

MEETING GUIDE

1. Develop your elevator pitch. Most government representatives will afford you only 15 to 30 minutes, so your message should be brief and concise.
2. Determine which issues you would like to discuss and bring along the necessary materials to support your messages. These may include:
 - a. [Dental hygiene fact sheet](#)
 - b. One-page briefing notes on your discussions topics:
 - [Improving access to preventive oral care in rural and remote communities](#)
 - [Meeting the oral health needs of seniors and older adults](#)
 - [Standards for oral health care in long-term care facilities](#)
 - [Public funding for dental coverage](#)
 - c. Any additional background materials relevant to the issues
 - d. Photos (be sure to obtain consent if you wish to share images of clients)
 - e. Business cards

You may wish to prepare folders containing all of the materials for everyone attending the meeting, including yourself. It is wise to bring a few extra folders in case additional staff attend.

3. Identify the principal spokesperson if there are two or more of you attending the meeting. Ensure that each individual has an opportunity to speak to one of the topics; all individuals should feel free to comment at any time.
4. Open your meeting by thanking the representative for having taken the time from his or her busy schedule to meet with you and discuss these important issues.
5. Introduce yourself (and your guests, if any) by giving your name, title, and profession. Begin by asking how familiar they are with the profession. Explain that there are more than 29,000 dental hygienists across Canada, making it the sixth largest registered health profession in the country. Dental hygienists are committed to improving access to oral health care for the overall health and well-being of Canadians. You can also add the number of dental hygienists in your province.
6. Describe the purpose and objectives of your meeting:
 - a. To improve the oral health of all Canadians, especially underserved groups;
 - b. To encourage the implementation of cost-effective, equitable, and sustainable programs and policies;
 - c. To optimize existing resources to better meet the needs of Canadians and governments.
7. Share personal stories with your elected official. They can be very receptive to information that resonates with them and with residents in their constituency.

Briefly summarize the key points on the issue(s) you are raising using the one-page briefing notes. Make sure to add that he or she may personally contact you or Ondina Love, CDHA Chief Executive Officer, at olove@cdha.ca, for additional information or clarification.