

Approved September 18, 2009

**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA**

**Meeting 2009 - 2**

**May 29, 2009**

The second meeting of the 2009 Provincial Dental Board was held on May 29, 2009 at the Provincial Dental Board boardroom, 1559 Brunswick Street, Halifax.

In Attendance: Dr. Eric Hatfield, Chair  
Dr. Ian Doyle, Vice-Chair  
Dr. Clare Champoux  
Mrs. Kore-Lee Cormier  
Dr. Merryl Lawton  
Dr. John Miller, (PM only)  
Ms. Judy Oakley  
Dr. Tom Raddall, III  
Dr. Andrew Stewart  
Ms. Angela Worsley  
Dr. Tom Boran, Observer  
Dr. Bill MacInnis, Registrar  
Ms. Jane Donovan, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Dr. Lee Erickson  
Mr. Dwight Rudderham

**AGENDA 1. CALL TO ORDER – 9:00 A.M.**

The Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed Dr. Clare Champoux to the Board. Following proclamation of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia on May 15, 2009, the Chair stated that he had written to Ms. Rosemary Bourque and Ms. Odette d'Eon thanking them for their contributions to the Dental Board and wishing them well in their associations with the new College of Dental Hygienists. Dr. Hatfield informed Board members that Certificates of Appreciation will be sent to both Ms. Bourque and d'Eon.

The Chair clarified that Agenda item 10 was the NSCC Dental Assistant Re-entry Proposal and also indicated that an item of correspondence from a dental licensee would be discussed under New Business. As well Dr. Hatfield indicated that Dr. Tom Boran would make a presentation to the Board following the Auditor's Report.

**Motion 2009 - 6**

It was moved and seconded – Dr. A. Stewart / Dr. M. Lawton

“To adopt the amended agenda.”

**Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA 2.**

**MINUTES OF 2009 – 1 MEETING JANUARY 30, 2009**

**a). Errors and / or Omissions**

One spelling correction was identified

**Motion 2009 - 7**

It was moved and seconded – Dr. I. Doyle / Dr. A. Stewart

“To approve the minutes of the January 30, 2009 meeting as amended.”

**Motion Carried.**

**b). Business Arising from the Minutes.**

The Chair identified a number of business items arising from the minutes.

1. The Dental Assistant Working Group – This working group continues to consider recommendations for change in both the scope of practice and education of dental assistants. The Chair remains hopeful that the WG report will be available from the NSDA in 2009.
2. Royal College of Dentists of Canada (RCDC) Examination Schedule Change – The Board reviewed the recommendation from the President of the Society of Dental Specialists of Nova Scotia on this matter.

After discussion it was moved and seconded – Dr. I. Doyle / Dr. M. Lawton

**Motion 2009 – 8**

“Notwithstanding the modifications to the RCDC Examination

Schedules, candidates for licensure as a Specialist in Nova Scotia must have successfully completed the National Dental Specialty Examination process.”

**Motion Carried**

3. The remainder of the items arising from the minutes were included in the agenda of the May 29, 2009 meeting.

**AGENDA 3. REGISTRAR’S REPORT**

Two items in the Registrar’s report required Board direction.

- **Volunteer Dental License Program**  
Following discussion, Dr. Hatfield was directed to review this matter with the CDRAF Executive Committee to determine policies in other jurisdictions and to assess the implications of this request on liability insurance for potential providers under this program.
- **Conditional Licensure – Dental Assistants**  
The Registrar described the Dental Board’s current policy of issuing conditional licenses’ to new graduates of accredited dental assistant programs for a one year period effective on their graduation date. The Registrar questioned whether the policy should be modified so that the one year conditional license would be effective on the date of initial license application. Following discussion, the Board directed that the current policy be maintained.

The remainder of the items in the Registrar’s report were for the information of Board members.

**AGENDA 4. BOARD NOMINATIONS**

No nominations were required for the Board’s consideration.

**AGENDA 5. AUDITOR’S REPORT**

Mr. Gerry Lecroix, Senior Manager at Grant Thornton reviewed the Auditor’s Report with Board members.

Following discussion and clarification of potential future changes to accounting policies for not for profit organizations, it was moved and seconded - Dr. Ian Doyle / Dr. A. Stewart

**Motion 2009 – 9**

“That the Provincial Dental Board accepts the 2008 Financial Statements as presented by Grant Thornton.”

**Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA 6.**

**LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENTS**

- (a) **Dental Hygiene Act & Regulations** –The Chair reviewed the documentation in the meeting binder that included the correspondence from the NSDA and the NSDHA that preceded the proclamation on May 15, 2009 of the new College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS). The approved Regulations Respecting Dental Hygienists made pursuant to the Dental Hygienists Act were available for Board members information.
- (b) **AIT-** The Registrar reviewed the Board’s response to the Nova Scotia Labour Mobility Questionnaire dated March 9, 2009 for dentists, dental specialists, dental hygienists and dental assistants. Included in the documentation was correspondence from Mr. Stuart Gourley, Senior Executive Director of the Nova Scotia Department of Labour and Workforce Development, indicating the Nova Scotia government’s intention to ratify the amended labour mobility provisions of Chapter 7.

