



THE CANADIAN DENTAL
HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION

L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE
DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

Our 2026 Parliament Hill Day

Executive Summary

On February 26, 2026, dental hygienists and representatives of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) visited Parliament Hill, giving a strong voice to the importance of oral health. CDHA's Board of Directors discussed the importance of oral health as part of overall health and advocated for the needs of vulnerable populations.

Each meeting aimed to strengthen oral health care for people in Canada and ensure that the voice of the dental hygiene profession resonates with Parliamentarians. This annual Advocacy Day on the Hill complements the extensive year-round advocacy engagements undertaken by the CDHA.

CDHA met with **30 decision-makers** on Parliament Hill, including senior Cabinet Ministers like the Hon. Francois-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Finance, representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and the Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition, and opposition party critics.

The response was **highly positive**, with the majority of decision-makers **already familiar with CDHA's advocacy** and demonstrating their **strong support for dental hygienists**.

Public Policy Priorities

Federal oral health investments:

- Stable, sustainable, multi-year federal funding for oral health
- A shift from treatment-focused care toward prevention, continuity, and measurable outcomes
- Protection of existing preventive oral health care services while expanding coverage
- Strengthened national oral health data systems to guide evidence-based policy
- Improved access and affordability in support of Canada's economic resilience and productivity

Health workforce:

- Stable, sustainable, multi-year federal funding for oral health
- A shift from treatment-focused care toward prevention, continuity, and measurable outcomes
- Protection of existing preventive oral health care services while expanding coverage
- Strengthened national oral health data systems to guide evidence-based policy
- Improved access and affordability in support of Canada's economic resilience and productivity



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

Public Policy Priorities

Impacts from tariffs and supply chain disruptions on small independent dental hygiene businesses and practices:

- Support for dental hygiene and dental practices, and education programs/teaching clinics affected by supply chain or trade disruptions
- Key dental hygiene supplies/instruments/equipment are vulnerable to tariff-driven cost increases, especially items relying on integrated North American dental supply chains
- Steel and equipment tariffs directly affect dental chairs, instruments, clinical equipment, and much more
- Increased costs for everyday supplies may result in higher operating expenses, reduced profitability, delayed equipment upgrades, and possible fee increases for patients
- Strong interest in strategies to strengthen supply chain resilience, including diversified manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors



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

Public Opinion Polling

CDHA commissioned Abacus Data for polling to better understand the public perceptions of oral health care in Canada. Here are the highlights:

92% indicate that the Canadian Dental Care Plan has improved access to dental care

82% see dental hygienists as essential or important to the health care system

80% believe federal funding should prioritize dental care

35% of those with dental coverage still avoid accessing care due to affordability

96% hold a positive impression of dental hygienists as trusted health care professionals

81% are likely to access services directly from independently practicing dental hygienists



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

Press Conference



We presented this data at the Parliamentary Press Gallery for a press conference with CDHA's CEO, Ondina Love, President, Donna Lee, Board Director, Nicole Mainville, and Director of Dental Hygiene Practice, Sylvie Martel.

Our remarks were clear: people in Canada trust dental hygienists. In fact, they are among the **most trusted health professionals** in the country.

The data shows equal alignment on prevention as the foundation of dental care policy. It is not only good health policy; it is good economic policy. We then took this message directly to Parliamentarians!



Meeting Breakdown



42% of meetings were with the Liberal Party of Canada.



42% of meetings were with the Conservative Party of Canada.



16% of meetings were with the Senate of Canada.



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

Meeting Highlights

Meetings with the Liberal Party of Canada included:

- Hon. Francois-Philippe Champagne, MP for Saint-Maurice—Champlain, QC, Minister of Finance
- Tom Osborne, MP for Cape Spear NL, Parliamentary Secretary to the President of the Treasury Board
- Brendan Hanley, MP for Yukon, YK, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Northern and Arctic Affairs
- Ernie Klassen, MP for South Surrey-White Rock, BC, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Fisheries
- Salma Zahid, MP for Scarborough Centre, ON
- Fares Al Soud, MP for Mississauga Centre, ON
- Parm Bains, MP for Richmond East-Steveston, BC
- Yash Nanda, Policy Advisor, Prime Minister's Office
- Fahim Khan, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Finance
- Ellen Galupo, Director of Policy, ESDC
- Tenzin Chogyi, Senior Special Assistant, ESDC
- Jibril Hussein, Senior Policy Advisor, Ministry of Health
- Noah Hollis, Legislative Assistant, Office of Shannon Miedema



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

Meeting Highlights

Meetings with the Conservative Party of Canada included:

- Dan Mazier, MP for Riding Mountain, MB, Shadow Minister of Health, Member of the Standing Committee on Health
- Laila Goodridge, MP for Fort McMurray-Cold Lake, AB, Shadow Minister for Social Development and Families
- Blaine Calkins, MP for Ponoka-Didsbury, AB, Shadow Minister for Hunting, Fishing, and Conservation
- Corey Tochor, MP for Saskatoon-University, SK, Associate Shadow Minister for Natural Resources
- Dr. Matt Strauss, MP for Kitchener South-Hespeler, ON, Member of the Standing Committee on Health
- Helena Konanz, MP for Similkameen—South Okanagan—West Kootenay, BC, Member of the Standing Committee on Health
- Ted Falk, MP for Provencher, MB
- Kathy Borrelli, MP for Windsor-Tecumseh-Lakeshore, ON
- Harb Gill, MP for Windsor West, ON
- Claudia Gallant, Stakeholder Relations Advisor, Office of the Leader of the Official Opposition



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

Meeting Highlights

Meetings with the Senate of Canada included:

- Senator Dawn Arnold, New Brunswick
- Senator Percy Downe, Prince Edward Island
- Senator Dr. Mary Jane McCallum, Manitoba
- Senator Martine Hebert, Quebec
- Emily Vibien, Office of Senator Mohamed Iqbal-Ravalia



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

Post-Meeting Reflections

72%

of decision-makers were identified as **strong** or **very strong** allies.

76%

of decision-makers were **familiar** with CDHA's advocacy.

84%

of decision-makers expressed **support** for the goals of CDHA.



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

Camera Roll Highlights

