



Dear student members,

Your experience as a student will be unlike any other in your life. It is a transformational time dedicated to both personal and professional growth and development. 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 to 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 seeks input from members to help establish four specific outcomes (referred to as "ends") for the association, which you can think of as goals. These four ends encompass the public policy environment, public recognition, professional knowledge, and professional identity. 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. 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 fifth annual student ownership linkage session took place in Ottawa, Ontario, in October 2017 in conjunction with CDHA's biennial conference. We were delighted to host close to 60 student members, and truly enjoyed engaging with those in attendance. The next student ownership linkage session will be held in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, during CDHA's annual general meeting in October 2018. Further details on the session will be provided as that date nears.

We invite you to stay connected with CDHA activities by visiting our [website](#), joining our [Facebook page](#) and [Student Facebook page](#) or following us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). 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,

Geraldine (Gerry) Cool, RDH
Ownership linkage chair & CDHA past president, 2016–2017

THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
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