

1. Registrar Welcome and Announcements

Stacy Bryan, College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS) Registrar, welcomed everyone to this year's AGM. She began by acknowledging that the location she was participating from was on the unceded Mi'kmaw territory. She acknowledged that we work, live, and benefit from this land. We continue to do our part in educating ourselves and our community in an effort to repair our relationship with the Mi'kmaw community. She also acknowledged the existence of people of African descent in Nova Scotia for over 400 years, stating that we honour and offer gratitude to the ancestors who came before us to this land and the commitment to not let our history be lost.

Since the AGM was held by the CDHNS virtually, once again, the processes and protocols were outlined by the Registrar.

2. Chair's Address and Welcome

Allison Craig, CDHNS Council Chair, personally welcomed all in attendance and thanked everyone for attending this virtual AGM.

This fiscal year spanned two Chair's terms. Hilary Boudreau, CDHNS Chair, served as Chair until June 30, 2021. Hilary was thanked for her commitment and dedication to the dental hygiene profession and the CDHNS Council. Allison also acknowledged Stacy Bryan, CDHNS Registrar, for her attention to detail, strong work ethic, and leadership abilities. She spoke on COVID-19 and commended Stacy for guiding the practice of dental hygiene through another year of changes due to the pandemic. Allison then provided a summary of the activities that have occurred over this past year. All of these were outlined in the CDHNS Annual Report 2020/2021.

Regulation Revisions Update: Allison provided an update on the proposed amendments to the CDHNS Regulations, and a new legislative framework that the government is proposing for health profession regulatory bodies. *First, with respect to proposed amendments to our regulations.*

As we approached our 10th anniversary under our current legislation, the CDHNS launched a comprehensive review of the Dental Hygienist Regulations. This review was completed with the following lenses — (1) areas that are causing barriers to Nova Scotians' ability to access oral health care, (2) areas that require clarity, for example, ones that are often misinterpreted, and (3) registration/licensing areas that require update to facilitate safe, efficient, and effective processes. The ultimate goal is to have clear, effective regulations that will help to improve the oral health of all Nova Scotians. Since 2009, we have been researching the literature, including best practices for regulatory bodies, and compiling feedback from a variety of sources, including you, as practitioners.

At the 2019 AGM, Jen Clark, then Chair of the CDHNS, outlined the areas that had been identified for revision.

Considerable work has been done by a dedicated team of volunteers together with Stacy and legal counsel, this includes Michele Brennan, Patricia Grant, Shauna Hachey, and Joyce Lind. Submissions to government have been made after extensive consultation, with you and other stakeholders, regarding our proposed changes.

Not surprisingly, with so much happening at the Department of Health and Wellness since the onset of the pandemic, there have been some delays in reviewing our submissions. Last Spring, the Department informed us they are looking to move the suggested revisions forward in two separate phases, with the simpler and time sensitive amendments happening in Phase 1, and other revisions, including some of the scope of practice areas, and contra-indications, being reserved for Phase 2.

Last year, we had reported that government had originally anticipated Phase 1 of the revisions would be passed by the end of 2021. We now have reason to believe that before the end of this calendar year, some of our proposed amendments will be passed, including general updates to terminology, enshrining the 600 practice hour requirement in the regulations, tweaking our registration and licensing processes to align with best practice, removing the requirement for the self-initiation module, clarifying the requirements for practising as a corporation, and formalizing the process for authorizing Registered Dental Hygienists to perform orthodontic and permanent restorative procedures. (~2 minutes 45 seconds)

The two principal areas that are not included in Phase 1, but are in the queue for Phase 2, are the requested revisions to agents and drugs authorized to be ordered, prescribed, and administered, including the addition of antibiotics and changes to local anaesthetic administration; and the revisions to the contra-indications section of the regulations where we are looking to remove unnecessary barriers to care. We have no timeline as yet for that, and the new development that I will describe shortly, may impact what a timeline might look like.

I want to express my thanks to the Committee for their hard work over the past several years on these revisions. I would also like to thank the members of the two Committees that were formed to review the policies for orthodontic and permanent restorative procedures.

*The Department has issued a Discussion Paper around the possibility of bringing in one new Act that will provide common foundational requirements for all regulated health professions in the Province. The new legislation would see a common purpose clause for all Colleges, common practices for regulatory processes like complaints and hearings **and** registration and licensing, a standardized composition of the governing Council or Board for all regulators, requirements for standardization of information that will be publicly available by each regulator, standardized committees including a governance committee and an audit committee, and a variety of other changes designed to remove the various inconsistencies in regulatory approaches that currently exist in the 21 statutes that regulate health professions in Nova Scotia.*

If this new Act is passed, it would mean that the existing statutes for all regulated health professions will be repealed at some point, including our Dental Hygienists Act, and each profession would then have a separate set of regulations that would address profession-specific matters such as scope of practice.

