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

For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

Media Release

New President of Canadian Dental Hygienists Association and Recognition of Exemplary Service to the Profession

September 23, 2026 (Ottawa, ON) — The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is pleased to announce the installation of its new president, Wendy Wells, at its annual general meeting (AGM) on Saturday, September 19. Wendy is from Nova Scotia and joins president-elect Tayyaba Fiaz (Quebec), immediate past president Donna Lee (British Columbia), and directors Paulette Dahlseide (Alberta), Tara Tait (Saskatchewan), Kaleigh Warden (Manitoba), Bev Woods (Ontario), Nicole Mainville (New Brunswick), Heather Cassidy (Prince Edward Island), Lori Martin (Newfoundland and Labrador), and Rebecca Pollock (North) on CDHA's board of directors for 2026–2027.

Wendy holds a Diploma in Dental Hygiene from Dalhousie University and a certification in dental infection prevention and control from the Association for Dental Safety. Her career in dental hygiene spans 27 years and includes work in periodontics, orthodontics, general practice, and independent practice, as well as in remote settings of Northern Labrador. She currently provides dental hygiene care to three First Nations communities in Nova Scotia with Indigenous Services Canada and is passionate about children's oral health and increasing access to care for rural and remote communities.

As president of CDHA, Wendy looks forward to working with her fellow board directors on strengthening the voice of dental hygienists across Canada, advancing evidence-based practice, and championing equitable access to oral health care. She is committed to fostering collaboration, supporting professional growth, and ensuring that CDHA continues to lead, innovate, and advocate with integrity.

In addition, the AGM included recognition of 400 CDHA members who received their commemorative 25-year membership certificate and pin this year, as well as 25 legacy leaders who celebrated 50 years or more with CDHA. Wendy Stewart received this year's Distinguished

Service Award in recognition of her significant contributions to the advancement of the dental hygiene profession in Canada. Also honoured were the recipients of this year's Award of Merit, Mandy McGill, Melinda Ferguson Robertson, Rachael Dvorski, and Teresa Belarde-Chan. The editorial board of the *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* (CJDH) announced the winners of its 2026 research and writing awards: Katherine Yerex, Juyoung Lee, Robert J Schroth and colleagues; Cristine Miron Stefani, Adriano de Almeida de Lima, Fabiane Miron and colleagues; Kelley Manseau; and Anna Sohi. The *Oh Canada!* 2026 Readers' Choice Award went to Emily Bissonnette.

About the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA):

CDHA is the national voice of dental hygienists in Canada. Representing more than 35,000 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 seventh largest regulated health profession in Canada, with professionals working as practitioners, practice owners, educators, researchers, administrators, and more. Dental hygienists are a pivotal component of Canada's health care landscape; dedicated to improving oral health and overall well-being. For more information on oral health, visit dentalhygienecanada.ca. For more information on the work of CDHA, visit cdha.ca.

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