

# Board Business

*From the Registrar's Desk*

No. 34, June 2007



## **Dr. David Precious – Order of Canada**

Dr. David S. Precious was awarded the Order of Canada by Her Excellency The Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada, at Rideau Hall on Friday May 4, 2007.

The following is the text of a letter of congratulations sent by the Chair of the Provincial Dental Board to Dr. Precious.

*Dear Dr. Precious:*

*On behalf of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate you upon your receipt of the Order of Canada.*

*There is no higher recognition in our country than the Order of Canada, and no Canadian more deserving of that honor than you. Through your achievements in clinical, academic and organized dentistry, as well as your community and humanitarian initiatives, you have made us all proud to be Canadian and associated with this great profession.*

*Induction into the Order of Canada places you amongst Canadian peers of the highest caliber, and for that we offer you our congratulations.*

*Warmest regards,*



*Dr. Andrew Nette, Chair  
Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia*



**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA**

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## **Dental Assistants Licensing Report**

Dental Assistant licensing fees were due April 30, 2007. This year 51 dental assistants were struck from the Register.

- 36 for nonpayment of license fees
- 4 for nonpayment of Association fees
- 11 for nonpayment of both license and Association fees

To date 27 have been either reinstated or have relinquished their license to practice dental assisting.

With the completion of the licensing of the 2007 NSCC-IT graduates, we now have 688 dental assistants licensed in Nova Scotia.

## **Dental Board Appointment**

Ms. Wendy Stewart, RDH was appointed to the Provincial Dental Board's Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee (MCDE).

## **Financial Statements**

The audited 2006 Financial Statements of the Provincial Dental Board were adopted by the Board at its May 11, 2007 meeting. Copies of the statements have been distributed as required. The financial statements are posted on the Board webpage at [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca)

## **Visa, MasterCard, Debit Payment Options**

Effective 11 June 2007, the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia will accept, at no additional cost to licensees, visa, mastercard and debit payment options.

## **Guidelines for Use of Sedation in Dental Practice**

During the past year, two issues have developed that could have a significant impact on the Board's current Sedation Guidelines. The first was the application for recognition of Dental Anesthesia as a Specialty in Dentistry and the second was the Provincial Department of Health's proposal to require accreditation approval for all healthcare facilities providing general anesthesia services. As a result, the Board has directed the Registrar to consult with appropriate Stakeholders and develop draft amendments to the Guidelines on Sedation that would include the provision of general anesthesia.

## **Policy Change – Credit Hours CPR and First Aid Courses**

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Chair of the MCDE Committee requesting that the Board reconsider its policy of accepting “2 for 1” credit hours for CPR and First Aid Courses. The Committee expressed concern that licensees are able (and do) fulfill their entire Category I (Scientific / Clinical) credits through the CPR / First Aid courses. The Committee believes that this outcome is detrimental to the spirit of obtaining new knowledge through continuing education. After discussing a variety of options, the Board decided to change the credit hour policy for CPR / First Aid courses to “1 for 1” credit hours effective January 1, 2008. This policy will bring the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia in line with national norms.

## **Complaints / Discipline Committee Update**

The Registrar reported that the Dentistry Complaints Committee had met once since the last Board meeting.

The Committee considered five cases – Two cases alleging concerns about the quality of care provided were dismissed. One case resulted in the dentist being issued a “Letter of Counsel” with advice to be more thorough in reading patient radiographs. On the basis of an Agreed Statement of Facts – one dentist was issued a “Letter of Counsel” directing that they be made aware of their responsibility to ensure that all staff under their employ are licensed to act within the terms of the *Dental Act*.

Consideration of the fifth case was tabled until further information was collected.

The Dental Hygiene Complaints Committee met on one occasion through teleconference and the Committee issued a “Letter of Counsel” to a dental hygienist and directed the Registrar to ensure that the licensee understands their responsibility to be licensed to act within the terms of the *Dental Act*.

## **Licensure and Certification of Foreign Trained Dental Specialists**

In collaboration with other Dental Regulatory Authorities, CDRAF and colleagues at CDA, NDEB, RCDC and ACFD – the PDB continues to evaluate the evolving MOU with respect to a uniform process for the certification and registration of Internationally Trained Dental Specialists. The draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is posted on the Board webpage at [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca) under Communication Points.

The CDRAF Board agreed that in the short term the following steps need to be taken;

- The MOU must continue to be developed
- The University Programs need to develop their business plans and assessment / evaluation strategies

- Active consultation with professional specialist associations must occur using the MOU and the proposed process as a guide.
- A Specialty Qualifying Examination be developed.

Obtaining funding for this initiative is extremely important and CDRAF has been active in developing funding applications to potential Federal Agencies.

Further to a request from the CDRAF Board, the Dental Board approved the following motions at its 11 May 2007 meeting.

*“That the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia, supports in principle, the Process for Internationally Trained Dental Specialists as described in the draft MOU dated May 2, 2007.”*

And

*“That the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia place in trust \$ 100.00 per licensed dentist as a commitment to support the Process while parallel applications for federal funding are sought.”*

### **Report from the Chair, MCDE**

A statistically significant number of licensees are selected at the end of their 3 year mandatory continuing dental education cycle for audit purposes. The selection is carried out randomly by Dr. R.K. House using numbers which are related to names on the licensee master list.

The Continuing Dental Education Committee at its most recent audit found that 92 % of the submissions were accepted without further documentation. The majority of those not accepted were because of a lack of verification / documentation provided. Verification requires a minimum of your name, indication of course content, the sponsor, the length of the learning experience and a stamp, receipt, documents or signature to ensure that you attended. **Without verification, CE experiences are not accepted.**

If the description and / or the title of the course is clearly Category 3, it will not be accepted in Category 1. If a course has scientific / clinical hands – on participation, it is only the hands – on portion of the course which is awarded two credit hours for each hour of participation and the documentation has to indicate this.

No one likes paperwork but if you take the time to collect CE credits please take a moment to ensure you have the necessary documentation.

For your information the *Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Guidelines* can be found at the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia website at [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca)

Sincerely,

Dr. James E. Allen, Chair

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee.