

# Canadian Dental Specialties Association Association Canadienne des Spécialités Dentaires

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## Canadian Dental Specialties Association Annual Report to Component Societies November 2014

The CDA Executive and the CDSA Board of Directors meet annually in conjunction with the CDA AGM in April. This past year the CDSA organized the 2014 National Dental Forum held in conjunction with the AGM. The Forum discussed optimizing patient care by enhancing general practitioner and specialist communication. Dr. Ritchie Mah (Past President, CDSA) was instrumental in arranging the Forum which included Dr. Bernie White, Dr. Lee McFadden, Dr. Amarjit Rihal, Dr. Ronald Smith, and moderator Dr. Aaron Burry.

The CDA National Oral Health Action Plan Symposium held on February 27, 2014 included Dr. Carlos Quiñonez and Dr. Paul Andrews representing the CDSA. Consensus to a common position statement on Community water fluoridation, oral health standards of care in long-term facilities, and oral health education programs for children and patients were pursued.

Other subjects discussed with the CDA included the CDA eReferral Program, Prescription Drug Abuse, Drug shortages, an update of the CDAnet, and a review of communication links between the CDA and the CDSA.

The CDSA is a Voting Representative at the CDA Annual General Meeting, participates in the CDA Presidential quarterly conference calls with presidents of the provincial dental associations, consults with the CDA on policy statements before they are adopted, provides names of nominees for the CDA Committee appointments, and receives the CDA Highlights Report following each CDA Board meeting. Currently the CDA President or his representative has been meeting with individual dental specialty organizations each year, which the CDSA continues to promote.

With this positive progression, the CDSA recommended disbanding the CDA Committee on Specialist Affairs (COSA) and this was accepted by the CDA Board of Directors. The CDSA has also offered to provide a specialty representative to the CDA *Days on the Hill* event.

The CDSA also prepared a report submitted to the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada on the proposed additional changes to the Dental Specialty accreditation requirement 3.1.2 regarding the Graduate Program Directors. Concern to the negative implications of these changes impacting the Free Trade agreement with the European Union warrants review of the repercussions to the protection of the general public. Mobility and portability without examination of dentists from the European Union is of grave concern to the Canadian Dental Regulatory Association Federation (CDRAF). Currently the RCDC's National Dental Specialty examination evaluates core competency within each Dental Specialties.



Dr. Frank Hohn (CAOMS) attending the CDRAF meeting in Montreal on October 17 on behalf of the CDSA. Currently the CDRAF has struck a committee to proactively highlight the benefit of the current process.

The CDSA also participated in the recent specialty recognition process for the Canadian Academy of Dental Anesthesia with the Canadian Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (CAPD) and the Canadian Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons (CAOMS) presenting separately. The application for specialty status was denied.

The Royal College of Dentists of Canada granted observer status to the CDSA. Dr. Robert Barsky and Dr. Graham Usher were present at their annual meeting in Halifax on September 21, 2014. As with the CDRAF, the CDSA believes there are issues of mutual concern that would support our involvement with both organizations. The participation as an observer at the RCDC AGM ultimately raised our profile to the delegations in attendance.

The CDSA has created a website [www.cdsa-acsd.ca](http://www.cdsa-acsd.ca), and issues of concern are discussed by the Board at regularly scheduled conference calls. The CDA Presidents and their Boards have been very supportive of the CDSA and CDSA strives to build a supportive environment. Dialogue with the CDA either collectively or individually is encouraged. As of August 20, 2014 the CDA Board of Directors agreed to extend its support to the CDSA for the travel of its Executive to meet with CDA once a year.

The CDSA Certificate of Continuance was issued on May 20, 2014, and CDSA was also issued an Ontario Corporation Number as our head office is located in Ottawa.

Line officers (Secretary/Treasurer, Vice-President, and President) rotate through all the specialties in specific sequence as agreed by the Board members. The effectiveness of the CDSA depends upon the communication of the Board of Directors and the relaying of specific concerns to information received from the CDA to the individual component members. All correspondence received from the CDA, the RCDC, the CDRAF has been shared with the CDSA Board members and is kept on file at head office. We are all volunteers, and our strength will always reside with the participation from individuals who are interested and committed to our mandate. The national presence and track record of the CDSA continues to improve.

The CDSA welcomes participation from the Executive of the Specialty Societies during our teleconferences, whether to enlighten the Board to specific issues or request opinion and action.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Robert Barsky  
President CDSA  
CAPD Board Member