

Board Business

From the Registrar's Desk

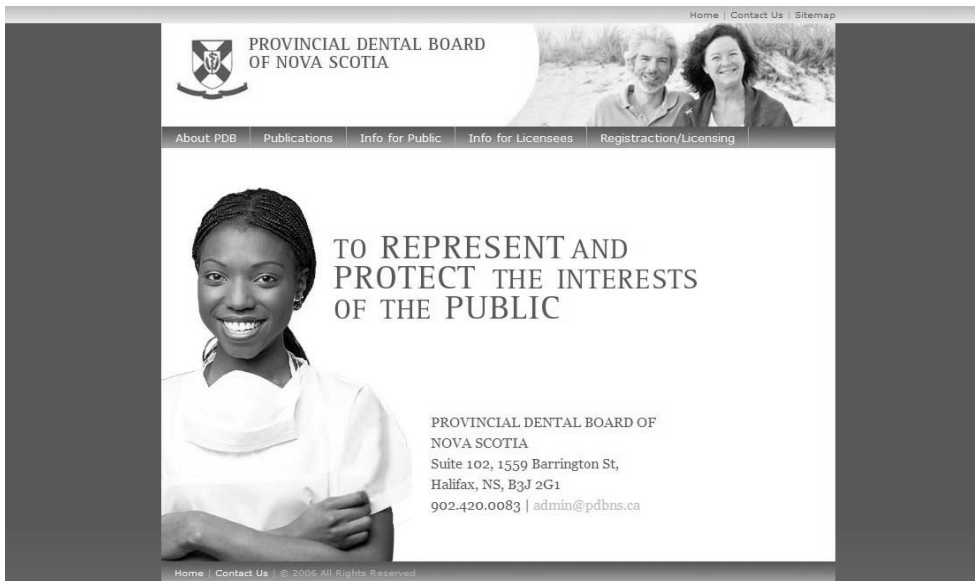
No. 33, October 2006



2006 / 2007 License Fees

The Board reviewed a financial projection for the year 2007 as well a Revenue & Expense process that reveals the potential for a modest surplus at the end of the 2006 fiscal year. It has been recommended by the Board's auditor that the Board should have a surplus reserve equal to at least one year's operating costs. The Board's current reserve meets this requirement. Based on these budget projections, the Board decided to maintain the 2006 / 2007 fees at 2006 levels.

Dental Board Webpage



www.pdbns.ca

The Board remains committed to its goal of moving to electronic communication with its licensees as soon as possible. In the transition period, if you wish to continue receiving hard copies of the Board Business publication, please provide a written request to the Board office.

Board Appointments

The following appointments were approved by the Board:

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee

Laurie Brenton (RDA)

Catherine Cooke (RDA)

Sandra Rhodenizer (RDH)



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Suite 102, 1559 Brunswick Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 2G1

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Discipline Committee
Dr. Don Penwell

Complaints Committee
Mr. Larry Shipp

Dental Assistants' Scope of Practice

The Board adopted draft amendments to Regulation No. 8 – Dental Assistants to accommodate the additional six core skills approved by the Board on 16 June 2006. The draft amendment will now be forwarded for legislative approval.

Following legal advice, the Board, utilizing section 5 (1) (k) of Regulation No. 8 passed a motion which approved that the remaining three core skills – application of topical anesthetic, application of disclosing agents and performing coronal whitening using non-prescription agents can be performed by licensed dental assistants effective 29 September 2006.

Dental Assisting Program – Cape Breton Business College (CBBC)

Following a presentation concerning the proposed Dental Assisting Program at the Cape Breton Business College, the Board adopted a motion to approve the implementation of the CBBC intra oral program. In addition as the initial graduates of the program will be from a non accredited program the Board agreed to a process that will license graduates of the program provided that they pass both the NDAEB examination and a Clinical Practice Evaluation.

