



Natasha Kellett, RDH

Masset, BC

Natasha's passion for dental and oral care spans three decades. She grew up in the small West Coast village of Bella Coola and saw the need for access to respectful and equitable oral care in remote and rural areas. Her interest in improving access to care led her to become a dental assistant and then a dental hygienist. Natasha has worked in private practice, public health, community clinics, and for dental charities. She moved to the remote archipelago of Haida Gwaii to work at a non-profit, band run, First Nations community clinic. At the clinic, she became acutely aware of the long history of trauma experienced by First Nations people at the hands of dental professionals. Natasha believed that oral care services could be delivered in a culturally safe way, embracing local Haida values and assisting and empowering clients, families, and communities on their healing journey. To that end, she developed a pilot project integrating traditional healers into the dental clinic to assist clients in managing trauma-based dental fears. Then, when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and Haida Gwaii was without a dentist because travel to the island was suspended, Natasha partnered with three off-island dentists, local physicians, and a local nurse practitioner, in consultation with CDHBC, to develop protocols and guidelines to support a form of teledentistry to assist residents with urgent oral health care needs.



**DENTAL
HYGIENE
CANADA**