



**College of Dental Technologists of Ontario**  
Ordre des Technologues Dentaires de l'Ontario

# Governance Education Modules

MODULE 1: HEALTH PROFESSION REGULATION

# Note: Terminology Changes

- ▶ On December 16, 2022, CDTO's Board changed its By-Laws to update its terminology to clarify the role of the regulator and its governance structure.
- ▶ Previous terminology is still seen in the legislation and may be seen in older documents. Whenever there is a reference to any of these terms, they shall mean the same:

Previous Terminology	New Terminology
Council	Board of Directors
Council Member	Director
Elected Member	Elected Director
Public Member	Public Director
President	Chair
Vice-President	Vice-Chair
Member	Registrant



# LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Completion of Module 1 will provide you with an understanding of:

- How health professions are regulated within Ontario
- *The Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* and its role
- The legislation and regulations that govern dental technology in Ontario



# Healthcare in Canada



- ▶ Health system delivery is the responsibility of individual provinces and territories
- ▶ In Canada, healthcare is a right entitled to residents as described under the *Canada Health Act, 1985*
- ▶ This Act describes healthcare policy as the duty to:

***“to protect, promote and restore the physical and mental well-being of residents of Canada and to facilitate reasonable access to health services without financial or other barriers.” – The Canada Health Act, 1985, c6 s. 3***



# Health Profession Legislation

- ▶ Health professionals and the care they provide are governed under provincial legislation called “Acts”
- ▶ An Act is provincial law that has been passed by the Legislative Assembly of that province
- ▶ These Acts provide a common regulatory framework for how health professions are regulated in that province



Legislative  
Assembly  
of Ontario



# The Regulated Health Professions Act

In Ontario, the *Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991* (RHPA) provides a common legislative framework for all health professions recognized under it



Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)

Schedule 1 of the RHPA:  
Self Governing Health Professions

Schedule 2 of the RHPA:  
The Health Professions Procedural Code



# Purpose of the RHPA

The purpose of the RHPA is to serve and protect the public interest. It does so by providing:

- A framework for the regulation of health professionals
- Mechanisms to improve quality of care
- Consumers with freedom of choice in healthcare providers
- An open and accountable system of self governance



# Schedule 1: Self Governing Health Professions

- ▶ Schedule 1 of the RHPA contains a list of health professions that are regulated and their corresponding acts
- ▶ Some examples include:

Health Professions Act	Health Profession
Dental Hygiene Act, 1991	Dental Hygiene
Dental Technology Act, 1991	Dental Technology
Dentistry Act, 1991	Dentistry
Denturism Act, 1991	Denturism





# Self Regulation

- ▶ Health profession regulation in Ontario is a form of **self-regulation**. This means that the authority of governing the profession is allocated to the profession itself.
- ▶ In order to effectively self-regulate, direction and leadership within the governing bodies must **prioritize public interest over the profession's interest**.
- ▶ Under the self-regulating model, the profession bears the cost of regulation through registrant fees.



# Schedule 2: Health Professions Procedural Code

- ▶ Schedule 2 of the RHPA sets out the common rules of procedure for all regulatory health colleges concerning:
  - Registration processes
  - Handling complaints
  - Conducting investigations
  - Discipline hearings
  - Fitness to practice hearings
  - Quality assurance program
  - Patient relations program
  - Mandatory reporting
  - Funding for victims of sexual abuse by registrants
  - Appeal processes regarding registration and complaint decisions



# Protecting Patients Act, 2017

Made changes to the RHPA with a primary focus of strengthening the prevention of and response to sexual abuse of patients. Changes included:

- ▶ Expanding the definition of a patient to include the one year following the end of the patient-practitioner relationship. Sexual contact during this period is sexual abuse.
- ▶ Prohibiting gender-based terms, conditions or limitations. For example, a registrant cannot be prohibited from practising on female patients but permitted to practise on male patients.
- ▶ Funding for therapy and counselling is now available at the time a complaint is filed rather than upon a Discipline finding. This means that patients can access funding and support sooner.



