



## 149<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes

Date: June 19, 2026, 9:02 AM – 3:19 PM (Virtual)

### Board of Directors

James (Jamie) Matera, RDT, Chair  
William (Bill) Van Evans, RDT, Vice-Chair  
Shanice Fontaine, RDT  
Mark Peters, RDT  
Dr. Rehan Siddiqui, Public Director  
Vernu Sivakkolundu, Public Director  
Susan St Louis, Public Director  
Clark Wilson, RDT  
Adela Witko, RDT

### Regrets

Franz Yagin, RDT

### Staff

Judith Rigby, Registrar & CEO  
Leanne Cheng, Governance and Regulatory Affairs  
Rose Far, QA, Policy and Strategic Projects  
Sonam Lhakyi, Conduct and Registrant Services  
Safyia Mohammed, Registration and Administration  
Ashney Patrick, Communications

### Guests

Angie Brennand, College of Nurses of Ontario  
Sandra Porteous, College of Nurses of Ontario

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the 149<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

### 2. Opening Remarks

V. Sivakkolundu delivered the land acknowledgement, and the Chair took a moment to thank Staff on behalf of the Board for their continued work.

### 3. Approval of Agenda

**MOTION:** THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

**Moved by:** A. Witko and seconded by W. Van Evans

**CARRIED**

### 4. Conflict of Interest Declaration

There were no changes to the annual conflict of interest forms or declarations for the items to be discussed at the meeting.

### 5. Consent Agenda

**MOTION:** THAT the consent agenda be approved as presented.

**Moved by:** R. Siddiqui and seconded by S. St Louis

**CARRIED**

### 6. Governance

#### 6.1 April 23, 2026 Board Workshop and April 24, 2026 Board Meeting Evaluation

The Board noted that the April 2026 Board and workshop evaluation results remained very strong, with both scoring above nine out of ten and all evaluation areas rated four or higher. Directors highlighted that agenda materials supported effective participation, discussions were inclusive and enabled meaningful contribution, and the Chair effectively



facilitated meetings and balanced decision-making. Workshop feedback reflected strong engagement on emerging topics, including artificial intelligence and sector risks, as well as positive interaction with students and future dental technologists. An opportunity was identified to provide alternative avenues for student participation to encourage broader engagement.

## **6.2 Third-Party Evaluation of the Board's Effectiveness**

The Chair presented the third-party evaluator, Abena Buahene's, independent report, cited as a best practice of the College Performance Measurement Framework. The Board met 12 out of 13 criteria assessed, demonstrating the Board's effectiveness in fulfilling its fiduciary role and responsibilities in serving the public interest. The remaining metric will be prioritized as an area for improvement and relates to ensuring clarity for the public, registrants, and system partners regarding who the directors are and the backgrounds and experiences they bring to the governance of the College.

## **7. Financial Matters**

### **7.1 Financial and Monitoring Reports**

J. Rigby presented the financial monitoring reports, noting that registration revenue exceeded conservative budget projections due to stronger-than-expected applicant numbers and earlier registrations. The increased number of registrants from George Brown Polytechnic (GBP) graduates may be a positive outcome associated with the outreach initiatives led by a dedicated working group, members of which are CDTO, GBP and the Association of Dental Technologists of Ontario (ADTO).

A Director asked about the significant variance in the examinations budget. J. Rigby explained that examination and credentialing services are delivered through the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR) and a new Service Agreement fee was introduced to ensure the sustainability of these services, resulting in unbudgeted costs during the year.

### **7.2 2025-2026 Strategic Initiatives Budget**

J. Rigby provided an overview of the College's Strategic Initiatives Budget (SIP), explaining that unlike the annual operating budget, SIP projects are multi-year initiatives funded through accumulated surpluses (unrestricted net assets) rather than registrant fees. She noted that requests for SIP funds require Board approval to be transferred from unrestricted net assets to internally restricted net assets.

J. Rigby emphasized that while unrestricted net assets currently exceed the Board's surplus retention target of six to twelve months of operating expenses, the funds provide important financial flexibility for future strategic initiatives, regulatory changes, governance modernization, technology upgrades, and other potential contingencies.

**MOTION:** THAT the Board approves:



1. The transfer of \$25,000 from unrestricted net assets to internally restricted net assets for strategic projects; and
2. Allocating these funds to the Ethical Principles and Standards Project for \$20,000 and the Governance By-Law and Policy Modernization Project for \$5,000.

**MOVED BY:** A. Witko and seconded by M. Peters

**CARRIED**

## **8. Regulatory Programs**

### **8.1 CADTR Credential and Assessment Services (CAS)**

S. Mohammed highlighted statistics showing strong demand for the June 2026 Knowledge-Based Assessment, with 48 candidates registered for the June sitting against a budgeted annual total of 60 candidates across two sittings. Updates were also provided on Performance-Based Assessments, including marker training, candidate supports, and planned single-discipline assessments for 2026.

During the discussions, a Director inquired about the source of the reported data and suggested identifying it in future reports.

Action Item: Staff to specify data source(s) in future CAS Reports.

