



## College Update

Winter 2011

### 2010/11 CDSBC Board

The B.C. government recently appointed four new public members to the CDSBC Board. These members will each serve either a one- or two-year term. For a complete list of the 2010/11 CDSBC Board, visit [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org).

### Health Professions Act

It has been almost two years 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 need 600 hours of practice during that timeframe. Visit [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org) for more information about the continuous practice requirement.

**Visit [www.cdsbc.org](http://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 section 16 (2) (f) of the *Health Professions Act* and CDSBC Bylaw 13.03, 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 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 number of complaints received in the year ending February 28, 2010 was 40% higher than the number received in the previous year.**

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.

### 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

*Continued...*

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 spring 2010. CDSBC has developed a dental recordkeeping course that will be launched at the 2011 Pacific Dental Conference (PDC). The course – *Recordkeeping Essentials – What You Need to Know* – will take place Friday, March 11 from 8:30–11 am in room 211 on Level 2 of the Vancouver Convention Centre West building, in conjunction with the PDC.

- **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 18 months and is now complete. 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. The College Place construction was completed without any additional cost to dentists and CDAs.

### Next Board Meeting

The next public CDSBC Board meeting under the *Health Professions Act* will be held on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Fairmont Pacific Rim hotel in Vancouver. The meeting will begin at 9 am. Board Highlights from the December 11, 2010 Board meeting are available on the College website at [www.cdsbc.org](http://www.cdsbc.org).

### 2011 CDSBC Board Election

The annual election of CDSBC Officers and Board Members takes place on May 19, 2011. 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).

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

