



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

Call for Members: CDHA Truth and Reconciliation Task Force

Background

In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) of Canada issued 94 Calls to Action, urging all sectors of society to address the legacy of residential schools and advance reconciliation. In response, the **Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA)** is establishing a **TRC Task Force** to lead the dental hygiene profession in developing a **Reconciliation Action Plan**. This plan will promote culturally safe, respectful, and inclusive practices that support Indigenous Peoples' oral health and well-being.

Mandate

The CDHA TRC Task Force will develop a Reconciliation Action Plan to guide the profession in advancing reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples through oral health care, education, research, and policy. The plan will foster systemic change, build relationships with Indigenous communities, and promote Indigenous leadership within the profession.

Archipel Research Inc. has been contracted to guide and support the CDHA TRC Task Force in designing and implementing an inclusive, evidence-based process to advance reconciliation within the dental hygiene profession. The Consultant will facilitate the Task Force's work, conduct research and analysis, and prepare a comprehensive Action Plan aligned with Truth and Reconciliation principles and CDHA's strategic Ends.

About Archipel Research Inc.

Archipel Research and Consulting is an Indigenous-owned and women-led firm. Their company is supported by a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous consultants and researchers that bring together many years of experience in supporting Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities, and in developing policies that are in line with Indigenous values and worldviews.

Archipel has a substantive foundational commitment to the framework of Etuaptmumk, or Two-Eyed Seeing, which guides their process of integrating Indigenous and Western perspectives in a balanced and reciprocal manner. This dual-lens approach ensures that policy review is informed not only by academic rigor but also by community-based knowledge, allowing them to generate policy recommendations that are culturally grounded, contextually relevant, and practically effective.

In practice, their approaches prioritize narrative sovereignty through conversational methods rooted in oral storytelling traditions. These methods create culturally safe spaces and support the development of trust, which is essential for understanding how policies are received and experienced within communities and Indigenous individuals.

Their commitment to the First Nations Principles of OCAP (Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession) informs ethical protocols and ensures that Indigenous research participants retain control over their data and contributions

Objectives

The Task Force will:

- Raise awareness of the impacts of colonization and residential schools on Indigenous oral health.
- Support cultural safety through education, training, and practice standards that reflect Indigenous knowledge and rights.
- Enhance access and equity by addressing barriers to oral health care for Indigenous Peoples.
- Foster Indigenous leadership by supporting recruitment and advancement of Indigenous dental hygienists and students.
- Ensure all initiatives are guided by Indigenous voices and priorities.

Membership

We are seeking:

- **Two CDHA Indigenous members**

Roles and Responsibilities

Members will:

- Review key documents and contribute expertise.
- Participate actively in meetings and discussions.
- Support development and implementation of the Action Plan.

Commitment

- **Meetings:** 4 virtual meetings and 1 in-person meeting in Ottawa (February 25, 2026).
- **Timeline:**
 - Call for members: November 2025
 - Selection: December 2025
 - First meeting: Dec 2025 or Jan 2026
 - Final report: Spring 2027

Why Join?

This is an opportunity to help shape the future of dental hygiene in Canada by advancing reconciliation and promoting culturally safe care for Indigenous Peoples.

How to Apply

Please submit your expression of interest by **December 15, 2025**, to **Ondina Love** (olove@cdha.ca), including:

- Your name and role
- A brief statement of interest and relevant experience