



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

For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

## Media Release

### **Expansion to Canadian Dental Care Plan Will Keep Even More Vulnerable Populations Healthier**

June 27 2, 2024 (Ottawa, ON) — As of today, eligibility for the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) will open for children under 18, and people with a valid Canada Disability Tax Credit. The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) applauds the expansion to the plan, which will increase access to preventive oral health care for even more people living in Canada. This part of the phased roll-out further supports the needs of vulnerable Canadians, particularly children and people with disabilities, who can now receive the high-quality oral health care they deserve.

“By ensuring oral health care is accessible, we invest in the well-being of the most vulnerable populations across Canada,” said CDHA CEO, Ondina Love. “This expansion will greatly improve access to preventive oral health care, which will be transformative for Canadian youth and others at risk for oral diseases.”

The CDCP intends to alleviate financial barriers to oral health care for millions of eligible Canadian residents. The plan covers a wide range of treatments for oral diseases, as well as services that maintain oral health and prevent future oral health issues. As prevention specialists, dental hygienists are already playing an integral role in the implementation of the plan and will continue to provide care for those who previously may have been unable to afford it. At the same time, dental hygienists continue to work with the government to increase access to much-needed preventive services covered under the plan.

Dental hygienists are oral health experts specializing in the power of preventive care. Untreated and late-treated oral conditions impact physical and mental health and hinder overall well-being.

“Thousands of vulnerable people in my community will now have help accessing treatments that will enhance their quality of life,” said Newfoundland and Labrador dental hygienist Nicole Kielly. “Many have not had access to preventive oral health care for a very long time.”

CDHA looks forward to continuing to work with Health Canada and the Minister of Health on promoting oral health care for all Canadians and welcomes this expansion to the CDCP. Dental hygienists across Canada anticipate providing timely and burdenless care to those who need it most under the plan. We strongly encourage all those who are eligible to enroll in the CDCP.

**About the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA):**

CDHA is the national voice of dental hygienists in Canada. Representing over 31,000 dental hygienists across the country, CDHA advocates for the advancement and promotion of the dental hygiene profession while maintaining a commitment to the public's 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](#). For more information on the work of CDHA, visit [cdha.ca](#).

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