



College Update

Fall 2010

Elected Members of 2010/11 CDSBC Board

The September 18 CDSBC Board Meeting was the first under the new presidency of Dr. Bob Coles. The other elected dentist Board members are: Dr. Patricia Hunter, Dr. Erik Hutton, Dr. Thomas Kirk, Dr. Scott LeBuke, Dr. Lonny Legault, Dr. Peter Stevenson-Moore (Vice-President), Dr. Jonathan Suzuki, Dr. David Tobias (Treasurer) and Dr. Eli Whitney. The elected CDA Board members are Ms. Elaine Maxwell and Ms. Leslie Riva.

A complete list of the CDSBC 2010/11 Board, including public members, will be posted to www.cdsbc.org after the public members have been appointed by government.

Visit www.cdsbc.org for more information about the continuous practice requirement.

Health Professions Act

It has been 18 months since dentists and certified dental assistants became regulated under the *Health Professions Act* (HPA). Here are some of the highlights of the new legislation:

- **Continuous Practice Requirement**

For renewal in 2011, practising dentists must have undertaken at least 900 hours of practice between January 1, 2008 and December 31, 2010. Practising CDAs will need 600 hours of practice during that timeframe. Visit www.cdsbc.org for more information about the continuous practice requirement.

- **Duty to Report**

All health professionals regulated under the HPA have a *duty to report* any regulated person they believe is not competent to practice or is suffering from an ailment (physical or mental), emotional disturbance or addiction that puts the public at risk. This obligation extends to all professionals regulated under the HPA. See the cover story in the fall 2010 *Sentinel* for more information about the duty to report.

- **Patient Relations**

Under the HPA and CDSBC Bylaws, the College is required to develop a patient relations program to prevent professional misconduct, including that of a sexual nature. Work on this program is ongoing.

Complaints

The complaints team is working hard to deal with a large volume of complaints. The number of complaints received in the year ending February 28, 2010 was 40% higher than the number received in the previous year and about 20% higher than the norm.

The number of complaints received in the year ending February 28, 2010 was 40% higher than the number received in the previous year.

The increased volume of complaints coupled with new processes required by the *Health Professions Act*, the work required for complaint files referred to the Health Professions Review Board and some staff shortages resulted in a significant increase in the complaints backlog.

The complaints team is now fully staffed and systems are in place to comply with the requirements of the *Health Professions Act*. The projected number of complaints for the current fiscal year is also more typical, allowing the complaint team members to focus on the outstanding files.

Continued...

Key Activities

Below are some of the key activities CDSBC is currently working on.

- **Code of Ethics**

The Ethics Committee is leading an initiative to update the Code to make it more modern and relevant to practitioners and to the public. The goal is to update the language and approach – but not to change the basic principles that are already embodied in the current Code. See the summer 2010 *Sentinel* for the core values that will form the basis of the revised Code.

The Ethics Committee is leading an initiative to update the Code to make it more modern and relevant to practitioners and to the public.

- **Dental Recordkeeping**

The revised *Dental Recordkeeping Guidelines* were sent to dentists and CDAs in the spring. CDSBC is in the process of developing a dental recordkeeping course that will be launched at the 2011 Pacific Dental Conference.

- **Infection Control**

A joint working group of CDSBC and the College of Dental Hygienists of BC is developing an Infection Control Manual for use by all dentists, CDAs and hygienists. A first draft of this document is expected to be available for consultation within the next few months. The revised guidelines will be evidence-based and will satisfy government requirements while also being reasonable for dental professionals to implement.

- **Sedation Guidelines**

A working group is updating the minimal and moderate sedation guidelines.

College Place Building

Construction on College Place began in September 2009 in order to repair the external structure of the building and prevent future damage. The work has been ongoing throughout the past year and is nearing completion. As a result, the building now has a more modern look. See the fall 2010 *Sentinel* for more information and photos.

Financial Update

CDSBC's financial position continues to be strong. Renewal fees have either remained the same or been decreased for several years now. The College Place construction is being completed without any additional cost to dentists and CDAs.

Next Board Meeting

The next public CDSBC Board meeting will be held on Saturday, December 11 at the Fairmont Pacific Rim located at 1038 Canada Place Way in Vancouver (check www.cdsbc.org in November for start time and meeting room).

For more information about anything in this College Update, visit www.cdsbc.org or contact CDSBC.

College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia

500 – 1765 West 8th Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6J 5C6
Phone 604 736 3621
Toll Free 1 800 663 9169
Fax 604 734 9448
Toll Free Fax 1 866 734 9448
www.cdsbc.org