Dental Practice Review

The Board adopted draft Regulation No. 11 – Dental Practice Review and initiatives have started to obtain legislative approval. The Board remains committed to the core principles of education and support while this initiative is implemented. The Registrar has arranged for presentations concerning the DPR process to all regional dental societies. The DPR Self Assessment document can be reviewed on the Board webpage under *Info for Licensees*.

Settlement Agreement Procedures

The Board considered advice and recommendations from legal counsel with respect to the use of Settlement Agreements in the Board's discipline process. In addition the use of a settlement process in other health professions was reviewed. After careful deliberations the Board adopted draft amendments to the Discipline Regulation with respect to Settlement Agreements. Initiatives have begun to obtain legislative approval.

Working Group Report – Dental Specialists Trained in Non-Accredited Institutions

The Report of the Working Group has been released and can be downloaded from the Board's website under *Publications – Communication Points*.

Academic Licensure

Following considerable debate, the Dental Board approved a process for Academic Licensure that requires successful completion of the National Dental Specialty Exam offered by the RCDC and approved the creation of an academic license / registration category “certified specialist restricted to their specialty” recognizing that these specialists will not have a NDEB certificate.

Complaints / Discipline Committee Report

The Complaints Committee met in September 2006 to consider four complaints.

- One case related to inadequate record keeping and resulted in a Letter of Reprimand to the dentist involved.
- Two cases alleging quality of care inadequacies were dismissed.
- A dentist became aware of the fact that a dental assistant employed in the office was performing intra oral duties while not licensed. An Agreed Statement of Facts was signed by both parties. The Complaints Committee awarded the dentist and the dental assistant a Letter of Counsel.

Planning continues for a Disciplinary hearing in 2007.

Policy on Tooth Whitening / Bleaching

In response to a request to reconsider the Board’s policy on Tooth Whitening / Bleaching – the Board unanimously decided to maintain our current policy of:

“In office bleaching using heat or light or high concentration of bleach is not in the scope of practice of dental hygienists or dental assistants. Dispensing take home bleaching kits of high concentration is not in the scope of practice of dental hygienists or dental assistants. Whitening / Bleaching procedures, utilizing low concentrations, fall in the scope of practice of dental hygienists and dental assistants under the supervision of the dentists.”

- High concentration is any concentration above 10 % carbamide peroxide or 3 % hydrogen peroxide.

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Cycle

The three year continuing education cycle ends on 31 December 2006, for 342 dentists, 276 dental hygienists and 339 dental assistants currently licensed by the Provincial Dental Board.

The random selection process will be conducted in early November and letters informing those selected for audit will be mailed out by December 1, 2006. Those selected for audit are reminded that they must forward to the Board office their completed continuing dental education log with supporting verification data.

The Mandatory Continuing Education Committee will be meeting on November 17, 2006 to consider requests for continuing education credits. Should you have any questions about your CE activities please contact the Board office as soon as possible.

Annual Licensing

Further to a number of questions about relicensure after a period of absence from practice, I want to clarify the Board's procedure and expectations in this regard.

The Dental Act states that "where a person ceases to be engaged in practice as prescribed by the regulations, the Registrar shall not issue to that person a license to engage in the practice of (dentistry, dental hygiene , dental assisting) unless and until that person passes examinations prescribed by the Board and meets any other requirements imposed by the Board."

For dentists this means that the individual must have been engaged in practice at least for 450 hours in the preceding three years, for dental hygienists and dental assistants they must have been engaged in practice in the preceding five years.

When the Dental Board is notified, either at the time of license renewal or by request to relinquish a license – the Board contacts the individual concerned to determine the last day they were engaged in practice. Once this date is identified, it is used to begin the count of the 3 year (dentistry) or 5 year (dental hygiene / dental assistant) period.

If you have been absent from practice, please contact the Dental Board office if you need verification of your last working date.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. A. MacInnis". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. W. A. MacInnis, Registrar