

Council Highlights **October 4, 2008**

New Council Year

Dr. Ash Varma, President, welcomed all participants including new Council members Mr. Dan DeVita, Ms. Deborah Folka, Mr. Rick Lemon, Ms. Leslie Riva, Ms. Lane Shupe, Dr. Jonathan Suzuki and Dr. Chiku Verma.

The following were appointed to the Executive Committee:

- Mr. Victor Bowman
- Dr. Bob Coles
- Mr. Paul Durose
- Ms. Lane Shupe
- Dr. Peter Stevenson-Moore
- Dr. Ash Varma

The Executive Committee will carry out only urgent unforeseen business between Council meetings, ensuring that Council is aware of its activities and is involved in all policy decisions of the College.

Requirement for Continuous Practice for Dentists and CDAs

Council approved that, under the *Health Professions Act*, dentists must maintain 900 hours of continuous practice, and CDAs 600 hours, within a three-year period in order to be eligible for an annual practising licence. The definition of “practice” includes work in education, research and administration in addition to clinical practice.

Health Professions Act (HPA)

Ms. Heather MacKay, Registrar, reported that the most recent version of the government’s regulations for dentists are scheduled to be posted later in October and are expected to be reviewed by Cabinet in December. The College anticipates that it will transition from regulation under the *Dentists Act* to the *Health Professions Act* in spring 2009.

IT Update

Upgrades to the College’s information technology systems are ongoing, including the implementation of a new telephone system later in the fall to better manage the capacity of calls received. Mr. Karl Gray was also recently hired as Information Systems Support Technician to provide full-time, on-site support.

Finances

The Treasurer, Dr. Peter Stevenson-Moore, reported that the College's financial position is sound.

The Audit Committee has issued a Request for Proposal for an audit firm and to date tenders from five companies have been received. The Committee will present its recommendations at the December Council Meeting.

Council approved an amendment to the Governance Policy EL8: Asset Protection, to include senior staff to have signing authority for budgeted items over \$25,000.

Dental Clinic at College Place

Subject to satisfactory legal and business arrangements being in place, Council instructed the Registrar and Elected Officers to allocate an additional \$300,000 to the internally restricted fund for the Study Club Alliance as a bridge financing loan for the renovation of the Sirona Dental Learning Centre at College Place.

College Committee and Working Group Appointments

Drs. Michael Henry (Chair), Geoff Grant, David Sowden, Mark Spurr and Bruce Ward were appointed to the Minimal and Moderate Sedation Working Group to review and revise the College's standards for this topic.

Dr. Chiku Verma and Ms. Deborah Folka were added to the Quality Assurance Committee.

CDA Regulation

Ms. Sandra Harvey has been hired as Manager of CDA Regulation. The College has met several times with the Certified Dental Assistants of BC (CDABC) on matters concerning CDA regulation and the draft Bylaws for regulation under the HPA.

Dental Emergencies - BC NurseLine

Ms. Margot White, Director of Communications, provided a status update on the task force formed by the BC Dental Association and College to support dentists in meeting their obligations regarding dental emergencies and after-hours care.

The task force is partnering with the B.C. HealthGuide and NurseLine Programs to assist patients with dental or health concerns by providing health information and checking symptoms. The Task Force plans to release an information package in the new year to provide dentists with resources for responding to emergencies.

365-day Rule

The Registrar summarized ongoing discussions with the College of Dental Hygienists of B.C. concerning the government's intent to replace the 365-day Rule with an alternative that ensures patient safety while allowing for greater freedom of choice and increased access to care. CDSBC and the College of Dental Hygienists, in consultation with other stakeholders, such as the BC Dental Association and the BC Dental Hygienists' Association, are working collaborative to establish a framework, underlying principles and policies for a new proposed model. This will include guidelines for dental hygienists and dentists with respect to dental hygienists in independent practice.