



Provincial Dental Board
of Nova Scotia

PROCEEDINGS
2023



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PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA
SCOTIA December 31, 2023



Chair – Dr. Russell MacSween
Vice-Chair – Dr. Sunita Sharma
Registrar – Dr. Doug Mackey
Deputy Registrar – Dr. Curtis Gregoire

BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2023

<u>Member</u>	<u>Appointment</u>	<u>Term Ending</u>
Dr. Russell MacSween, Chair	NSDA	Dec. 2026 (3)
Dr. Sunita Sharma, Vice-Chair	Government	Jan. 2027 (3)
Dr. Terrie Logue	NSDA	Dec. 2023 (3)
Dr. Sachin Seth	Government	Jan. 2027 (2)
Dr. April Nason	Government	Oct. 2023 (1)
Dr. Tim Silver	NSDA	Dec. 2025 (1)
Dr. Erin Hennessy	NSDA	Dec. 2025 (1)
Dr. Scott Schofield	NSDA	Aug. 2026 (1)
Dr. Phil Mintern	NSDA	Aug. 2023 (1)
Ms. Sherry Whytewood, RDA	NSDAA	Nov. 2026 (1)
Ms. Marina Crawford, RDA	Government	Oct. 2023 (3)
Mr. Greg Fevens, Public	Government	Dec. 2025 (3)
Mr. David Melvin, Public	Government	Dec. 2025 (3)

Staff

Ms. Jane Donovan	Executive Assistant
Ms. Kaitlynn Zeegray	Administrative Assistant
Mr. Chris Holland	IT Support
Ms. Laurie MacDonald	Bookkeeper

PROVINCIAL DENTAL BOARD OF NOVA SCOTIA 2023



Top Row: Dr. Scott Schofield, Dr. Tim Silver, Ms. Marina Crawford RDA, Dr. Curtis Gregoire, Dr. Russell MacSween (Chair)
2nd Row: Dr. Doug Mackey (Registrar), Dr. Terrie Logue, Dr. Asile El-Darahali (incoming), Dr. Sunita Sharma (Vice-Chair),
3rd Row: Ms. Laurie MacDonald, Mr. Chris Holland, Ms. Sherry Whytewood RDA, Mr. Greg Fevens
4th Row: Ms. Kaitlynn Zeegray, Dr. Erin Hennessy, Mr. David Melvin
Front Row: Ms. Jane Donovan, Dr. April Nason
Missing: Dr. Sachin Seth

STATUTORY COMMITTEES 2023

Complaints Committee

Dr. Clare Champoux, Chair
Dr. Earle Carson
Dr. Blair Raddall
Ms. Shirlene Dancause, RDA
Ms. Susan Wedlake, Public

Dr. Lee Erickson
Dr. Nada Haidar
Dr. Thomas Raddall III
Ms. Alma Layden, RDA
Ms. Janelle Gray, Public

Dr. Glenda Ross
Dr. Sarah Foley
Dr. Rick Raftus
Ms. Donna Dickie, RDA
Dr. Mary McNally (Admin)

Discipline Committee

Dr. Tom Boyle, Chair	Dr. Janet Cullinan (Jan-Nov)	Dr. Ian W. Ross
Dr. Daniel MacLellan	Dr. William A. Whyte	Dr. Stuart J. Kirby
Dr. David B. Quigley	Dr. Wayne C. Ramier	Dr. Natalie N. Brothers
Dr. Mark A. Sutherland	Dr. Christopher A. Baker	Ms. Michelle D. Fowler, RDA
Ms. Karen Fitzner, Public (June-Dec)	Mr. John Scott, Public	

Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) Committee

Dr. Kevin Walsh, Chair	Dr. Sayed Mirbod	Dr. Raegan Meadows
Ms. Jackie Snooks, RDA	Ms. Audra Hayden, RDA	

Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee

Dr. Mariette Chiasson, Chair
Dr. Daniel Albert
Dr. Stuart A. MacDonald

Registration Appeal Committee

Dr. Gorman Doyle, Chair
Dr. Terry Worthen
Dr. Sarah Fakhraldeen
Ms. Angela O'Hanley, RDA
Mr. Doug Lloy, Public
Ms. Gwen Haliburton, Public

BOARD AND AD HOC COMMITTEES 2023

Finance and Audit Committee

Dr. Terrie Logue, Chair
Dr. Tim Silver
Mr. Greg Fevens

Human Resources and Governance

Dr. Sunita Sharma, Chair
Mr. David Melvin
Dr. Russell MacSween
Dr. Sachin Seth
Dr. Erin Hennessy

Standards and Guidelines Committee

Dr. April Nason, Chair
Ms. Sherry Whyte-wood
Dr. Sachin Seth

Executive Committee

Dr. Russell MacSween, Chair
Dr. Sunita Sharma, Vice-Chair
Dr. Doug Mackey, *Ex-officio*
Dr. Curtis Gregoire, *Ex-officio*

Infection Control and Prevention

Dr. Terrie Logue, Chair
Dr. April Nason / Dr. Scott Schofield
Ms. Marina Crawford
Mr. Greg Fevens

