



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

For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

Media Release

Election Should Mark Continued Investments in Oral Health

April 29, 2024 (Ottawa, ON) — With the results of the 45th federal election, the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) congratulates Mark Carney on his mandate and looks forward to working with this Liberal government on key priorities, including the oral health of Canadians. The government must continue to invest in affordable, accessible, and preventive oral health care through the Canadian Dental Care Plan. The sustainability of this investment is crucial — improving access to essential oral health care is good for the people of Canada and our economy.

“Continuing to invest in oral health not only improves access to critical, potentially life-saving services for Canadians in need,” says CDHA president Alexandra Sheppard, “but it also helps ensure that hard-working Canadians aren’t sidelined at work or in life due to preventable mouth or dental issues that without care, can lead to pain or infections.” The dental industry contributes significantly to Canada’s economy by generating revenue and increasing the number of opportunities to work in the field. As more people access dental care, the industry grows, leading to further job creation and economic benefits.

As primary care providers, dental hygienists are crucial in delivering the care Canadians need to prevent and treat oral diseases through evidence-informed practice. Dental hygienists know that dental caries, severe gum disease, abscesses, oral cancer, and other oral conditions that negatively impact a patient’s overall health are preventable. They also know that affordability is the number one barrier to care.

Proactive, federal investment in affordable, accessible, and preventive oral health care is good for Canadians and for Canada. This invigorated federal government must continue consultations and engagement with dental hygienists and dental hygiene experts, including national and provincial professional associations. Oral health care must be a priority for the health and well-being of Canadians, our economy, and our country.

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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