and Access to Care. The Canadian Federation of Dentistry's commitment to excellence, collaboration, and equitable care underpins every initiative they undertake. By embodying these values, we impact lives and bridge the gaps in dental healthcare accessibility. The CDTO and CDO Registrars have been invited to attend.

Health Profession Regulators of Ontario

- I continue to serve on the HPRO Management Committee who have met twice since the last CDTO Board meeting. The Committee recommended a new fee model, approved by the HPRO Board on December 13, 2023, which results in a slight decrease in annual fees for the College. It also revised and recommended 3 strategic priorities, Government Relations, EDI and Excellence in Member Services to achieve its purpose "HPRO advocates for ongoing regulatory improvement that supports the public interest". HPRO has engaged Rubicon Strategy to provide advice and guidance on how to proceed with HPRO's government relations priorities.
- The work of the HPRO Anti-Racism in Health Regulation (ARHR) Steering Committee wrapped up in September 2023 with the delivery of a comprehensive set of materials made available to the regulatory Colleges. An EDI network has been formed which will meet regularly to support work on the tools developed as part of the ARHR Project.

Oral Health Colleges

- The College continues to work closely with the RCDSO, CDHO and CDO. Its latest collaboration supports consistent and collaborative professional conduct processes, the first initiative being to develop an e-learning module on professional obligations for mandatory reporting. This module contains three sections: reporting requirements, example scenarios and consequences of failing to make a report. Registrants were informed of this new professional development opportunity on November 1, 2023.
- CDO and CDHO are exploring amalgamation as presented on CDO's December 8 Board agenda. This supports the CDO's strategic priority "CDO positions itself strategically for regulatory success by ensuring it has the appropriate capacity and resources to respond to new and emerging issues. Focus areas are staying open to opportunities for collaboration, sharing, or integration and maintaining or increasing capacity to stay nimble and effectively respond to change.

Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR)

- CADTR held a Board meeting on December 5, 2023, for which I am the Board Chair. J. Matera, CDTO Board Chair, also attended the meeting. We recognized the contributions of Glenn Hildebrandt, past Chair of the New Brunswick Dental Technician Association Examining Board, who passed away on November 22, 2023.
- The Board reviewed the draft 2024 Budget and proposed fee increases for both the Credential and Assessment services and CADTR members which will be finalized before December 31.
- The Board reviewed and approved the Performance Based Assessment (PBA) standard for the October 2023 administration, considered policy revisions and discussed 2 new initiatives, development of Single Discipline PBA and the Prior Learning Assessment Recognition (PLAR) program.
 - Fifty-three (53) candidates challenged the PBA with a 79% pass rate. Thirty-one (31) candidates will be issued a Certificate of Completion and are eligible to apply for registration in the province of their choice.
 - Seventeen (17) candidates challenged the Knowledge Based Assessment (KBA) on December 1, 2023. Results will be released mid-January 2024.

CORPORATE ACTIVITIES

- Canada Summer Job Program for 2024 is now open and the College will submit applications to hire youth that are eligible for 8 to 16 weeks of funding. The CDTO has benefitted from participating in this program since 2017.
- Human resource changes – the College has two vacancies in Communications and Governance that we will fill in 2024.
- Professional Development Staff
 - L. Cheng attended the Health Profession Regulators of Ontario’s Investigations and Hearings Meeting on November 10, 2023. This is a regular meeting between the regulatory health colleges to share knowledge and discuss emerging issues. Topics of discussion included joint investigations and providing complainants with an opportunity to respond to a registrant’s response.
 - L. Cheng and P. Bona attended a webinar held by Thentia Cloud, CDTO’s database provider, on December 13, 2023. There were demonstrations of new features including the ability to create online examinations, which will be helpful for jurisprudence and ethics requirements, creating reports to assess metrics such as application timelines, the ability for providers to submit information about their professional development offerings, and template capabilities that will improve efficiency with record keeping and applicants and registrants' communication.
 - [The College](#) was represented at the Canadian Network of Agencies for Regulation (CNAR) 16th Annual Conference in Vancouver, B.C. held on October 16-18. The Registrar gained valuable insights on issues that directly impact the College. Topics covered included truth and reconciliation, diversity and inclusion; human resources; discipline; investigations; governance; regulatory changes in B.C. and other relevant subjects.

COMMUNICATIONS & STAKEHOLDER RELATIONS

- Spectrum Day October 20, 2023 - CDTO had a booth at Spectrum Day in Toronto which was supported by L. Cheng and W. Chihaluca. We utilize this opportunity to engage with oral health professionals across Canada and learn about emerging issues in the environment. We look forward to returning in 2024.
- George Brown College November 9, 2023 – CDTO and CADTR presented to third year dental technology students. J. Rigby and P. Bona provided students with information on the College, career opportunities within dental technology, resources to aid them in completing CADTR credentialing, competency assessment, and registering with CDTO. James Matera, Board Chair addressed the class providing insights into the value of being an RDT and the role of the College. Students were given a chance to ask questions, and a survey distributed to collect feedback (40% response rate to date).
- Association of Dental Technologists of Ontario (ADTO) – I was invited to speak at the ADTO AGM held virtually on October 27, 2023.