

**PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD  
OF  
NOVA SCOTIA**



**PROCEEDINGS  
2007**



# **2007 BOARD PROCEEDINGS**

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# PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Chair – Dr. A. Nette  
 Vice Chair – Dr. E. Hatfield  
 Registrar - Dr. W. A. MacInnis

## Board Membership 2007

<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointment Expiry</u>
Dr. A. Nette - Chair	NSDA (Dec. 2007)
Dr. E. Hatfield - Vice Chair	Government (Dec. 2007)
Dr. B. MacLeod	NSDA (Dec. 2008)
Dr. L. Erickson	NSDA (Dec. 2008)
Dr. S. Brayton	NSDA (Dec. 2007)
Dr. I. Doyle	NSDA (Dec. 2007)
Dr. A. Stewart	Government (Dec. 2007)
Dr. J. W. Miller	Government (Dec. 2007)
Ms. O. d'Eon	Government (Dec. 2007)
Ms. A. Worsley, RDA	Government (Dec. 2007)
Mrs. K. Cormier	Government (Dec. 2007)
Mr. D. Rudderham	Government (Dec. 2007)
Ms. R. Bourque, RDH	NSDHA (Dec. 2007)
Ms. J. Oakley, RDA	NSDAA (Dec. 2007)
Dr. D. S. Precious	Observer

## Standing Committees

### **Discipline Committee**

Dr. T. Boyle, Chair

### **Complaints Committee**

Dr. J. S. Christie, Chair

### **MCDE Committee**

Dr. J. S. Allen , Chair

#### Discipline Committee Membership

Dr. T. Boyle	Dec. 2007
Dr. R. Lohnes	Dec. 2007
Dr. J. Cullinan	Dec. 2007
Dr. N. Layton	Dec. 2007
Dr. S. Lewis	Dec. 2008
Dr. D. MacLeod	Dec. 2007
Ms. J. Clovis, RDH	Dec. 2007
Ms. S. MacIntosh	Dec. 2009
Ms. A. Fitzpatrick, RDA	Dec. 2008
Ms. J. Crofts, Public	Dec. 2008
Dr. D. Anderson	Dec. 2009
Dr. I. Ross	Dec. 2009
Dr. D. Penwell	Oct. 2009
Dr. G. Creighton	Oct. 2010
Dr. M. Hurst	Oct. 2010
Dr. P. Thomson	Oct. 2010
Dr. K. Walsh	Oct. 2010
Mr. S. Beaton, Public	Oct. 2010
Mr. R. Desborough, Public	Oct. 2010

#### Complaints Committee Membership

Dr. J. Christie	June 2008
Dr. S. Abbass	May 2009
Dr. F. Gogan	May 2009
Dr. J. Porter	May 2009
Dr. P. MacEachern	Oct. 2010
Dr. Richard Reftus	Oct. 2010
Dr. R. MacGillivray	Oct. 2010
Dr. R. Hall	Oct. 2010
Mr. L. Shipp	Sept. 2008
Ms. N. Neish, RDH	June 2008
Ms. M. Briggs, RDH	June 2008
Ms. N. Penney, RDA	June 2008
Ms. M. Crawford, RDA	June 2009

#### MCDE Committee Membership

Dr. J. Allen	Sept. 2007
Dr. P. Downing (Chair elect)	Sept. 2008
Dr. D. Inghan	Sept. 2008
Ms. L. Brenton, RDA	Sept. 2008
Ms. C. d'Entremont, RDH	Sept. 2007
Ms. W. Stewart, RDH	June 2009
Ms. C. Cooke, RDA	Sept. 2008
Dr. W. A. MacInnis Registrar	

## **Report of the Chair – 2007**

The Provincial Dental Board met three times in 2007, January, May and September.

Our website [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca) launched in 2006 is blossoming and being well used by both the profession and the public.

A topic, often hotly debated, at all three of our meetings this year was Certification of Foreign Trained Specialists. The Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation (CDRAF) held several meetings on the issue, and our Board was represented at these meetings by the Registrar, myself and / or Dr. Eric Hatfield. At our May meeting motions were carried to support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in principle and to commit monies in trust to the initiation of the project. At the September meeting an updated MOU was discussed and approved.

An application for Recognition of Dental Anesthesia as a Specialty in Dentistry was reviewed by the Board at the request of the Council on Dental Education. The Board did not feel the application met all of the criteria set out by the council.

At the request of the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee, credit for CPF / First Aid was reconsidered and a change to hour for hour (instead of two for one) was implemented, to bring the Board's Policy in line with national norms.

The Board moved to provide visa / mastercard / debit card options for licensees at no additional cost to the licensee.

