

# Dental Hygiene Profession in Canada



Updated: July 2023



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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 collected is accurate from the time it was collected, July 2023.

For more information, contact [info@cdha.ca](mailto:info@cdha.ca).

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Regulation and licensure of health care professionals falls to the provinces and territories in Canada. 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 that 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 are directed towards attaining and maintaining 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="#">Saskatchewan Dental Hygienists' Association (SDHA)</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> (web site 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="#">Northwest Territories Professional Licensing, Government of NWT</a>	<a href="#">Department of Health, Government of Nunavut</a>
Year Became Self-Regulated	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="#">Dental Hygiene Act Regulated Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">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="#">SDHA Regulatory Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulation</a>	<a href="#">Regulations under the Dental Hygiene Act</a>	<a href="#">See 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 Regulations</a>	<a href="#">Dental Hygienists Regulations under the Health Professions Act</a>	<a href="#">Regulation to Amend the Dental Profession Regulations (2018)</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="#">SDHA Administrative Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">CDHM Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">CDHO Bylaws</a>	<a href="#">See Règlements</a>	<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?</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="#">Dental Hygiene Competencies</a>	<a href="#">Dental hygienists defined</a>	<a href="#">Scope of practice statement</a>	<a href="#">Dental Auxiliaries Act</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="#">Practice Guidelines and Position statements</a>	<a href="#">Practice standards, Interpretation guidelines, Practice directions and Position statements</a>	<a href="#">Practice guidelines</a>	<a href="#">See Normes de pratique, Guides de pratique et Énoncés de position</a>	<a href="#">Standards of practice</a>	<a href="#">Practice standards and Practice policies</a>	<a href="#">Practice 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 Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competency Program</a>	<a href="#">Quality Assurance Program</a>	<a href="#">Mandatory Continuing Education Policy (web site in French only)</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competencies and Education Program</a>	<a href="#">Continuing Competency</a>	In development	<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</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

## Number of Dental Hygienists as of 2021<sup>1</sup>

	Jurisdiction												Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	
Total No. of Registered Dental Hygienists	4,119	3,405	668	810	13,560	6,786	545	797	122	269	89		31,170
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, 2017 to 2021: Overview — Data Tables. Ottawa, ON: CIHI; 2022.

## Number of Accredited Dental Hygiene Programs<sup>2</sup>

	Jurisdiction												Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	
Public Institutions	5	1	1	1	12	6		1					27
Private Institutions	1				6		1						8
Total													35

<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/). Cited July 2023.

Non-accredited dental hygiene programs in Canada: 3.

## Dental Hygiene Programs in Canada

Credential Awarded	Jurisdiction												Total
	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	YT	NT	
Diploma in dental hygiene (including advanced diplomas)	5		1	1	18	9	1	1					36
Baccalaureate degree specific to dental hygiene (including both entry-to-practice and degree-completion pathways)	1	1		1	1			1					5
Master's degree specific to dental hygiene		1											1