



## **Association of Alberta Dental Assistants**

### **Activities Report**

**April 2023 – April 2024**

Over this past year the AADA has been training our new Corporate Agent, Parliamentarian and recording secretary to replace Dianne Hennig. Maeghan Heck RDA officially took the reins in October 2022 but was delayed in her new role due to the overwhelming renewal season for 2023. Now that we were able to offer Alberta RDA's a Professional Liability package this 2023 renewal season which massively increased our society membership. Maeghan's role with the CDAA kept her extremely busy with the increase in membership as the CDAA's membership coordinator. Maeghan has also been busy arranging and AADA phone line, developing a relationship with the Servus Credit Union at the Airdrie branch and updating the AADA website which included a Team meet with Arlene Pettifer AADA Resource Librarian and Lathanial Ruscito from Maxident in November 2023.

**In the 2022-2023 term,** AADA corresponded with several organizations and hopes to meet with the newly elected government to advance our profession and our association once the May 2023 Alberta Elections are complete.

**July, 2022:** Finalized the Professional Liability insurance with Prolink. We were able to incur a rate of \$16 for the 2022-2023 term with Prolink. We finalized reporting periods and templates for the society members to use for recording their member lists.

**January 10, 2023:** The ADA interim CEO Dr. Tony Odenbach reached out to us via email to invite us to meet with them at their board meeting taking place on January 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 in Edmonton. The newly formed ADA board is hoping to establish a relationship and discuss matters of mutual interest, specifically a lack of qualified RDA's and challenges around obtaining qualified staff. With such short notice our AADA board was not able to attend these meeting

dates but responded via email a request to arrange another date, but requesting more notice than 2 weeks as we will require time to prepare.

**January 12, 2023:** Email from Jocelyn Mouyios from Vegreville Dental Centre looking for ideas about how she can get her ideas out regarding the issues she is seeing of the difficulties accessing educational institutions for rural residents all over Alberta and throughout Canada. This matter will be brought forward to the AADA Board at the April 1, 2023 board meetings to discuss how we can assist in this matter that potentially is a concern for many of our members.

**March 6, 2023:** An email from Dr. Tony Odenbach the ADA Interim CEO requesting to arrange a meeting with the AADA board at their Edmonton board meetings taking place April 3 and April 4 2023. The AADA has two board members Kimberly Free RDA and Arlene Pettifer available to attend on Tuesday April 2023. The ADA has given us 1 hour to begin building a relationship on common items of interest and concern with our professions.

## **GOALS for 2023-2024**

The AADA is committed to pursue the following goals in the upcoming term:

### **1. Continue to address HPA concerns with government, including:**

Language used in the HPA does confuse many people when the term “member” is used in this legislation (connotation relates to membership associations). We will continue to advocate for a change in language in the HPA to the more relevant designation of “Registrant”.

Accountability to “Registrants” is lacking when there is no requirement in the HPA for Colleges to hold AGMs, for Colleges to readily accommodate “Registrants” as observers at Council meetings and Hearings, and allowing Colleges to forego elections to Council in lieu of appointments. We will continue to advocate for compulsory AGMs and election of Registrants in good standing to the College Council.

We will continue to advocate for transparency to “Registrants” and provision of a simple process for pre-registration to attend College Hearings, easily accessible dates of these hearings, and ability for “Registrants” to contact College Council members directly.

We will continue to advocate for restrictions on the role of a College to preclude them from conducting the business of an Association. This would include provision of professional development, benefits, services and any other traditional provisions of an association.

We will continue to advocate for provisions in the HPA to allow us to change the title of our profession to “Dental Nurses”. This is a commonly used title in other commonwealth countries and more accurately reflects the current training requirements and scope of practice of our profession in Alberta. It will more readily support the argument for expansion of our scope of practice into areas of direct patient treatment and unsupervised practice of licensed activities for our profession.

**2. Continue to develop and conduct surveys of RDAs in AB** to update our stats on workplace injuries and illnesses, to determine how RDAs are obtaining their professional development, to ask questions about continuing competency requirements and determine priorities for AADA to address the concerns of AB RDAs.

**3. Continue to advocate for WCB coverage for dental staff in Alberta.** AADA will follow up in 2023 with the newest elected Minister, and monitor government actions in changes to WCB. AADA will also pursue support from the Executive Director of Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Program Development for WCB for dental staff. This is a follow up to our meeting with OHS on May 11, 2018 when we discussed issues brought forward by RDAs about safety concerns in the dental workplace, a need to identify a process for industry assessment of hazards, and to clarify a process for reporting when there is no WCB in place at a dental workplace. With the changing Ministerial portfolios and changes in governments, this process is not going to be quick or easy, however we will achieve this goal with ongoing pursuit and persistence.

**4. Meet with the new provincial Association for Dentists** to discuss issues brought forward by RDAs about employer conduct and determine what steps can be taken to improve the work environment for dental staff. We will use the survey results obtained from the CDN DAA surveys conducted in November 2018 and March 2019 to inform our discussions.

The AADA is pleased to have a voice for our members at the national table and we look forward to making significant contributions towards national initiatives taken on by the CDN DAA. Crystal Wall RDA is our Alberta Director to the Canadian Dental Assistants Association since April 2023. She will continue in her 3 year term to June 2026.

Our best wishes to our colleagues across Alberta and across Canada for a progressive year ahead for our profession.

**Submitted by:**

Kimberly Free RDA

Board Chair – Association of Alberta Dental Assistants

Maeghan Heck RDA

AADA Corporate Agent