



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

For immediate release

Media Release

Dental Hygienists Celebrate International Women's Day

March 7, 2024 (Ottawa, ON) — As the voice of a female-dominated workforce of oral health professionals, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is proud to celebrate International Women's Day on March 8. CDHA recognizes this as a time to celebrate the hard work and accomplishments of all women in the profession of dental hygiene.

This year's theme for International Women's Day focuses on the necessity of investing in women to accelerate their economic empowerment. It is a critical opportunity to reflect on how to better support female professionals in oral health care.

As essential primary health care professionals, dental hygienists practise in a variety of clinical settings including traditional dental clinics and independently owned dental hygiene businesses, building more capacity for care, particularly for underserved populations such as seniors, residents in long-term care, and people living in rural and remote communities. Under the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), dental hygienists will play an integral role in increasing access to oral health care for approximately 9 million Canadians who, in the past, might not have been able to afford to visit an oral health professional for critical preventive oral health services.

More than 1600 dental hygienists across Canada work directly with patients, independently of a dentist. Fair and competitive remuneration rates for the crucial services they offer are incredibly important investments, not only in the businesses they operate but also in the health and well-being of people across the country. "Ensuring that dental hygienists are fully recognized as preventive care specialists and that dental hygiene services are adequately compensated will make high-quality, timely oral health care more readily available to all who need and deserve it," said Francine Trudeau, president of CDHA. "By investing in dental hygienists, we invest in our communities, our health, and our economy. There is no health without oral health!"

On International Women's Day and every day, CDHA celebrates the many inspiring women who deliver evidence-informed, patient-centred preventive oral care, strive to empower their patients towards better oral health outcomes, and are vital players in improving the overall health and well-being of the patients they treat. We are committed to continuing to support the women in our profession.

-30-

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 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](#).

Media Contact

Angie D'Aoust, Director of Marketing and Communications
613-878-3607
adaoust@cdha.ca



<https://linktr.ee/thecdha>