



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 Applaud Improved Access to Oral Healthcare

March 22, 2025 (OTTAWA) — In response to today's announcement by the new Minister of Health, Kamal Khera, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) applauds the government for expanding access to oral health care for eligible Canadians aged 18-64. With 3.4 million Canadians currently covered under the plan, this expansion will mean that millions more will be able to access the oral healthcare they need. CDHA supports federal government investment in affordable, accessible, and preventive oral health care. Dental hygienists know that improving access to essential oral health care is important for Canadians of all ages, especially vulnerable populations and those living in rural or remote communities. It is equally important for the Canadian economy. A population that enjoys good oral health eases the burden on the health care system thanks to a reduced need for emergency department and physician visits for urgent dental care. In Ontario alone, these emergency room visits were estimated to cost at least \$31 million in 2017, and, from 2001 to 2015, it was estimated that more than 70,000 visits were made to physicians in Ontario for dental-related issues.

"The broader issues of access to oral health care and the financial burden of oral diseases and conditions on the health care system must be addressed," states CDHA president Alexandra Sheppard. "As primary care providers, dental hygienists treat oral diseases and offer preventive therapies. They see first-hand the direct, positive impact of investments in oral health care by the federal government. That's why we applaud Minister Khera's announcement today."

CDHA is committed to working with the federal government to ensure all people living in Canada receive the preventive oral health care they need.

About the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA):

CDHA is the national voice of dental hygienists in Canada. Representing nearly 34,000 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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