



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

For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

CDHA applauds LPC and NDP for prioritizing oral health care in agreement

March 22, 2022 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) applauds today's announcement by the Prime Minister of an agreement reached between the Liberal Party of Canada and the New Democratic Party that prioritizes a new oral health care program for low-income Canadians, including seniors.

"Improved access to oral health care for seniors in Canada tops our list of priorities," said Ondina Love, chief executive officer of CDHA. For seniors with low or fixed incomes who cannot afford extra expenses and are not covered by private insurance, moving to increase access to professional oral care will help them maintain good oral and overall health as they age.

CDHA is pleased to see the government will be tabling the Safe Long-Term Care Act and will continue to share our key recommendations with government officials, as outlined in the recently published paper, [National Standards for Long-Term Care: Addressing Oral Health for Overall Health](#). We will continue to urge the federal government to incorporate oral hygiene services (including oral health assessments, personalized oral health care plans, and daily mouth care) into the upcoming legislation.

Dental hygienists support seniors every day. Still, many seniors in Canada and others with low incomes or disabilities face barriers that limit their access to the preventive oral care they need. When we consider both the importance of oral health to overall health, and the pressures on the health system related to untreated oral conditions and diseases, we strongly support Parliament's role in making oral health a policy priority. CDHA is here to work with Parliament on real, positive oral health outcomes for those who are most vulnerable.

We will continue to advocate for improving access to oral health care and will work to ensure the government includes this critical policy priority in upcoming legislation. We look forward to ongoing collaboration with all parliamentarians to improve the quality of oral health care for Canadians.

CDHA is the collective national voice of more than 30,000 dental hygienists in Canada, directly representing 21,000 individual members, including students. Since 1963, CDHA has worked to advance the profession and promote the importance of oral health. Dental hygiene is the sixth largest regulated health profession in Canada with professionals working in a variety of settings, including independent dental hygiene practice, with people of all ages, addressing issues related to oral health. For more information on oral health, visit dentalhygienecanada.ca.

– 30 –

Angie D'Aoust, Director of Marketing and Communications
1-800-267-5235 ext. 134, or by email adaoust@cdha.ca

<https://linktr.ee/thecdha>



@thecdha / thecdha