# Dental Technology Act, 1991

- ▶ Each profession under Schedule 1 of the RHPA has its own profession-specific Act
- ▶ Under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991*, dental technology became a regulated health profession in Ontario



# Title Protection

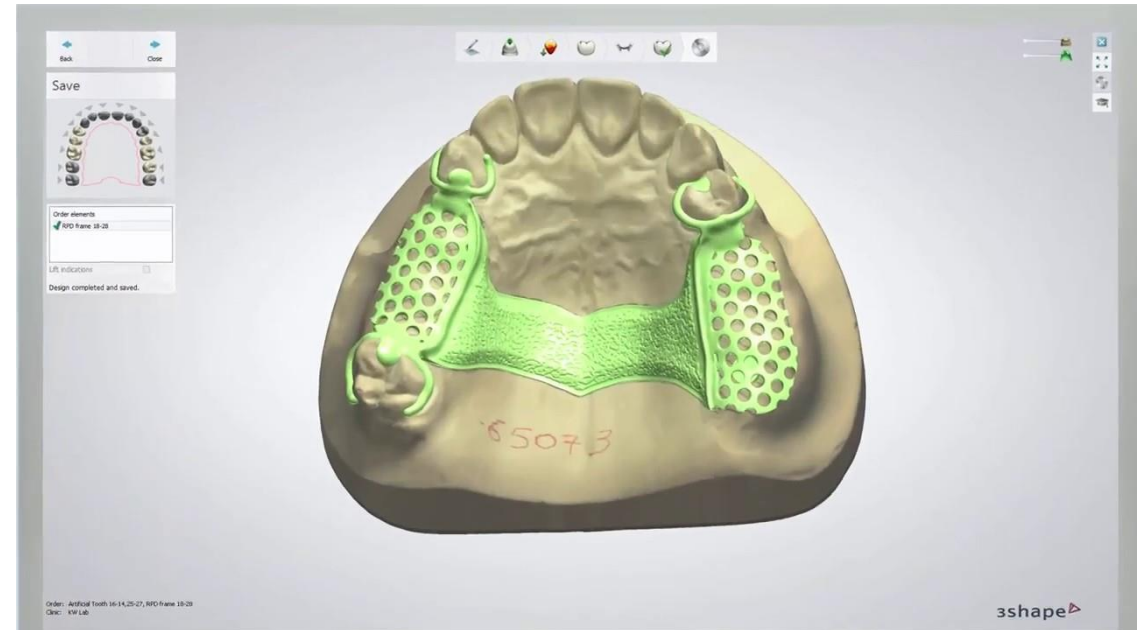
- ▶ Only registrants of a regulatory health college can use its restricted title.
- ▶ Under section 7 of the *Dental Technology Act, 1991*:
  - ▶ **No person other than a registrant of the College of Dental Technologists of Ontario shall use the title “dental technologist”.** Registrants are known as Registered Dental Technologists or RDTs.
  - ▶ **No person shall use the title “dental technician” or a variation or abbreviation of it**



# Dental Technology: Scope of Practice

- ▶ The scope of practice of an RDT is defined in the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* as:

***“The practice of dental technology is the design, construction, repair or alteration of dental prosthetic, restorative and orthodontic devices.” - Dental Technology Act, 1991, c. 23, s. 3.***