There is much uncertainty at this time about what this new legislation might actually look like and what consequences it may have for each profession. We continue to work with the other regulated health professions, the Regulated Health Professions Network, and the Department to have input into this legislation and the process for its development. At present, the Department is aiming for 2023 as the timeline for bringing some professions under this common foundation legislation, with others to come in at a later time. So, stay tuned to see what this legislation might look like, and what implications this legislation may have on the regulation of our own profession. We are not anticipating this legislation will have any significant day to day implications for the practice of our registrants, but it will likely have implications on some of our regulatory processes and practices. We continue to keep a watchful eye on it and will update you as required when additional information is available.

3. CDHA Presentation

Prior to the start of the AGM, Wendy Stewart, (CDHA NS Director and CDHA President) presented a pre-recorded greeting from the CDHA, which included an update of the CDHA activities that occurred over the last year.

4. Call to Order

Allison Craig, Chair, called the Annual General Meeting of the CDHNS to order at 9:30 am.

5. Approval of Agenda

The Chair called for a motion to adopt the agenda for the CDHNS May 14, 2022 AGM.

Motion 1: Move that the agenda be adopted as presented. Moved by: Jackie White (Whiteside); Seconded by Wendy Stewart (Halifax). 234/337 voted. 234 Approved. 0 Against 0 Abstentions; Motion carried.

6. Approval of CDHNS AGM Minutes

The draft minutes were circulated in the Spring 2022 Newsletter and a copy was provided to individuals upon entry. All CDHNS registrants had the opportunity to download the electronic version of the agenda and minutes through the Member Portal in the Library of the database.

Motion 2: Move that the CDHNS AGM Minutes of May, 2021 be approved as presented. Moved by: Pardis Onvani (Kentville); Seconded by Leigha Rock (Bedford). 244/337 Voted. 244 Approved. 0 Against 0 Abstentions; Motion carried.

7. Indigenous Health Equity-Dr. Brent Young live presentation.

This presentation provided foundational knowledge regarding indigenous health equity in Canada. It explored the history and ongoing impacts of racism and colonialism as key determinants of Indigenous health. This presentation enabled the participants to navigate practical tools that relate to Indigenous health equity. Some of these tools included anti-racism, cultural humility, cultural safety, and trauma-informed practices. The presentation addressed how dental hygienists can leverage their position of privilege to address Indigenous health equities at a systemic level.

8. Annual Report/Audit Statements

Allison Craig highlighted that the Annual Report, which included the audit, is for the general public audience, in addition to the registrants, and includes a summary of the operations and activities of the College for the fiscal year of November 1, 2020 to October 31, 2021. She then called upon the Registrar, Stacy Bryan, to provide highlights about the financial statements published in the CDHNS Annual Report.

Motion 3: Moved that the Annual Report, including the Audit statements for November 1, 2020 - Oct 31, 2021, be accepted: Moved by Patricia Grant (Halifax); Seconded by Gail Firlotte (Halifax). 246/337 Voted. 241 Approved. 5 Abstained; Motion carried.

9. Quality Assurance Committee Report

Sydney Nelson, Chair, CDHNS Quality Assurance Committee (QAC) submitted her report in advance. The report was emailed to all registrants and was posted in the Registrant Library, prior to the AGM. In this report, Sydney also encouraged people who were wondering about the results of the audit that took place in Feb 2022, several months past this fiscal year-end, to review the results published in the CDHNS's Spring 2022 newsletter.

The Chair's report included information about the Audit results for registrants whose cycle ended on Dec 31, 2020. A total of 43 registrants were audited on Feb 20, 2021. (One individual who was originally selected, was removed from the audit list once it was discovered that a manual system entry error had incorrectly included them in the cycle ending Dec 31, 2020).

39: Met requirements	4: Had not met requirements – these individuals met their requirements by their assigned deadlines.
0: Registrants pending (unable to determine if the requirements were met; more information was required)	3 extensions were granted (due to extenuating circumstances), for whom action plans were completed and reviewed at the time of the audit.