As a result of the dramatic increase in the number of dental hygiene programs in Canada in the past several years and following concerns about the quality of the programs with respect to CDAC's accreditation requirements, the Commission decided to eliminate "*Accreditation Eligible*" status and to replace it with "*Application for Program Survey*". The Board moved to approve the proposed revision at its September meeting.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia has offered to assist all Provincial Dental Board Licensees by providing confidential access to the College's Ad-hoc Committee on Bloodborne Pathogens. The College will respond to requests for information and assistance from any licensee who feels they may be a risk due to possible infectious status. The Board will be responsible for costs incurred.

Several Legislative Regulation amendments were sent downtown this past year:

- 1) Amendment to Regulation No.6 – re: Settlement Agreements between licensees and the Registrar / Complaints Committee / Discipline Committee.
- 2) Amendment to Regulation No. 8 – Dental Assistants – addition of six new duties.
- 3) A new regulation – Regulation No. 11 – Dental Practice Review Program

These proposals have been forwarded for approval by the Registry of Regulations and the Department of Justice.

Amendments to the *Dental Act* concerning the proposed Dental Hygiene Act were approved by the Board.

At its September meeting, the Board paid tribute to former Chair, Dr. Steve Brayton, who has completed his third term on the Board. The Chair also made mention of the enormous contribution made by Dr. Jamie Allen, who was Chair of the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee since its inception. Dr. Allen is stepping down from that position.

Dr. Eric Hatfield was nominated and elected to the position of Chair of the Provincial Dental Board effective January 1, 2008, with Dr. Ian Doyle as Vice-Chair.

This completes my three terms on the Board as a Government appointed representative. It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve on the Board and to sit as the Chair for the past two years. Working with Dr. Bill MacInnis is nothing short of a thrill and I thank him for his support, insight and good humor. Thanks also to Dr. Eric Hatfield, Vice-Chair, and to Jane Donovan, Administrative Assistant, for keeping the wheels on.

Respectfully submitted  
Andrew Nette, Chair  
Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

### **Report of the Registrar - 2007**

Provincial Dental Board meetings were held on:

- January 27, 2007
- May 11, 2007
- September 21, 2007

### **Statistics**

	<b>Active Licensees</b>	<b>Registration Fee</b>	<b>License Fee</b>
General Dentist	432	\$ 100.00	\$ 612.58
Specialist	75	\$ 250.00	\$ 612.58
Hygienist	527	\$ 75.00	\$ 163.45
Dental Assistant	714	\$ 65.00	\$ 126.55
Incorporations	317	\$ 150.00	\$ 47.97

### **Board Business Highlights – Appointments and Reappointments**

Dr. Andrew Nette completed his term as Board Chair on 31 December 2007 and Dr. Eric Hatfield was elected to the position of Chair effective 1 January 2008. As well, Dr. Ian Doyle was elected Vice-Chair of the Board effective 1 January 2008.

Dr.'s Merryl Lawton and Thomas Raddall III were appointed to the Dental Board effective 1 January 2008.

The following appointments were approved by the Board.

### **Complaints Committee**

Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA	Appointment
Dr. Robert Hall	Reappointment
Dr. Paul MacEachern	Reappointment
Dr. Ron MacGillivray	Reappointment
Dr. Richard Raftus	Reappointment
Mr. Bill Watson, Public Representative	Appointment

### **Discipline Committee**

Ms. Suzanne MacIntosh, RDH	Reappointment
Ms. Michelle Fowler, RDA	Appointment
Mr. Stuart Beaton	Appointment
Dr. Tom Boyle	Reappointment
Dr. Joanne Clovis, RDH	Reappointment
Dr. Grant Creighton	Reappointment
Dr. Janet Cullinan	Reappointment
Mr. Rod Desborough	Appointment
Dr. Mary Hurst	Reappointment
Dr. Norman Layton	Reappointment
Dr. Richard Lohnes	Reappointment
Dr. David MacLeod	Reappointment
Dr. Peter Thomson	Reappointment
Dr. Kevin Walsh	Reappointment

### **Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee**

Dr. Paul Downing was elected Chair of the Committee effective 1 January 2008/

Ms. Cheryl d'Entremont	Reappointment
Ms. Catherine Cooke	Reappointment
Ms. Wendy Stewart	Appointment
Dr. Ken Rhodenizer	Appointment

### **Legislative Amendments**

Order-in-Council approved amendments to the Discipline Regulations to allow for the use of settlement agreements in the disciplinary process. As well, approval for amendments to the Dental Assistants Regulations to outline the duties of a dental assistant and to bring licensing requirements in line with national standards.

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

In collaboration with other Dental Regulatory Authorities, Canadian Dental Regulatory Authority and colleagues at the Canadian Dental Association, National Dental Examining Board, Royal College of Dentists of Canada and the Association of Canadian Faculties

of Dentistry – 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 May 11, 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.”*

### **Dental Assistant Program – Cape Breton Business College**

The Cape Breton Business College (CBBC) Dental Assistant Program was visited by a site survey team from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada in June 2007 and the Program was awarded the status of “Accredited Program” at the Commission meeting on November 19, 2007.

