



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting - November 18, 2010

This publication is posted online on the College's website within two working days after each Council meeting and sent by e-mail to all members who have shared their e-mail address with the College. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad by phone at 416-934-5625, toll-free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at ifefergrad@rcdso.org.

MANAGEMENT OF PAIN IN DENTAL PRACTICE

The College hosted an incredibly exciting one day symposium on the management of pain in dental practice on November 17, the day before the Council meeting. This was the kickoff of a multi-faceted communications and educational strategy by the College to address the public health crisis in the use of opioids.

Participation in the session was interprofessional with representatives from our regulatory colleagues in medicine, nursing and pharmacy and from the dental schools at the University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario.

The provincial government is already assertively moving forward with the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act well underway to becoming law. Canada has the highest per capita usage rate of prescription narcotics of anywhere in the world, and Ontario's rate is double that of the rest of Canada. For example, Ontario deaths due to oxycodone have increased five fold between 1991 and 2004.

Dentists see patients frequently and usually develop long-term relationships with patients and are uniquely positioned to make a significant impact on this issue.

2011 BUDGET

Council approved the 2011 budget that reflects the sound financial position of the College. A modest surplus is projected plus 2011 will be the fifth consecutive membership year without a dues increase.

PROPOSED GUIDELINES ON ELECTRONIC RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Council approved, in principle, draft Guidelines on Electronic Records Management. These guidelines will be circulated to members and stakeholders for input as part of the formal consultation process. A final version will come back to Council in May 2011 for approval.

The proposed guidelines will assist members in responding to the significant technological advancements in this area and to be in a position to respond to ongoing government initiatives to advance the provincial adoption and integration of e-health records.

CDRAF CHANGES

At its October meeting, the CDRAF Board unanimously decided (the Ontario delegation absented itself for this discussion) to invite Ontario to continue its administrative role and recompense the College with a yearly payment of \$75,000. Council unanimously approved this new arrangement that will see the College overseeing and co-ordinating the day-to-day operations of CDRAF.

NEW CDRAF FEE STRUCTURE

At the October CDRAF Board meeting, the fees for each province were significantly reduced, from \$30 per registrant to \$5 per registrant. The fee assessment is based on the number of registrants in each provincial regulatory college.

CDA/CDRAF INTERFACE COMMITTEE

The Canadian Dental Association and the Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation are working jointly to establish positive relationships between the two organizations. There have already been three meetings held and three more are scheduled for 2011.

OFFICE OF THE FAIRNESS COMMISSIONER

College Registrar Irwin Fefergrad is a part of the 12-stakeholder working group formed by the Commissioner to develop a tool to assess the registration practices of regulatory bodies and to make recommendations on improvements of the OFC's audit process of regulators. The working group is to be finished its work by year end.

STANDARDS ON USE OF SEDATION AND GENERAL ANESTHESIA

The Quality Assurance Committee has struck a working group to review the College's Guidelines for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia to consider how they need to be aligned with the standards recently approved by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for the use of sedation and general anesthesia in any non-hospital facility. The working group is chaired by Dr. Dan Haas of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry.

GUIDELINES ON IMPLANT DENTISTRY

The working group reviewing the existing guidelines on implant dentistry continues to meet to make recommendations about educational requirements, treatment planning, informed consent and the management of failures. The working group is chaired by Dr. Peter Birek of the University of Toronto's Faculty of Dentistry.

AD HOC ETHICS COMMITTEE

Council agreed that an Ad Hoc Ethics Committee should continue for the 2011-2012 term, with the committee membership determined early in the term of the new Executive Committee.

Council also reaffirmed the College's current Code of Ethics and asked the committee to ensure its currency with another re-evaluation during the committee's term. In addition, Council approved a number of recommendations from the committee that focus on increasing the visibility of ethics with members.

SUPPORT TO YUKON DENTISTS

The College has agreed to provide educational support to the 30 or so dentists in the Yukon, in response to a request from Yukon dentist Dr. Hal Leitch. Dr. Leitch was formerly the Ontario Region dental officer for Health Canada's Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. The College will send them educational resources, such as courses from our LifeLong Learning program, and open registration to Yukon dentists for any future webinars.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Council has confirmed the appointment of Catherine Kerr to the Elections Committee. A vacancy for a public member was created due to a resignation.