

**CDRAF 2024 Report to
Royal College of Dentists of Canada
September 2024**

The Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF) is pleased to present this update on activities during the past 12 months.

1. CDRAF Officers – 2023-2024

The following appointments were made, effective October 13, 2023.

Dr. Arun Misra, Chair
Dr. Randall Croutze, Vice-Chair
Dr. Chris Hacker, Treasurer

2. National Dental Specialty Examination (NDSE)

The Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) provides regular updates to the CDRAF Board on its progress on the NDSE project plan, including timelines and status of meetings, communication, financials, examination development, delivery and results, and competency profile review.

The following CDRAF Board members are members of the NDSE Committee:

- Randall Croutze
- Caroline Daoust
- Daniel Faulkner

Jack Gerrow attends NDSE Committee meetings as an observer. The committee has worked well and is providing in depth oversight of the NDSE process.

3. National Competency Standards for General Dentists

A working group comprised of one representative from each of the CDRAF, ACFD, CDAC and NDEB developed a draft framework of Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs) for a beginning dental practitioner in Canada that was widely circulated to stakeholders and approved by the CDRAF Board at its meeting in February 2024.

The attached document (Appendix A) was approved by the National Dental Examining Board of Canada, the Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry and the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. CDRAF has formally requested that the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada include the KSA document in the Accreditation Standards for DDS/DMD programs as soon as possible.

4. National Competency Standards for Dental Specialists

At the April CDRAF Board meeting, a pilot project was approved involving the development of Knowledge, Skills and Abilities (KSAs) for a beginning Periodontist in Canada. This pilot is being conducted in collaboration with the Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC).

If the process is determined to be successful, the same process will be used to develop KSAs for the other 9 specialties by 2027.

A draft of the Periodontics KSA's is being considered by the CDRAF Board for approval to circulate to stakeholders for feedback. The Working Group will consider stakeholder feedback and present a final document to the April CDRAF Board meeting.

5. Commission on Dental Accreditation (CDAC)

CDRAF continues to support CDAC's new governance structure with CDRAF representation on CDAC's Board of Directors as well as representation on its Standards Review and Accreditation Review Committees. CDRAF is collaborating with CDAC on a new funding model and on promoting greater transparency of accreditation reports.

6. CDRAF Multi-Stakeholder Working Group to review Certification Processes

One of the CDRAF strategic plan initiatives is to "Collaborate with the National Dental Examining Board of Canada and other stakeholders to ensure that the certification processes for graduates of accredited and non-accredited undergraduate dental programs are fair, reliable, valid, accessible, and timely".

The CDRAF Board established a working group comprised of representatives from ACFD, NDEB and CDRAF to review the current examination processes and make recommendations for enhancement and modification where necessary.

The Working Group has met several times over the past year, including meeting with Fairness Commissioners. Input and support has been provided to NDEB.

CDRAF supported the ACFD's application to Employment and Social Development Canada for funding a new pathway to facilitate the certification process for internationally trained dentists who are closer to meeting the minimum competency standards of a Canadian trained dental graduate. Jack Gerrow and Dan Faulkner are on the ACFD Project Steering Committee. Jack is also on the ACFD Gap Program Assessment & Training Working Group.

The Steering Committee has encouraged the project developers to ensure that the project stays connected with the goals stated in the grant application which are to have a more efficient, less expensive process. The pilot will require applicants to have taken and failed the NDECC which is a concern.

7. Meeting with Fairness Commissioners/Directors

In December 2023, members of the CDRAF Board met with Fairness Commissioners/Directors from five provinces who shared concerns with examination processes and timelines for internationally trained dentists. It was a productive meeting and the CDRAF Multi-Stakeholder Working Group is taking the Fairness Commissioners' feedback into consideration as part of its review of the certification processes.

8. Standard on Oral Health Care Provided Remotely.

The CDRAF Board has established a Working Group to develop a national standard on Oral Health Care Provided Remotely. The Working Group held its first meeting August and will report on progress to the Board.

9. Embrace and Promote Cultural Safety, Reconciliation and Humility

The CDRAF strategic plan has 'Embracing and Promoting Cultural Safety, Reconciliation and Humility' as a strategic objective. It includes Land Acknowledgements in each meeting, workshops, discussions and presentations from Indigenous leaders.

During the August CDRAF Board meeting, the Board was provided with a moving, highly personal and effective presentation by Mr. Kevin Chief.

10. Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI)

There are regular education sessions at meetings, together with annual reports from each DRA on internal and external practices within their jurisdictions.

Appendix A: Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities (KSAs) for a Beginning Dental Practitioner in Canada