

Board Business

From the Registrar's Desk

No. 38, November 2008



2008 / 2009 Licensing Fees

The Board reviewed the financial projection for the year 2009 that revealed the potential for a surplus at the end of 2008 fiscal year. Based on the budget data the Board decided to not increase the license fees for 2009.

Invoices for 2009 license fees have been mailed to all dentists and dental hygienists for payment on or before December 1, 2008.

Board Appointments

The following appointments and reappointments were approved at the September 26, 2008 Dental Board Meeting.

Provincial Dental Board

Dr. Lee Erickson	NSDA Reappointment
Dr. Claire Champoux	NSDA Appointment

Complaints Committee

Mr. Larry Shipp	Public Member
Ms. Harriet Davies	Public Member

Discipline Committee

Dr. Suzanne Lewis

Dental Practice Review Committee

Dr. Graham Opie	Chair
Dr. Glen Anderson	
Dr. Daryl West	

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee

Ms. Donna Rushton, RDA NSDAA Appointment



PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

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

(902) 420-0083

www.pdbns.ca

Dental Practice Review (DPR)

With the Board's approval of the Dental Practice Review Committee appointments, it is our expectation that the DPR process will begin in 2009. Please refer to the Board's webpage www.pdbns.ca for details concerning the DPR Self Assessment documents.

Legislative Amendments

Dental Hygienists Act and Regulations

It is understood that the Act and Regulations have been submitted by the Department of Health to the Registry of Regulations. As proclamation is unlikely to occur prior to November 30, 2008, the Provincial Dental Board will license dental hygienists for 2009.

Statutory Privilege

Bill No. 127, An Act Respecting the Protection of Confidential Disciplinary Proceedings of Health Professions was proclaimed on 19 August 2008. Amendments to the Dental Act involved section 34A (1) (2) (3) and (4) will now protect the confidentiality of information collected through both the complaints and discipline investigations.

Fair Access to Regulated Professions Act (FARPA)

Further to Board Business No. 37 of June 2008, significant activity has occurred on this issue. With government's decision to pursue a co-operative and collaborative interaction with the regulators to develop revisions to the initial Act – a joint Working Group of regulators and government worked through the summer to achieve a consensus document.

The key changes to the FARPA legislation that have been proposed are;

- The name of the Act changed to "An Act Respecting Fair Registration Practices."
- The removal of AIT provisions from the Act
- Clarification of roles and powers of the Review Officer
- Removal of the provision to request audits
- Removal of the paramountcy provision
- Establishment of a philosophy of collaboration between Department of Labour and Workforce Development and the Regulators
- The Review Officer will not be involved in setting registration standards but will need to be assured that our registration processes are fair, transparent, objective and impartial

With the support of the Regulators, it is hoped that the Department of Labour and Workforce Development will forward the amended Act to the legislative branch for review.

Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT)

No sooner had the amendments to FARPA been dealt with when documentation was received from the Council of the Federation in which the provincial premiers set 1 August 2009 as the date by which workers certified by a regulatory authority in one province or territory will be recognized as qualified to work in all other provinces and territories.

In response to an invitation for commentary from the Department of Labour and Workforce Development on this issue, the Dental Board in co-operation with the Health Regulatory Network met and drafted a response.

Unlike FARPA where the regulatory authorities were a party to the legislation, the provinces are parties to AIT and the regulatory authorities are not. Nonetheless, the Health Regulatory Network has established a working group to advance our collective concerns with the AIT amendments. We will do our best to post pertinent developments in this area on the Board webpage.

Dental Assisting Education and Training

a) Holland College Distance Intra Oral Course

At its September 26, 2008 meeting, the Dental Board approved the Holland College Intra Oral Course for dental assistants requiring training in clinical competencies. Further information on the course offering is available at www.hollandcollege.ca

b) NSCC Dental Assistant Upgrading / Re-entry Proposal

Representatives of the NS Community College presented a draft proposal for a dental assisting upgrade / re-entry program with a potential implementation date of May 2009. A final proposal should be available at the January 2009 Board meeting.

Proposed Accreditation Requirements for Dental Specialty Assessment & Training Programs (DSATP)

The Dental Board reviewed the proposed accreditation requirements for Programs that will be offering dental specialty assessment and educational programs for foreign trained dental specialists. The proposed requirements include the provision that the DSATP can only be offered at universities who have existing accredited dental specialty programs. While affiliation agreements may be utilized – the certificate of completion of the DSATP must be granted to successful candidates by the university's accredited dental specialty program.

The Board expressed its agreement with the proposed DSATP accreditation requirement and has forwarded a letter of support for the proposal to the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

Governance

The Dental Board has decided to engage Ms. Maureen Reid, President of Boardworks Consulting Services to assist the Board update its governance policies and structures to make them consistent with the evolving practices expected of self regulatory organizations.

Complaints and Discipline Update

Dr. Wayne Hills' appeal of the Provincial Dental Board's Discipline Committee decision will be heard by the Nova Scotia Court of Appeal on November 20, 2008.

The Complaints Committee has not met since the last Board Business publication.

Pediatric Patient Behavioural Guidance

During the past year I have received an increasing number of calls and correspondence concerning restraint strategies used during the provision of dental treatment for pediatric patients.

Current practice guidelines suggest that when restraint is considered necessary for safety and clinical reasons, it is imperative that the least restrictive method possible be used and that the informed consent of the parent or guardian be obtained. Treatment deferral should also be considered in situations when treatment is in progress and the child's behaviour becomes uncontrollable.

Further information on this issue can be obtained at the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry webpage www.aapd.org/media/policies.asp.

Respectfully submitted,

