

Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada



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About *Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada*: To practise in Canada, dental hygienists must be registered or licensed by the appropriate provincial or territorial dental hygiene regulatory authority. Requirements for registration or licensure, including clinical experience, examinations, and ongoing professional development, vary by province and territory. This document helps readers understand the dental hygiene profession in Canada.

Except where noted, the information is accurate from the time it was collected in January 2026.

For more information, contact info@cdha.ca.

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The provinces and territories in Canada regulate and license health care professionals. The laws and regulations define the entry-to-practice requirements and the scope of practice for dental hygienists in the specified jurisdiction. As a result, there are variations in legal scopes of practice and autonomy across Canada. If you are seeking more specific information relevant to a particular jurisdiction, please get in touch with the appropriate regulatory body directly.

The scope of dental hygiene practice describes the roles, procedures, actions, and processes a registered dental hygienist is educated, competent, and authorized to perform. Each province/territory enacts its own legislation determining the services dental hygienists can provide and under what conditions. These services aim to attain and maintain optimal oral health for individuals and communities. In this context, the process of care model (ADPIE—Assess, Diagnose, Plan, Implement, and Evaluate) underpins the decision making within dental hygiene care. Each phase in the process of care is essential for the delivery of safe and effective dental hygiene services.

For more information on the scope of practice in a particular province or territory, please contact the regulatory body in that jurisdiction.

	Jurisdiction*												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Regulatory Body	British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP)	Alberta College of Dental Hygienists (ACDH)	College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan (CDHS)	College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM)	College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO)	Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec In French only	New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists (NBCDH)	Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD)	College of Dental Hygienists of Prince Edward Island (CDHPEI)	Newfoundland and Labrador College of Dental Hygienists (NLCDH)	Government of Yukon	Government of Northwest Territories Dental Hygiene Licence	Department of Health Government of Nunavut
Year of Self-Regulation	1995	1990	1998	2005	1994	1975	2009	2009	2023	2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legislation	Health Professions Act	Health Professions Act	Dental Disciplines Act	The Dental Hygienists Act	Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991 Dental Hygiene Act	Chapter C-26 Professional Code	New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act	Regulated Health Professions Act	Regulated Health Professions Act	Health Professions Act	Dental Profession Act	Dental Auxiliaries Act	Dental Auxiliaries Act
Regulations	UNDER REVIEW	Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation	Regulatory Bylaws	Dental Hygienists Regulation	Regulations under the Dental Hygiene Act	Chapter C-26 Professional Code	Rules under the New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act	Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism Regulations	Dental Hygienists Regulation	Dental Hygienists Regulations under the Health Professions Act	Dental Profession Act	Dental Hygiene Profession Regulations	Consolidation of Dental Auxiliaries Fees Regulations
Bylaws	BCCOHP DH Bylaws	ACDH Bylaws	Administrative Bylaws	CDHM Bylaws	CDHO Bylaws	See: Règlements In French only	Rules under the New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act	NSRDHDTD Bylaws	CDHPEI Bylaws	NLCDH Bylaws	None	None	Consolidation of Dental Auxiliaries Fees Regulations

*BC=British Columbia, AB=Alberta, SK=Saskatchewan, MB=Manitoba, ON=Ontario, QC=Québec, NB=New Brunswick, NS=Nova Scotia, PE=Prince Edward Island, NL=Newfoundland and Labrador, YT=Yukon Territory, NT=Northwest Territories, NU=Nunavut

	Jurisdiction												
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU
Scope of Practice Defined	UNDER REVIEW	About Standards of practice	Role of a Dental Hygienist	Practice Competencies	Scope of practice statement	See: Qu'est-ce qu'un hygiéniste dentaire? In French only	Who is a registered dental hygienist statement	What is a dental hygienist?	About the profession of dental hygiene	Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists	Dental hygienists defined	Scope of practice statement	Competence of Dental Hygienists
Practice Standards	Practice Standards for the Oral Health Team Other Practice Standards and Policies	Standards of practice and Practice Guidelines	Standards and Positions	Practice standards, Interpretation guidelines, Practice directions and Position statements	Practice Standards and guidelines	See: Normes de pratique, Guides de pratique et Énoncés de position In French only	Standards of practice	Practice Standards for Dental Hygiene	Entry-to-Practice Competencies and Standards and Policies	Practice standards and Policies	None	None	None
Quality Assurance Program	Quality Assurance Program Information Guide	Continuing Competence Program	Continuing Competency Guideline	Continuing Competency Program	Quality Assurance Program	Politique de formation continue obligatoire In French only	Competencies and Education Program	Continuing Competency Program	Continuing Education and Competency Program Guidelines	Continuing Education and Professional Development Policy	None	None	None
Requirements for Professional Liability Insurance	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$3 million aggregate	\$1 million per claim; \$5 million aggregate	\$1 million	\$1 million	\$2 million aggregate	\$1 million per claim; \$3 million aggregate	\$1 million	None	None	None
Code of Ethics	UNDER REVIEW	ACDH Code of Ethics	CDHA Code of Ethics	CDHA Code of Ethics	CDHO Code of Ethics	See: OHDQ Principes éthiques et Code de déontologie In French only	CDHA Code of Ethics	CDHA Code of Ethics	CDHA Code of Ethics	CDHA Code of Ethics	None	None	None

Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada: By the numbers

Number of Dental Hygienists as of 2023¹

	Jurisdiction													Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
Total No. of Registered Dental Hygienists	4,550	3,921	720	884	14,498	7,095	576	836	131	302	39	39	17	33,608
Public Register	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	Find a dental hygienist	None	None	

¹ Canadian Institute for Health Information. Health Workforce in Canada, 2019 to 2023: Overview — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2025.

Dental Hygiene Education in Canada

Dental Hygiene Programs

	Jurisdiction													Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	
Public Institutions	5	1	2	1	12	10		1						32
Private Institutions	1				7		1							9
Total														41

Dental Hygiene Programs – Credentials Awarded

Credential Awarded	Jurisdiction												Total	
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT		NU
ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE														
Diploma in dental hygiene (2 or 3 years)	5			1	7	10	1	1						25
Advanced diploma in dental hygiene (3 years)			1		12									13
Baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene	1	1	1 (First intake in Sep 2024)	1				1 (Grad class of 2026)						5
PURSUING EDUCATION IN DENTAL HYGIENE BEYOND ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE PROGRAM														
Degree-completion	2	1		1	1			1						6
Master's degree in dental hygiene		1												1

Accredited Entry-to-Practice Dental Hygiene Programs²

	Jurisdiction												Total	
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT		NU
Public Institutions	5	1	1	1	12	1		1						22
Private Institutions	1				6		1							8
Total														31

² Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. Search for accredited dental hygiene programs at <https://www.cdac-cadc.ca/find-a-program>. Accessed December 2025.

Non-accredited dental hygiene programs in Canada: 11 in total. They include SK - University of Saskatchewan (NEW program), ON Oxford College (Mississauga Campus), and in QC - Cégep de l'Outaouais, Collège Maisonneuve, Cégep de St-Hyacinthe, Cégep de Troi-Rivières, Cégep de Chicoutimi, Cégep Garneau, Cégep régional de Lanaudière, Cégep Édouard-Montpetit, and Cégep de Matane.