In the submitted report, Sydney highlighted a few points on behalf of the Committee. It is recommended that CDHNS registrants:

- Refer to the updated CDHNS Continuing Competency Cycles Frequently Asked Questions document, found on the public side of the website, for easy access.
- **Multiple errors were observed regarding category allocation.** It appears that many registrants are allocating their courses using the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia's category definitions, or outdated CDHNS category definitions prior to 2018. The categories are not the same. *Carefully review the CDHNS CCP Requirements document to ensure you are entering your learning activity in the correct category.*
- It is often the case that the QA Committee requests additional information due to lack of documentation for CC courses. The lack of documentation makes it difficult to determine the eligible hours and/ or appropriate category allocations. To eliminate these requests, please obtain (and provide) as much verification for your CC courses as possible, (e.g., an agenda with start/end times, detailed course outline/ description). If you upload this information onto your CDHNS Professional Development Record, it will be easily accessible to you.
- It is strongly recommended that CDHNS registrants obtain their CC credit hours throughout the entire course of their cycle to fulfill your professional responsibility. In closing, I would like to say thank you to Sonya Bishop (Chair to Nov 2021) and Sandra Rhodenizer (Vice Chair to Nov 2021) for their years of dedication and service to this Committee. And I would also like to welcome the two newest members of our Committee – Caroline Bell and Jennifer Steele – who started with this Committee in November 2021.

During the AGM, Allison provided registrants with a moment to remind themselves about the submitted report and then declared the QAC report filed.

10. Report of the Nominations Committee

Allison called on Mallory Brent, Chair of the Nominations Committee, to report on behalf of the Committee about the nominations process and the election of the CDHNS Council Nominees. Allison also reminded everyone that the information on the makeup of the Council and the current serving Council members is contained in the Annual Report.

Mallory stated that the Nominations Committee was comprised of Members from CDHNS Council. The 2021 – 2022 Nominations Committee consisted of Mallory Brent, Committee Chair, Michele Brennan, then public member of Council, and councillor Raelynn MacLean. The call for Council nominations and Council criteria were published in the Winter 2021 newsletter. The Nominations Committee received three complete eligible nominations for the three vacant Council positions.

11. Election of Council Members

Mallory Brent continued: The following CDHNS registrants were nominated according to the rules set out by the CDHNS, and have accepted the nomination for election to the CDHNS Council, with their terms in effect starting July 1, 2022 and expiring June 30, 2024.

- Shelby Devan, Danielle Newell, and Neala Spencer

The listing of the slate of all nominees, including a photo, a brief biography and a statement of intent, was published in the Spring 2022 edition of the CDHNS Newsletter. Mallory welcomed all three individuals to Council (joining and rejoining).

12. Recognitions and Awards (CDHNS Volunteers and Committee Members)

Hilary Boudreau, Vice Chair, acknowledged that the CDHNS is indebted to its myriad of volunteers who selflessly dedicate their time and talents to serve the CDHNS through Committee work, educational sessions,

and providing feedback to surveys and CDHNS documents. The hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated and these contribute to the operational excellence of the College. A very special thank you went out to all outgoing members of the Committees.

Retiring Council Members

Hilary Boudreau, Vice Chair, thanked the outgoing Councillors for their service on Council and brought forward the highlights below:

- In Feb 2022, the provincial government advised the CDHNS of the end of two public Council members' terms - Michele Brennan and Dale Keefe. Their insights, expertise, and dedication throughout their time on Council with the CDHNS was greatly appreciated. Both these outgoing Councillors were thanked by the CDHNS in February, upon receiving notice, but Hilary noted that Council wanted to bring their contributions forward to registrants during this AGM.
 - Michele Brennan served on CDHNS Council as a Public member for six consecutive years. She served in a variety of ways, including the Bylaws Committee, and as a Member-at-Large on the Executive. She remains part of the CDHNS Legislative Committee.
 - Dale Keefe served 2 years on CDHNS Council as a Public member. He began his first term on Council in November 2019.
- Allison Craig is completing her sixth consecutive year on Council, including this past year as Council Chair. She also served as Chair on the Ownership Linkage Committee until she took over as Council Chair. As a token of appreciation, a donation was made, in her name, to the charity of her choice, *South Shore RootEd School Food Program-Everybody Eats*.
- Joyce Lind returned to Council after serving a full six consecutive years on Council to June 2017. As a token of appreciation, a donation was made, in her name, to the charity of her choice, the *Ally Centre of Cape Breton*.

13. Adjournment: Allison Craig declared the meeting adjourned at 10:36 am. **Next year's AGM will be Saturday, May 13, 2023.**