The Registrar is scheduled to meet on June 4, 2009 with officials of the Department of Health to review the Provincial Dental Board’s compliance with the labour mobility provisions of the Agreement on Internal Trade.

- (c) **Amendments to Regulations No. 1 and No. 2** – Order in Council approval was granted to create a new category of licensure for foreign trained dental specialists effective 20 May 2009.

The amendments to Regulation No. 1 permits inclusion in the Dentist Register for those individuals who possess a NDEB Certificate or a Limited Specialty Certificate.

As well the category of Academic Licensure was eliminated except for those licensed before July 1, 2008.

Regulation No. 2 was amended to describe the process and requirements necessary to be granted a Limited Specialty Certificate.

**AGENDA 7. COMMISSION ON DENTAL ACCREDITATION (CDAC) 2009 GRANT**

The Chair reviewed the CDAC 2009 grant request to the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia in support of accreditation activities. During the discussion of this issue it was agreed that the Dental Board would support the requested grant for dental hygienists on a pro-rated basis from 1 December 2008 – May 14, 2009 period when the CDHNS was proclaimed

It was moved and seconded - Dr. A. Stewart / Dr. I. Doyle

**Motion 2009 – 10**

“ To approve the 2009 Provincial Dental Board grant to CDAC for dentists and dental assistants and for dental hygienists on a pro-rated basis based on the May 15, 2009 date of proclamation of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia.”

**Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA 8. BOARD POLICY ON TOOTH WHITENING**

This matter was referred from the January 30, 2009 Board meeting further to the finding that the Board's policy restricts the use of high concentration whiteners (3% hydrogen peroxide or 10% carbamide peroxide) to licensed dentists while non regulated individuals are reported to be using whiteners at 4 times the concentrations accepted by the Board.

During its deliberations the Board members reviewed correspondence from the NSDA Clinical Practice Committee, promotional materials from non regulated Quiksmiles Inc. as well as information concerning the safe use of tooth whiteners from Health Canada acting as the Regulator.

Following considerable discussion and recognizing the Dental Board's mandate to protect the public - it was agreed that the Registrar be directed to write a letter of concern to Health Canada describing the potential damaging effects of high concentration whiteners by untrained, non regulated individuals.

**AGENDA 9. BOARD GUIDELINES ON VELSCOPE**

At the January 30, 2009 meeting the Registrar was directed to develop a proposed guideline on the use of Velscope for the May 2009 Board meeting. Following consultation with Dr. John McComb from the University of Toronto, a draft proposal was drafted for consideration.

Following discussion, it was moved and seconded – Dr. T. Raddall – Ms. A. Worsley

**Motion 2009 – 11**

“To adopt the proposed Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia Guideline on the use of Velscope as circulated.”

**Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA 10. NSCC DENTAL ASSISTANT RE-ENTRY PROGRAM PROPOSAL**

NSCC hopes to have a proposal available for the September 2009 meeting of the Board.

**AGENDA 11. GOVERNANCE RENEWAL UPDATE**

The Chair and members of the Governance Working Group (WG) described the process and outcomes of the first WG session with Maureen Reid. All of the WG members spoke positively about the experience and were pleased with the draft policies that were developed on:

- Governance Charter
- Expectations of individual Board members
- Expectations for Board Chair and
- Proposed Committee structure

The WG will meet again on July 17, 2009 and plans to bring a number of policies for approval at the September Board meeting.

The Board members were supportive of the achievements and direction of the process to date and encouraged the WG to keep up the good work.

It was moved and seconded – Dr. J. Miller / Ms. J. Oakley

**Motion 2009 - 12**

“That the Provincial Dental Board continue with the Working Group and Maureen Reid from Boardworks Consulting in developing the Board’s Governance.”

**Motion Carried.**

**AGENDA 12. DENTAL BOARD COMMITTEE UPDATES**

(a) **Complaints**

The Complaints Committee met on one occasion since the last meeting of the Board and considered two patient complaints.

The **first case** concerned an allegation that the dentist made inappropriate comments about the complainant’s potential drug use history.

Following deliberations by the Committee relating to the information available for review:

- No concerns relating to the standard of care provided were received.
- No evidence was obtained to support the complainant’s allegations.

This complaint was dismissed.

The **second case** concerned the quality of care provided by a licensed dentist.

Following a review of the documentation provided, the Committee determined that:

- The dentist provided the patient with an acceptable standard of care in a challenging dental situation, and

- This position was supported by independent second opinions provided by two licensed dentists.

This complaint was dismissed.

