



## Carla Grbac, Ayr, Ontario

su-per-he-ro /'sōpər,ˌhɪrō/ noun. [1] a benevolent hygienist with superhuman powers, such Carla Grbac (Oxford Dictionary, n.d.)

Having learned of the call for applications for the 2021 Dental Hygiene Healthcare Superhero Award I unreservedly, support Carla Grbac. As a registered dental hygienist, I understand the importance of oral health leadership, and in my professional opinion, none exemplify the meaning of the award more than Carla. Carla demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to the dental community as well as to the general public.

A dental hygiene superhero is someone who possess exemplary qualities, someone who has affected us in ways which make us want to be better people and clinicians. I have the absolute privilege to call Carla my mentor, as part of the CDHO peer mentorship program. In addition to her clinical position, Carla sits on the CDHO council, and the Ownership Linkage, Discipline, and Fitness to Practice committees. The 2020 Covid-19 pandemic as changed many elements of dental hygiene practice, and as a new registrant I would be lost without her. If I were asked to name one thing Carla Grbac could not accomplish, I would not be able to provide an answer. Leadership comes in many forms, but most importantly it must be authentic. A true leader in dental hygiene is transformational and transparent, Carla is honest in her pursuit to improve the profession for working dental hygienists. A personal example of how her leadership impacted my dental hygiene practice includes her determination to see me succeed. She spends countless hours helping me to improve my documentation, and radiographs. The profession is intimidating enough, and not once has Carla ever made me feel small. She makes sure I am heard and valued. She offers me prompt and justified advise at any opportunity, and this is a volunteer position. Carla is a self-less individual and always strives to see others reach their potential. She moves mountains for her patients, but more importantly for her colleagues. While the current pandemic leaves many things uncertain, one thing that is absolute is Carla's ability to take charge admirably. A superhero is someone you are proud to work along side of, but more importantly someone who's passion is unmatched. Carla is the founder of RDHGURU dental hygiene seminars, a group founded on the sole basis to help others with their professional portfolios. The underlying theme is each thing Carla puts her mind to is for the benefit of others. Awarding Carla Grbac with the Dental Hygiene Superhero Award would be a chance to give back to someone who has given so much. If you look up the word superhero in the dictionary, you will see Carla's name, it's also cross-referenced under inspiring, encouraging, and remarkable.

