The Year Ahead: What Registrants Can Expect from the 2016/17 CDSBC Board

29 November 2016

The last 18 months have seen noticeable registrant opposition to certain policy decisions, which resulted in major change within the College Board. The current Board would like to take this opportunity to communicate directly with registrants about what they can expect for the year ahead.

Some of the dentist board members who ran in the last election did so because they had concerns about how the College was operating. They have since stated that their interactions over the past several months have assured them that the College is – and has been – well-managed and is a high functioning, high performing organization. While there has been much for these new board members to learn, they have embraced that challenge and demonstrated their willingness to get up to speed and gain a full understanding of how the College operates.

Beginning with the September board meeting, the Board has put the election behind us and is getting back to the work of public protection, which is our sole mandate.

Setting the priorities

All of the incoming board members were included in the strategic and operational planning process that took place in June – even before taking office. In August, the Board Officers spent time with senior staff to synthesize the feedback from the June meeting and prepare a list of priorities to present to the Board for further discussion and refinement at the September meeting. The top priorities identified by the Board (in descending order) are listed below. (Text in italics was added later for reader clarification only)

- Sedation (pediatric sedation and deep sedation guidelines)
- Practitioner wellness (working with the BC Dental Association to eliminate barriers to treatment)
- Bylaws (review and rewrite)
- Quality Assurance (revising the existing program)
- Corporatization of dentistry (what impact the expansion of large corporate-style practices could have on quality and ethics of care)
- Governance (ensuring the governance manual is up to date and to allow for increased transparency)
- Dental labs and Article 5 (this refers to ethics, such as increasing charges for lab work provided by third-party labs, and provisions in the old code of ethics under the Dentists Act that are not captured elsewhere)
- Advanced practice – competency requirements (e.g. whether additional training should be required for certain areas of practice)

It’s important to remember that these project-based initiatives are in addition to the day-to-day work of registration/renewal of registrants and investigating complaints.

**Right-touch regulation**

The Board agrees with our Registrar/CEO Jerome Marburg, who has stated “The College strives for ‘right-touch regulation’ – applying the minimum regulatory force in order to meet our mandate of protecting the public while supporting the professionalism, ethics and quality care provided by the nearly 10,000 dentists, dental therapists and certified dental assistants we regulate.” Right-touch regulation is a concept developed by the UK’s Professional Standards Authority that is being embraced by regulators around the world.

This is supported by the College’s new framework for developing policy, which includes early consultation with registrants and stakeholders on the types of issues that would benefit from engagement. The end result will be better policy outcomes and increased compliance from registrants, which ultimately protects the public.

**Ways to get involved**

There are many ways to get involved with the College:
- Join us at regular courses and events, which you can find on the [events page](#) of the College website
- Offer to join a committee or working group by completing the [Volunteer Application](#) (PDF) and emailing it to [volunteer@cdsbc.org](mailto:volunteer@cdsbc.org)
- Attend one of the upcoming [Listening Sessions](#) being held around the province
- Submit your comments when policy items are posted for consultation
- Speak to our board members and staff at regional dental conferences (we will next be at the Vancouver & District Dental Society Midwinter Clinic and the Pacific Dental Conference)
- Attend board meetings and the annual general meeting (dates are listed [here](#))
- Run for a position on the College Board – and vote in the next election

We, the 18 public, dentist and certified dental assistant members of the Board, intend to govern this organization in keeping with everything we have stated here. We already know the College is doing good work, and we intend to demonstrate that at every opportunity in order to build trust both with our registrants and with the public we are mandated to protect.

Sincerely,
Dr. Don Anderson

Dr. Patricia Hunter

Dr. Chris Callen

Dr. Mark Spitz

Dr. S. Masoud Saidi

Ms. Sabina Reitzik

Mr. Dan De Vita

Mr. Neal Steinman

Mr. David Pusey

Dr. Susan K. Chow

Dr. Michael Flunkert

Dr. Dustin Holben

Dr. Douglas W. Conn

Dr. Andrea Esteves

Ms. Sherry Messenger

Mr. Richard Lemon

Ms. Julie Johal

Mr. Terry Hawes