

February 16, 2011

Me Jean Paul Dutrisac, Office des professions du Québec, 800, place D'Youville, 10^e étage
Québec (Québec) G1R 5Z3 courrier@opq.gouv.qc.ca

Dear Me Jean Paul Dutrisac,

The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association has reviewed the proposed changes to the legislation governing the practice of dental hygiene in Quebec. While we agree with some of the changes that will result in increased access to care, the changes are limited and therefore require further expansion. Dental hygiene is the only regulated profession in Quebec that cannot practice independently. We believe that this is due to dentistry's involvement in the legislative process. Dentistry's involvement must be limited, as they are in a position to gain financially from restricting access to dental hygienists.

We recommend the following changes to further enhance access to care:

1. Revise the legislation to enable dental hygienists to practice an expanded scope of practice without the following: oversight by a dentist, an order from a dentist, being employed by a dentist and having a dentist hold the client's medical record. These restrictions must be removed as they provide no additional public protection. The full scope of practice must include radiography, scaling, root planning and sub-gingival irrigation, vitality testing, and taking impressions, without the order of a dentist.
2. Enable dental hygienists with a university level education to specialize in public health/research, gerontology, paedodontics, periodontics, restorative and orthodontics, prescribe medication and to provide services to clients with compromised health.

Sincerely,



Ann Wright

(Acting) Executive Director

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