### **Ad-hoc Committee on Bloodborne Pathogens**

In response to a request from the Dental Board, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia confirmed that the College was willing to assist all PDB licensees by providing access to the College’s Ad-hoc Committee on Bloodborne Pathogens.

At its meeting on September 21, 2007 the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia adopted the College of Physicians and Surgeons’ process and has posted the documentation package and access instructions on the Board’s webpage at [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca) under Info for Licensees.

### **Amendments to the *Dental Act* – Dental Hygiene**

In response to a request from the Department of Health, the Provincial Dental Board approved draft amendments to the Dental Act and Regulations that would remove the current provisions respecting dental hygiene.

The Board continues to participate in process' to provide due diligence in the review of the draft Dental Hygienist Act and accompanying Regulations.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. W. A. MacInnis, Registrar

### **Report of the Discipline Committee – 2007**

This past year there was some activity for the Discipline Committee. Several days of testimony were held regarding a case that begun two years ago. The case is not yet completed and any comment on it would be premature, but I would note that the Committee members who are serving on this case have all been impressed with the process and how everybody involved in it have conducted themselves.

A conclusion to the case is expected in the next few months and there were no new cases expected in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas H. Boyle, Chair  
Discipline Committee

### **Complaints Committee Annual Report - 2007**

Committee activity continues unabated. Complaints cover the entire spectrum of possibilities from patients fundamentally wanting reassurance that their treatment has been acceptable to issues that cause the committee serious concern. As always, one of our objectives is to endeavor to resolve all complaints without referring to Discipline. Regrettably that is not always possible.

This year we received a complaint which should be a concern to all of us. Without going into specifics, I can say that it dealt with an incident which occurred in the early 1970's, and in another province. The message here is that time and geography do not necessarily reduce our vulnerability to being held to account. Think about that the next time you contemplate destroying old records.

I also want to remind you that with the exception of the public member, the members of the committee are experienced practitioners who take their mandate very seriously. Occasionally, a licensee gives us the impression in word or action that they don't take the committee's role seriously. This is probably not their wisest course of action. While the committee sets out to function in as non threatening a manner as possible, and tries

to resolve disputes rather than sanction, the fact is that that if a complaint cannot be sorted out at our level, the next phases can get very troubling and expensive. My advice is that should you ever have the misfortune to come before us, your best course of action is to be open, forthright, and professional.

As always, I want to thank the members of the committee, the Registrar, and our lawyer Michael Woods for their dedication to committee activity. Working our way through these cases involves considerable time, investigation and debate. It is also worth stating that frequently the vitriol in the material we review is gut wrenching.

Thanks also to our secretary, Jane Donovan who effectively carries out the administrative side of our activities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. John Christie, Chair  
Complaints Committee

### **Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee**

With licensees becoming more familiar with the requirements, MCDE has become less of a Provincial Dental Board administrative burden. Most inquiries are handled by referring the licensee to the appropriate section in the MCDE guidelines or to the Provincial Dental Board website at [www.pdbns.ca](http://www.pdbns.ca)

The audit of the 3 year MCDE cycle ending December 31, 2006 is complete. Of the six licensees who initially did not satisfy their cycle requirement, one dental assistant was required to make up four hours of CE to fulfill the requirement. Four dentists and one dental hygienist graciously submitted further documentation to verify their initial submission. In the future, this lack of submitted documentation hopefully will be improved upon when more specific requirements / instructions are included with audit notification.

This being my last report to the Board, I'd like to say thank you for allowing the MCDE Committee to deal with issues without interference since the inception of the mandatory CE. It has allowed the Committee to feel that mandatory CE is and has been a benefit in many ways both to licensees and to the public.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dr. Jamie Allen, Chair

## **Report of the NDEB Annual Meeting - 2007**

As Nova Scotia's representative on the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB), I attended the annual meeting in Ottawa on Oct. 20, 2007. In attendance were the 13 board members, the Executive Director, Dr. Jack Gerrow, and 12 observers. The President is Dr. Melanie Wood (Man.), the Past President is Dr. Craig Meyers (Sask.), and the President Elect is Dr. Danielle Joly (Que.).

Reports and/or correspondence were received from:

- CDA Council on Education
- Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada
- Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry
- Canadian Dental Association
- ADA Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations
- Royal College of Dentists of Canada
- CDA Committee on Student Affairs
- American Association of Dental Examiners
- Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation

In her President's Report, Dr. Wood reviewed Board activities over the past year and described the challenges that will face the Board in the future including the Dental Specialty Core Knowledge Examination and the proposed changes to the certification process for graduates of Non-Accredited Dental Programs.

The financial statements show an operating defect of \$120,205 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007. The Board ended the year with \$2,011,708 in net assets and a projected defect of \$389,860 for the 2007/2008 budget year.

Respectively submitted,  
Raymond McGrath