

Talking Ethics



CDHA Code of Ethics Review

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In 2002, CDHA developed a *Code of Ethics* that serves as a foundation for ethical practice in dental hygiene. This document sets down the ethical principles and ethical practice standards of the dental hygiene profession. Clients, colleagues, and the public expect dental hygienists to be guided by, and to be accountable under, the principles articulated in this *Code*. Although the primary users of the *Code of Ethics* are CDHA members who are employed in a variety of practice settings, some dental hygiene regulatory authorities and provincial associations adopt the CDHA *Code of Ethics* as their provincial *Code of Ethics*. Dental hygienists are accountable to other codes of ethics/ethical guidelines including those of their provincial regulatory authority and their work place.

CDHA revises its *Code of Ethics* periodically to ensure that it reflects changing societal values and conditions and the needs of dental hygienists in their practice settings. Since it has been ten years since the last *Code of Ethics* was written, CDHA struck a steering committee to assist with the revision of the *Code of Ethics*. The steering committee members are dental hygienists from across Canada, including: Paula Benbow (Ontario), Mandy Hayre (British Columbia), Pauline Imai (British Columbia), Nancy Johnston (Ontario), Carol Kline (British Columbia), Laura MacDonald (Manitoba), Nancy Neish (Nova Scotia), Laura Perri (Ontario), Harriett Rosenbaum (Manitoba), and Sandra Cobban (Alberta). These individuals were chosen to represent various dental hygiene practice settings, including: public health, university and college programs, independent practice, long term care, private dental practice and experience as board members of provincial dental hygiene associations and regulatory authorities and experience with dental industry. Their mission is to provide expertise, advice and guidance in the development of an updated and revised Code of Ethics for CDHA. CDHA hired the Health HR Group (Christine Da Prat, Mary Ellen Jeans, and Marg Risk) to conduct background research, collect information from key informant interviews, facilitate an in person meeting with the steering committee members that took place on February

1 and 2, 2012, and to consult with CDHA members and stakeholders to validate the revised Code of Ethics.

Member consultation was carried out in April and May with valuable feedback from hundreds of members. Your participation in the consultation process was important, and we appreciate that so many members took the opportunity to ensure that the revised *Code of Ethics* reflects the experiences in current practice settings. Watch our website, future issues of our e-newsletter and the July issue of this magazine for official launch of the new *Code of Ethics*.

