

## Canadian Dental Specialties Association Report to the Royal College of Dentists of Canada

August 21, 2024

The Canadian Dental Specialties Association (CDSA) was established in 2011 and is now in its 13<sup>th</sup> year of operation. The CDSA remains committed to its mandate of representing dental specialties in Canada as the collective national voice of dental specialists. The CDSA believes that representation and participation as a stakeholder in other national dental organizations is a key step in fulfilling our organization's directives. The CDSA currently sends representatives to the annual council meeting of the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC), is a voting member on the RCDC National Dental Specialty Exam (NDSE) committee, holds observer status with the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF), is a voting member at the Canadian Dental Association (CDA) AGM, and holds an annual joint meeting with the CDA.

The CDSA website [www.cdsa-acsd.ca](http://www.cdsa-acsd.ca) identifies the Mission and Objectives of the CDSA, our Bylaws, and contact information for CDSA board members.

### 2024-25 CDSA Board Members

CDSA Board Member	Specialty	CDSA Executive Position
Dr. Caroline Nguyen	Association of Prosthodontists of Canada (APC)	Immediate Past-President
Dr. Trish Lukat	Canadian Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology (CAOMR)	President
Dr. Lisa Johnson	Canadian Academy of Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology and Oral Medicine (CAOMP/OM)	Vice-President
Dr. Aditya Patel	Canadian Academy of Periodontology (CAP)	Treasurer
Dr. Paul Andrews	Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (CAPD)	USC&LS Representative CDCP Working Group
Dr. Duy Dat Vu	Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (CAPD)	CDCP Working Group
Dr. Jean-Charles Doucet	Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (CAOMS)	
Dr. Keith Da Silva	Canadian Academy of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD)	CDCP Working Group
Dr. Derek Decloux	Canadian Academy of Dental Anesthesia (CADA)	
Dr. Ian Watson	Canadian Academy of Endodontics (CAE)	

The CDSA sincerely appreciates invitation by the RCDC to present the highlights of our organization's activities since the last annual report in September 2023. The following is a summation of noteworthy issues over the past year:

#### 1. National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

The CDSA appointed Dr. Trish Lukat as our representative to the RCDC NDSE committee, which was organized to support handover of the NDSE administration from the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) to the



RCDC. The CDSA firmly believes that a national standardized examination process is essential to ensuring entry level dental specialists have the necessary competencies to provide appropriate and safe oral health care to the Canadian public and fully supports the RCDC for their future administrations.

2. **Recognition of Dental Anaesthesia as a national specialty of dentistry**

The Canadian Academy of Dental Anaesthesia (CADA) was recognized as a national specialty of dentistry and joined the CDSA board in 2023. The representative for CADA is Dr. Derek Decloux and he joined the CDSA board meeting for the first time in September 2023.

3. **Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)**

The CDSA and its members met multiple times with the CDA (Dr. Heather Carr and Dr. Aaron Burry) to discuss the involvement of specialists in the Canadian Dental Care Plan. Multiple members of CDSA voiced concerns that specialists were minimally consulted by the government regarding the Canadian Dental Care Plan, which resulted in numerous deficiencies for both patients and providers.

The CDSA also met multiple times with Health Canada to voice specialists' concerns with many aspects of the program including, but not limited to:

- Enrolment requirements associated with concerning, unclear terms and conditions.
- Creating a rupture of the doctor/patient relationship by interposing an insurance company as an intermediate.
- No consultation of dental specialties associations in the drafting stages of the CDCP.
- Impact on existing provincial dental programs.
- Many specialists' codes are lacking in the current plan.
- Consultation with CDSA commenced in the final month prior to release of the CDCP, which allowed for negligible input.

Following the launch of the CDCP, Health Canada requested nominations from CDSA to be members of their Engagement and Communications Working Group, Preauthorization and Administrative Processes Committee as well as for their Fee Setting Working Group. CDSA representatives are below:

1. Engagement and Communication Working Group: Dr. Paul Andrews
2. Preauthorization and Administrative Processes Working Group: Dr. Keith Da Silva
3. Fee Setting Working Group: Dr. Paul Andrews, Dr. Duy Dat Vu, Dr. Keith Da Silva

While the CDSA appreciates that ongoing advocacy by the CDA and the provincial/territorial dental associations has led to significant improvements in the CDCP throughout the past several months, the specific concerns expressed by the various dental specialties remain largely unaddressed.

4. **Collaboration between RCDC and CDSA**

As the two national organizations focused exclusively on dental specialties, the RCDC and CDSA have closely aligned interests. Ms. Amandine Perdebat of the RCDC is a regular guest at CDSA board meetings, and the CDSA President and Vice-President are invited guests to RCDC board meetings. The RCDC kindly reached out to the CDSA to discuss possible collaborative efforts on a social media campaign to showcase the different dental specialties, as well as to engage with dental specialty residents at the Canadian universities. A principal goal of these initiatives is to enhance awareness and promote engagement of residents and new dental specialists with both the RCDC and with their national dental specialty organizations. The CDSA looks forward to an ongoing partnership with the RCDC in these endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Trish Lukat  
President, CDSA

