

# Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada



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

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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 or 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 March 2025.

For more information, contact [info@cdha.ca](mailto: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 looking for more specific information pertinent to a particular jurisdiction, please contact the 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	<a href="#">British Columbia College of Oral Health Professionals (BCCOHP)</a>	<a href="#">Alberta College of Dental Hygienists (ACDH)</a>	<a href="#">College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan (CDHS)</a>	<a href="#">College of Dental Hygienists of Manitoba (CDHM)</a>	<a href="#">College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO)</a>	<a href="#">Ordre des hygiénistes dentaires du Québec</a> In French only	<a href="#">New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists (NBCDH)</a>	<a href="#">College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS)</a>	<a href="#">College of Dental Hygienists of Prince Edward Island (CDHPEI)</a>	<a href="#">Newfoundland and Labrador College of Dental Hygienists (NLCDH)</a>	<a href="#">Government of Yukon</a>	<a href="#">Government of Northwest Territories Dental Hygiene Licence</a>	<a href="#">Department of Health Government of Nunavut</a>
Year of Self-Regulation	1995	1990	1998	2005	1994	1975	2009	2009	2023	2013	N/A	N/A	N/A
Legislation	<a href="#">Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Disciplines Act</a>	<a href="#">The Dental Hygienists Act</a>	<a href="#">Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991</a> <a href="#">Dental Hygiene Act</a>	<a href="#">Chapter C-26 Professional Code</a>	<a href="#">New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Act</a>	<a href="#">Regulated Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Profession Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Auxiliaries Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Auxiliaries Act</a>
Regulations	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulation</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation</a>	<a href="#">Regulatory Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulation</a>	<a href="#">Regulations under the Dental Hygiene Act</a>	<a href="#">Chapter C-26 Professional Code</a>	<a href="#">Rules under the New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulations</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulation</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulations under the Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Profession Act</a>	<a href="#">Dental Auxiliaries Regulations</a>	<a href="#">Consolidation of Dental Auxiliaries Fees Regulations</a>
Bylaws	<a href="#">BCCOHP DH Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">ACDH Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">Administrative Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">CDHM Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">CDHO Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">See: Règlements</a> In French only	<a href="#">Rules under the New Brunswick Dental Hygienists Act</a>	<a href="#">CDHNS Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">CDHPEI Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">NLCDH Bylaws</a>	None	None	<a href="#">Consolidation of Dental Auxiliaries Fees Regulations</a>

\*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	<a href="#">Scope of practice statement</a>	<a href="#">About Standards of practice</a>	<a href="#">Role of a Dental Hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Practice Competencies</a>	<a href="#">Scope of practice statement</a>	<a href="#">See: Qu'est-ce qu'un hygiéniste dentaire? In French only</a>	<a href="#">Who is a registered dental hygienist statement</a>	<a href="#">What is a dental hygienist?</a>	<a href="#">About the profession of dental hygiene</a>	<a href="#">Entry-to-Practice Canadian Competencies for Dental Hygienists</a>	<a href="#">Dental hygienists defined</a>	<a href="#">Scope of practice statement</a>	<a href="#">Competence of Dental Hygienists</a>
Practice Standards	<a href="#">Practice standards and policies</a> <a href="#">Interpretation guidelines</a>	<a href="#">Standards of practice and Practice Guidelines</a>	<a href="#">Standards and Positions</a>	<a href="#">Practice standards, Interpretation guidelines, Practice directions and Position statements</a>	<a href="#">Practice Standards and guidelines</a>	<a href="#">See: Normes de pratique, Guides de pratique et Énoncés de position In French only</a>	<a href="#">Standards of practice</a>	<a href="#">Practice standards</a>	<a href="#">Entry-to-Practice Competencies and Standards and Policies</a>	<a href="#">Practice standards and Policies</a>	None	None	None
Quality Assurance Program	<a href="#">Quality Assurance Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competence Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competency Guideline</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competency Program</a>	<a href="#">Quality Assurance Program</a>	<a href="#">Politique de formation continue obligatoire In French only</a>	<a href="#">Competencies and Education Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competency Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Education and Competency Program Guidelines</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Education and Professional Development Policy</a>	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	<a href="#">BCCOHP DH Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">ACDH Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHO Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">See: OHDQ Principes éthiques et Code de déontologie In French only</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	<a href="#">CDHA Code of Ethics</a>	None	None	None

Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada: By the numbers

Number of Dental Hygienists as of 2023<sup>1</sup>

	Jurisdiction													
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	Total
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	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	<a href="#">Find a dental hygienist</a>	None	None	

<sup>1</sup> 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													
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	Total
Public Institutions	5	1	2	1	12	10		1						32
Private Institutions	1				6		1							8
Total														40

Dental Hygiene Programs – Credentials Awarded

	Jurisdiction													
Credential Awarded	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	Total
ENTRY-TO-PRACTICE														
Diploma in dental hygiene (2 or 3 years)	5			1	6	10	1	1						24
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 Programs<sup>2</sup>

	Jurisdiction													
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	NU	Total
Public Institutions	5	1	1	1	12	2		1						23
Private Institutions	1				6		1							8
Total														31

<sup>2</sup> Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. Search for accredited programs. Available at [https://www.cda-adc.ca/cdacweb/en/search\\_for\\_accredited\\_programs/](https://www.cda-adc.ca/cdacweb/en/search_for_accredited_programs/). Accessed January 2025.

Non-accredited dental hygiene programs in Canada: Total 9. They include SK - University of Saskatchewan (NEW program) and in QC - Cégep de l'Outaouais, Collège Maisonneuve, Cégep de St-Hyacinthe, Cégep de Troi-Rivières, Cégep de Chicoutimi, Cégep Garneau, Cégep regional de Lanaudière, Cégep de Matane.