



Dear Student Members,

Your experience as a student will be unlike any other time of your life. It is a transformational time dedicated to personal growth and development in many facets of your future professional and personal endeavours. Your decision to pursue a career in dental hygiene tells the world that the oral health, overall health, and well-being of others matter to you, and that you are willing apply your skills to the service of others.

The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) congratulates and supports you on this choice; we welcome you to our wonderful profession! The academic challenges in front of you will not be easy, but be assured that they will be worthwhile and fulfilling. As you face these challenges, CDHA will be there to encourage you along the way.

CDHA's board of directors uses a policy governance model to govern the affairs of the association. Under this model, the board of directors established four specific outcomes referred to as "ends" for the association, which you can think of as goals. As a result of this strategic planning, all CDHA decisions and activities are categorized, measured, and evaluated by their ability to move the association towards these ends. This approach provides more clarity and guidance to decision making as well as a new level of accountability to membership. These four ends include the public policy environment, public recognition, professional knowledge, and professional identity. CDHA's ownership linkage strategy is how the board of directors connects and interacts with members to ensure all policy, decision-making and operational activities are aligned with the association's mandate and ends.

CDHA's Board of Directors is committed to nurturing our connection with you, and to listening to your ideas and needs. In 2013, CDHA launched a student leadership program with representation from across Canada. This program provides a forum for you to share your voice and help us understand how CDHA can better assist you in your role as a student.

The third annual Student Ownership Linkage Session took place in Victoria, BC, in October 2015 in conjunction with the CDHA national conference. We were delighted to host over 30 student members, including three senior student representatives. The CDHA Board of Directors truly enjoyed engaging with those in attendance. The next Student Ownership Linkage Session will be held in Edmonton, AB, in conjunction with the CDHA Annual General Meeting. Further details regarding the session will be sent at a later date.

We invite you to stay connected with CDHA activities by visiting our website, joining our Facebook page or following us on Twitter. As students, you are the future of our profession and the future of CDHA. We look forward to standing beside you as colleagues.

Best wishes,

Mandy Hayre, RDH, BDS, PID, MEd
Ownership linkage chair & CDHA past president 2014–2015

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
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