



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



For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

Media Release

Canada's Dental Hygienists Gather for National Conference

October 18, 2024 (Ottawa, ON) — More than 500 dental hygienists from across Canada are gathered in Niagara Falls this week for a three-day, action-packed professional development program hosted by the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA).

This biennial national conference, with the theme Practice 360, features internationally recognized speakers, oral health researchers, and subject matter experts from academia and industry. Presenters will explore topics such as sustainable dentistry, improving outcomes for patients with autism, forensic odontology, and the use of AI in dental hygiene, plus there's a full scientific program of oral and poster presentations.

The conference began this morning with opening ceremonies and remarks from the Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health. Minister Holland addressed dental hygienists with an announcement that all the necessary approvals have been received to implement fee schedule parity for independent dental hygienists in the new year. CDHA is thrilled with this news and Minister Holland's "fundamental appreciation for the work we do every day, as an army of professionals dedicated to prevention, caring for people." He added "we need a healthcare system based in prevention, not crisis, and dental hygienists understand that better than anyone." Health Canada representatives will lead a session on the Canadian Dental Care Plan for dental hygienists as part of Friday's conference program.

"This conference marks 61 years of CDHA and 111 years of the dental hygiene profession in North America," says Alexandra Sheppard, CDHA president. "We are delighted to provide a forum where dental hygienists are able to connect, learn, and contribute to the growing body of knowledge that strengthens our efforts to improve the oral health of all people living in Canada."

Complementing the conference's educational sessions will be several special events, including an awards luncheon recognizing leaders in Canadian dental hygiene research, scholarship, and service. Among the recipients will be Leta Zaleski, who will receive CDHA's Award of Merit. Tributes will also be paid to CDHA's 250 25-year members and to its dental industry partners—Colgate, Crest Oral-B, PHILIPS, Listerine, Haleon, Dentsply Sirona, Hu-Friedy, Waterpik and SUNSTAR—who provide integral support to the dental hygiene profession through CDHA's Partners' Circle.

To find out more about the program and sessions visit www.cdha.ca/conference.

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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