



### 2011/12 CDSBC Board

This year CDSBC welcomes four new Board Members, three dentists and one CDA. One public member position is yet to be appointed by the government. For a complete list of the 2011/12 CDSBC Board, visit [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org).

### Health Professions Act

The transition to the *Health Professions Act* (HPA), Dentists Regulation and CDSBC Bylaws is now complete, allowing College staff and volunteers to be able to focus on other projects, such as the revised *Code of Ethics*, and the *Infection Control and Prevention Guidelines* and the new *Minimal and Moderate Sedation Guidelines*, in addition to the day to day work of regulating dentists and certified dental assistants in BC.

One impact the *Health Professions Act* has had on CDSBC has been noted particularly in the Complaints department. The additional steps required to process a complaint, along with the involvement of the Health Professions Review Board (HPRB) in overseeing the process, have created a significantly increased workload for both staff and the Inquiry Committee. This is one of the contributing factors to the backlog of complaints pending resolution at the College. The staff and Inquiry Committee are working hard to shorten the length of time it takes to resolve complaints.

### Patient Relations

Under the *Health Professions Act*, CDSBC is required to establish a patient relations program to “*seek to prevent professional misconduct, including professional misconduct of a sexual nature*”. Professional misconduct of a sexual nature is defined as sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual relations between a dentist or CDA and a patient.

In early 2011, CDSBC was asked to clarify whether the Ministry of Health had intended for this section of the Act and Bylaws to apply in all situations or whether there are some exceptions to this rule; in particular – whether spousal relations would be exempted. The provincial government provided a letter to CDSBC in February 2011, outlining its policy, and stating clearly that there are no exceptions contemplated. The full text of this letter can be found on the CDSBC website.

### Complaints

In the fiscal year ending February 28, 2010, CDSBC received a record number of complaints: 206 rather than the norm of 175. That record number of complaints, coupled with staff shortages, adapting the complaints process to the new regime under the *Health Professions Act*, dealing with matters referred to the HPRB and getting CDSBC’s newly added Complaints Investigators up to speed, all led to a backlog of complaints with many

taking longer to resolve than we would like.

In the fiscal year ending February 28, 2011, the Inquiry Committee closed 2.8 times as many files as in the previous fiscal year (134:48). It is particularly noteworthy that the closed complaint files included some of the oldest and most complex complaints.

Just slightly over ½ way through this fiscal year, there is both bad and good news. The good news: so far this fiscal year, the College has closed 110 files which means that we are on track to close 189 files this year! The older files continue to be targeted for special attention. Unfortunately, the number of new complaints is up. As of mid-September the College has received 120 new complaints putting us on track for a record number of 215 new complaints for the year ending February 29, 2012.

### Key Activities

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

- **Revised Code of Ethics**  
A Revised Code of Ethics was accepted by the Board in May, as recommended by the Ethics Committee. This document is not meant to change any of the principles embedded in the original Code but is designed to be more principle-based and high level in approach. The Ethics Committee expects to complete

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further work on related specific issues, such as advertising, in the coming year.

- **Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines**

Over the past months, CDSBC and the College of Dental Hygienists of BC have worked together creating an evidence-based and referenced Infection Prevention and Control Guidelines. The draft document is expected to be available online at [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org) for review by the end of October 2011.

- **Sedation Guidelines**

CDSBC Sedation Committee has been working for some time on a revised *Minimal and Moderate Sedation Guidelines* document. It is expected that a draft of the document will go to the Board early in the New Year. Once the Board approves the draft document, it will be posted on the CDSBC website for comment. The draft document is expected to be available online at [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org) for review by the end of February 2012.

- **Dermal Fillers Working Group**

A National initiative is underway to review the use of Botox and dermal fillers by dentists in Canada. An expert panel will be struck and charged with the task of reviewing whether Botox (already a moot point in BC) and dermal fillers should be part of a dentist's scope of practice and, if so, what education would be required to safely administer the substances. In the meantime, dermal fillers remain outside the scope of practice of general dentists in BC, regardless of the context in which they are administered.

## Next Board Meeting

The next public CDSBC Board meeting will be held on Saturday, October 15, 2011, at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Vancouver. The meeting will begin at 8:30 am. If you plan to attend an upcoming College Board meeting as an observer, please RSVP by email to Nancy Crosby at [ncrosby@cdsbc.org](mailto:ncrosby@cdsbc.org) no later than October 7, 2011. Board Highlights from the May 27, 2011 Board meeting are available on the College website at [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org).

## 2012 CDSBC Board Election

The annual election of CDSBC Officers and Board Members takes place on May 17, 2012. There are eight positions up for election. Election materials will be sent in late April to those eligible to vote. For up-to-date information about the election, visit [www.cdsbc.org/election](http://www.cdsbc.org/election). Questions or requests for nomination packages may be directed to Betty Richardson, Director of Operations, at [brichardson@cdsbc.org](mailto:brichardson@cdsbc.org).

## Earn CE at Your Desk with Webinars

Dentists and CDAs once again have the opportunity to stay current about new developments in dentistry with webinars offered by CDSBC and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO). Last year's series met with resounding positive responses from participants. Don't miss out on this opportunity to earn CE without leaving your desk!

**X-rays, Dentists and the 21st Century** – Friday, October 14, 9-10 am PST

**Minimally Invasive Dentistry – Current Principles of Caries Diagnosis and Management** – Friday, November 11, 9-10 am PST

**The Nature, Complexity and Mechanisms of Acute and Chronic Craniofacial Pain** – Friday, December 9, 9-10 am PST

For further information, course descriptions and registration details, visit [www.cdsbc.org/webinar\\_series/](http://www.cdsbc.org/webinar_series/).

## Dental Recordkeeping Course

CDSBC debuted its new course Recordkeeping Essentials: *What You Need to Know* on March 11, 2011 at the Pacific Dental Conference. The session was attended by over 300 people and was very well received. The next presentation of the course will be at the Thompson-Okanagan Dental Society Meeting on October 20-22, 2011, in Kelowna. Course documents will be available soon on the CDSBC website.

For more information about anything in this College Update, visit [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org) or contact CDSBC.

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