### **8.2 Artificial Intelligence (AI) Registrant Survey**

Since February 2026, CDTO has been attending education sessions and conducted an environmental scan among system partners on guidance provided to registrants, Board and staff. Surveys conducted in March 2026 to the Board and May 2026 to registered dental technologists (RDTs) established a baseline understanding of AI adoption, risks, and opportunities. Results showed that AI is most used in digital dental design (40.5%) and ChatGPT was identified as the most frequently used tool (67.5%).

While 41.6% of respondents reported using AI often, many rated their understanding of AI as average or below average, and 83.7% expected AI use to increase over the next year. CDTO will use the information gathered to ~~As next steps, CDTO will~~ develop AI guidance for RDTs, staff and the Board.

## **9. Registrar's Update**

J. Rigby provided updates on the launch of the 2026-2027 registration renewal cycle, which opened earlier than in previous years to improve registrant access and reduce administrative burden. Ms. Rigby also reported that the College continues to be assessed as low risk by the Office of the Fairness Commissioner and remains actively engaged with system partners. Further updates were provided on CADTR initiatives, including the development of applicant remediation and self-directed learning resources, and efforts to strengthen credential recognition pathways and program sustainability.

Ms. Rigby highlighted opportunities for Board members to participate in national regulatory education events and discussed staff participation in a plain language



communications workshop to improve accessibility of College communications. She also reported on a temporary website outage caused by malicious internet traffic, noting that no privacy or security breach occurred and that additional cybersecurity protections are being implemented.

## 10. In-Camera Session

**MOTION:** THAT the Board move in-camera.

**MOVED BY:** S. St Louis and seconded by M. Peters

**CARRIED**

**MOTION:** THAT the Board move out of the in-camera session.

**MOVED BY:** M. Peters and seconded by R. Siddiqui

**CARRIED**

## 11. Strategic Plan

### 11.1 Strategic Dashboard

R. Far provided a high-level update on progress towards strategic initiatives since the April Board meeting, noting that these initiatives remain critical to advancing the College's mandate and strategic direction.

### 11.2 Ethics and Standards Project

R. Far noted that Phase 2 has been completed and that the project is transitioning from analysis and exploration to development and implementation. The presentation distinguished the roles of standards, competencies, and guidance, emphasizing that standards define minimum expectations and accountability requirements, competencies describe the knowledge and skills practitioners must possess, and guidance supports the application of standards in practice.

Next steps include development of draft standards by the consultant that are informed by subject matter experts and College data. The draft documents will be presented to the Quality Assurance Committee for review and recommendation to the Board to approve for consultation by December 2026. Final approval and publication of the Ethical Principles and Standards Framework with supporting implementation resources is targeted for completion by March 2027.

### 11.3 Communications Update

A. Patrick provided a communications update on the 2026 Oral Health Month campaign which resulted in 1,289 impressions and 168 engagements, while email communications generated 604 opens and 89 clicks. She also reported on outreach conducted at George Brown Polytechnic on April 23, 2026, which engaged 62 students. Feedback indicated that students valued hearing from practicing RDTs and learning about registration pathways and career opportunities.

A. Patrick also provided an update on the development of the CDTO mentorship program, which is intended to support learning, knowledge sharing, career development, and professional connections to aspiring RDTs. The mentorship framework consists of two



phases: an initial group mentorship model featuring orientation sessions, mentor presentations, and facilitated discussions, followed by optional one-on-one mentorship opportunities based on participant interest and mentor availability. The mentorship pilot remains on track for launch in late August or early September 2026.

#### **11.4 Unauthorized Practice**

L. Cheng presented on the College's role in protecting the public and outlined four pathways for addressing conduct concerns. Since 2015, addressing unauthorized practice has been a strategic priority, with more than \$81,000 invested in process development, enforcement, education, and awareness initiatives. Since 2018, the College has resolved 11 matters at the initial assessment stage, issued seven cease-and-desist letters that resulted in compliance, and escalated four matters to formal external enforcement proceedings.

#### **11.5 Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Education Modules**

A. Patrick provided an update on the development of five EDI education modules to support shared learning and a consistent understanding of EDI topics. The modules cover the College's commitment to EDI, unconscious bias, intersectionality and allyship, Truth and Reconciliation, and anti-racism in healthcare. The project has entered the quality assurance phase, with EDI consultants reviewing the modules and providing feedback.

### **12. Equity Leadership and Strategy – Lessons Learned**

S. Porteous and A. Brennand shared the College of Nurses of Ontario's (CNO) approach to advancing equity, emphasizing the importance of organizational commitment, leadership support, education, and broad system partner engagement. Key initiatives include workforce census data collection, equity impact assessments to identify unintended barriers, and ongoing engagement with equity-deserving groups and Indigenous partners.

S. Porteous and A. Brennand highlighted that meaningful equity work can be scaled for organizations of any size and does not necessarily require significant funding. Success factors include identifying internal champions, gathering and acting on demographic data, building long-term community partnerships, and leveraging external expertise. The Board discussed challenges related to collecting registrant demographic data and developing meaningful partnerships with equity deserving groups.

### **13. Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked everyone for their time and contributions towards moving the College forward. He announced that the next Board meeting will be held on September 25, 2026 and wished everyone a wonderful summer.

### **14. Meeting Adjournment**

**MOTION: THAT** the Board adjourns the 149<sup>th</sup> Board meeting at 3:19 PM.

**Moved BY:** W. Van Evans and seconded by S. St Louis

**CARRIED**