(b) **Discipline**

Email correspondence was received from the Dental Board of Australia concerning Dr. Clive Creager who is a current registrant in Queensland. Questions concerning Dr. Creager's status and practice restrictions in Nova Scotia will be provided upon receipt of an appropriate written request from the Australian Dental Board.

(c) **Dental Practice Review (DPR)**

The Chair reviewed correspondence received from Dr. Graham Opie (DPR Chair) on the inaugural DPR process to date. Seventy five dentists filled out the Self Assessment Document which were considered by the DPR Committee. Twelve dentists selected through a random sample stratified by district, will have an office visit from the Registrar during the 2009 calendar year.

Dr. Opie expressed some disappointment that nine of the Self Assessment Forms were poorly completed. Following discussion, it was moved and seconded – Ms. A. Worsley / Dr. M. Lawton

**Motion 2009 – 13**

“That the Registrar contact the nine dentists who the DPR Committee identified, and request that the DPR Self Assessment document be completed appropriately and furthermore, that this matter be reported in Board Business”

**Motion Carried.**

(d) **Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE)**

The Board reviewed the report of the MCDE Committee following completion of the 2008 CE cycle. One dentist (who has chosen not to renew his license) and two dental assistants were identified as not meeting the CE requirements.

One dental assistant was granted a one year extension due to an existing medical condition and the other dental assistant successfully met her CE requirements.

As well the MCDE Committee discussed a proposal from Dr. Andrew Thompson about the need for a Mandatory Recertification program in Nova Scotia. The Committee has decided to investigate recertification programs in other jurisdictions and to seek information about the outcomes of evidence based research on this topic.

**AGENDA 13. COMPETITION BUREAU**

The Chair circulated the completed questionnaire that was sent to the Competition Bureau from the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia. Correspondence was received on May 29, 2009 from the Bureau stating that their report would be delayed for several months due to the current economic situation and other business issues.

**AGENDA 14. ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR**

1. **Principles for National Recognition of Assessment Processes for Internationally Trained Foreign General Dentists**

The Chair explained that following the AIT Summit in Toronto the CDRAF Executive and a special task force, along with the NDEB, are finalizing a national process, to ensure that agreed upon principles are being followed for the credentialing, assessment and licensing for foreign trained general dentists from non-accredited programs, and that the process must lead to the eligibility to take a national (NDEB) exam. They are hoping to have this finalized by August 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, when the AIT comes into effect across the country.

2.

**Certificate of Standing Draft**

A Task Force of CDRAF developed a draft Certificate of Standing which was developed to standardize the application process and the gathering of all relative background information on any applicant from another jurisdiction. The Task Force did include legal representation and it recommended that appropriate consent forms be signed by the applicant. It was agreed that this would be a lengthy process for staff to fill out and that an appropriate fee could be charged to the applicant.

3.

**CDRAF Meetings**

Dr. Hatfield's report included the Agendas of the last two CDRAF Executive Meetings. The chair highlighted the Quebec \ France Reciprocal Agreement, International Accreditation, future Guideline

Development for issues such as dental implants and the Canadian Denturists request to CDAC for National Accreditation. The Chair also highlighted some of the significant accomplishments of CDRAF over the past four or five years as well as the development of future direction of CDRAF.

4.

**CDA Correspondence**

The Seniors Oral Health Care and Geriatric CE letters were also discussed and it was agreed that the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry or the Nova Scotia Dental Association, could look into providing these courses. It was felt that this request was not part of the mandate of the PDB.

5.

**NSDHA Correspondence from Karen Wolfe, President**

The Chair mentioned the ongoing correspondence with NSDHA and the new College of Dental Hygiene, with regards to the transfer of information on licensees, files, and the pro-rated licence fee calculation. Dr. Hatfield informed the Board that an Ad hoc Committee of the Chair, Dr. T. Raddall, Dr. L. Erickson and the Registrar has been established to manage the transition issues between the Board and the new College.

**AGENDA 15.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Two items of New Business were dealt with.

- Dr. Tom Boran, Dean of the Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry informed Board members about a new Faculty Dental Practice that has been established. Currently specialists in Prothodontics, Periodontic, Endodontics and one general dentist are providing care in this private practice seating.

Dr. Boran also expressed on behalf of the Faculty, his sincerest thanks for all those who helped in the approval of the amendments to the Dental Specialists Regulation.

- The Chair shared correspondence that had been received from a licensed dentist concerning the Dental Board's policy on pro-rated license fees charged effective 1 June of each year and its effect on the new graduates who may wish to be licensed before June 1 st.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Chair would obtain information on how other jurisdictions manage this issue. The Chair agreed to place this matter on the

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September Board meeting agenda when ongoing fees are determined for the year 2010.

**AGENDA 16.            IN-CAMERA SESSION**

**AGENDA 17.            ADJOURNMENT**

Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Eric Hatfield, Chair