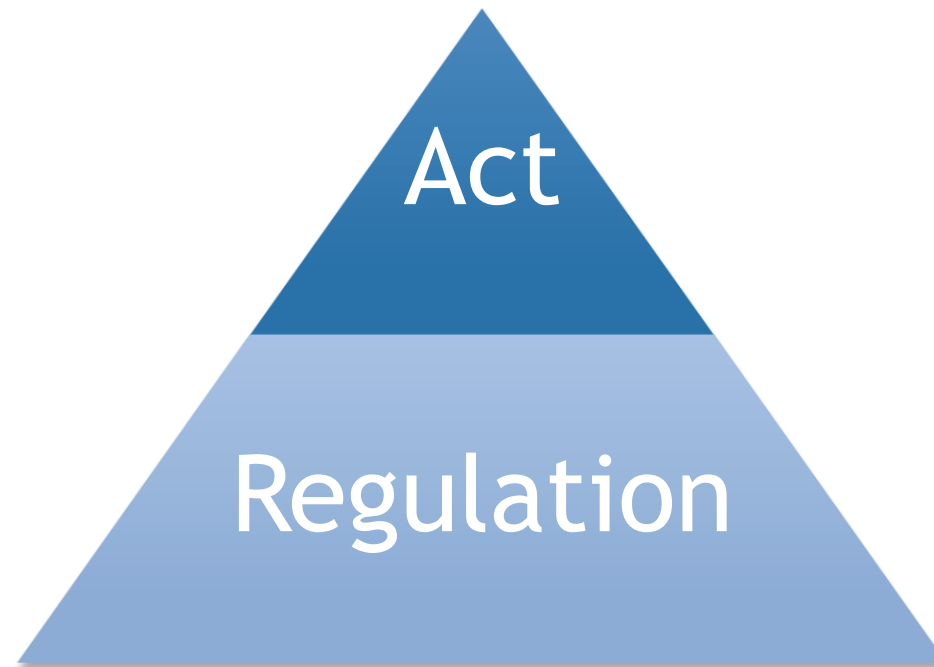
# Controlled Acts

- ▶ The RHPA defines 14 activities (“Controlled Acts”) considered to have a high risk of harm to the general public if not performed by professionals who are qualified to do so
- ▶ Each profession has a scope of practice, but only some professions are able to perform controlled acts. (e.g., dentists, nurses, physicians)
- ▶ **RDTs are not authorized to perform any controlled acts**



# Regulations

- ▶ Under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* additional laws termed “regulations” exist, which contribute to the regulation of the dental technology profession
- ▶ The regulations that fall under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* are:
  - General
  - Registration
  - Professional Misconduct
  - Examinations





# General Regulation

The General Regulation under the *Dental Technology Act, 1991* is divided into **3** subjects:

- 1. Quality Assurance:** Outlines the components of the Quality Assurance Program for RDTs. Participation in the program is mandatory and is intended to promote continuing competency and continuing quality improvement.
- 2. Advertisements:** Outlines the conditions of an advertisement with respect to an RDT's practice
- 3. Notice of Meetings and Hearings:** Outlines the Registrar's duty to publish notice of meetings and hearings



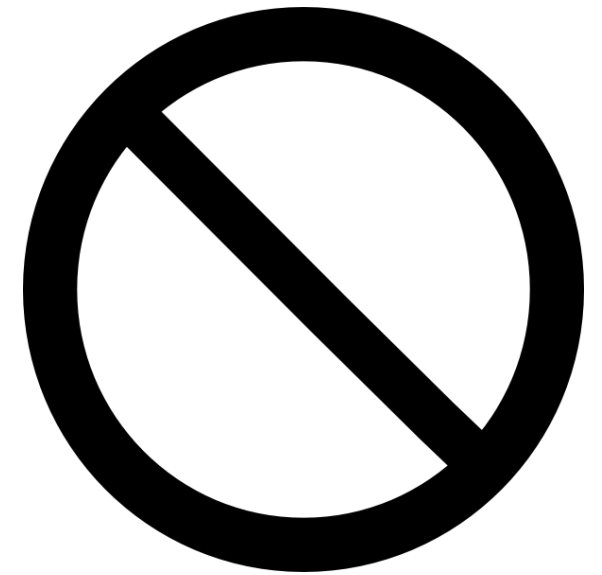
# Registration Regulation

The Registration Regulation outlines the minimum requirements for initial and ongoing registration as an RDT.



# Professional Misconduct Regulation

- ▶ The Professional Misconduct Regulation is a comprehensive list of acts that **must be avoided**
- ▶ Engaging in these activities may constitute professional misconduct. For example:
  - ▶ Treating or attempting to treat a condition that the registrant knew or ought to have known was beyond their expertise or competence.
  - ▶ Abusing a patient verbally or physically.



# Examination Regulation



- ▶ Ensures that CDTO examinations are a reliable and valid measure of a candidate's competency in knowledge, skills and ability for the practice of dental technology in Ontario
- ▶ Outlines the general rules pertaining to the number of times an applicant may take an exam



# End of Module 1

Great! You completed Module 1 of 3 of our Governance Education Modules.

## Next Steps:

### 1. Complete the [Module 1 Quiz](#)

- The quiz will take approximately 10 minutes. Results will automatically be sent to CDTO. This component is an eligibility requirement for elections to the Board of Directors.

### 2. Proceed to Module 2: Health Regulatory Colleges