Registration Review

Dr. April Nason, Chair
Ms. Marina Crawford
Dr. Scott Schofield
Dr. Doug Mackey

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism

Dr. Russell MacSween, Chair
Dr. April Nason
Dr. Sachin Seth

Legislative Amendments

Dr. Russell MacSween, Chair
Dr. Sunita Sharma
Ms. Marina Crawford
Mr. David Melvin
Dr. Doug Mackey
Dr. Curtis Gregoire

Sedation Inspection Team

Dr. Curtis Gregoire (OMFS)
Dr. Ben Schelew (Medical anesthesiologist)
Ms. Kevin Piggot (Biomedical engineer)

Scope of Practice for Dental Assisting

Ms. Marina Crawford, Chair
Mr. David Melvin

Dr. Erin Hennessy
Ms. Sherry Whyte, RDA

Dr. April Nason

REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR 2023

The past year was a challenging and productive one for the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS). Beyond normal operations, some notable highlights are described below.

PDBNS Standard of Practice for Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC)

The [PDBNS Standard of Practice for Infection Prevention and Control \(the "IPAC Standard"\)](#) which was published on December 1, 2022 came into effect on March 1, 2023. This IPAC Standard is concurrent and in accord with Standards of the other three Nova Scotia Oral Health Regulators: the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS), the Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia (DLBNS), and the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA).

During the three months between the IPAC Standard's publication and its enforcement date, dental clinics were busy implementing the necessary changes to reach compliance.

Some clinics may have required structural changes to enable the proper flow of sterilization procedures (e.g., contaminated zone → sterilization zone → sterilized instrument storage zone). For the vast majority of offices, it seems the most significant changes were procedural, most notably:

- the increased requirement for biologic monitoring, with daily in-house spore tests to be performed for each sterilizer in a clinic,
- the incorporation of Class 4 or Class 5 process indicators into every instrument package/pouch/cassette,
- the quarantining of instruments depending on the system of spore testing and the class of process indicator used, and
- the labelling of all packages/pouches/cassettes and the logging of sterilization-related data.

The office inspections which have taken place as part of the PDBNS Dental Practice Review (DPR) process since March 2023 have revealed an exceptionally high rate of compliance with the IPAC Standard, with no more than a few minor modifications required for any given office, and most offices requiring no changes.

We recognize the tremendous effort registrants have put into ensuring their clinics meet the highest IPAC standards. Indeed, we have noted that many clinics have had to hire additional staff to meet these requirements.

Nova Scotians certainly have sound reason to be confident in the processes employed by dental clinics to keep them safe from cross-contamination during their dental treatment.

New Database

Early in 2023, the PDBNS engaged with [Softworks Group Inc.](#) in a move to a new database platform, Alinity. This platform is exclusively for health regulators and is currently used by close to one hundred health regulators across Canada. A handful of other Nova Scotia health regulators are already using or preparing to migrate to Alinity.

An enormous amount of work went into configuring the PDBNS Alinity site in the early part of 2023 so that we were able to launch a successful online license renewal process for dentists in the fall. As expected, there were some glitches to work through, but they were minor issues and the vast majority of dentists were able to renew their licenses with no complications.

We are excited to work toward license renewal for dental assistants through Alinity in spring 2024, as well as an online license application process for dentists and dental assistants in time for the new graduates in the spring/summer of 2024.

Legislative Changes

Like all health regulators in Nova Scotia, the PDBNS has been busy consulting with the Department of Health and Wellness as we prepare to be migrated to the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(2023\)](#). This common legislative framework which will replace the existing 21 Acts governing health professions in Nova Scotia. The RHPA received Royal Assent on November 9, 2023 and, at the time of this writing, it is expected that the PDBNS will be in the first cohort of Nova Scotia health regulators brought under this new Act.

The PDBNS is extremely appreciative of the opportunity to work with other health regulators through the [Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network](#) (the “Network”) as we navigate the process of moving to this new legislative framework. This collaboration has allowed all regulators, even the smaller ones, to provide meaningful feedback to DHW at key points which would not have been possible logistically or financially in isolation.

We look forward to seeing what 2024 has in store for the PDBNS and other health regulators on this front.

Complaints and Discipline

The Chair of the PDBNS Complaints Committee will elaborate on this in a later section, but it bears highlighting that 2023 saw a record number of formal complaints, with 36 being heard by the Complaints Committee. This is compared to an annual average of 20 or less formal complaints over the past decade.

Legal expenses related to complaints and discipline processes represent a significant percentage of the PDBNS’ annual budget.

In 2023 the Complaints Committee was happy to welcome Dr. Mary McNally who, as a consultant, began supporting the Complaints Committee in the initial drafting of meeting minutes and the Committee’s written decisions. From the perspective of administrative law, the expectations and standards for these documents have increased significantly over the past couple of decades. Dr. McNally graduated from Dalhousie Dentistry in 1992 and was in clinical practice from 1992-2001 in Coldbrook. She is a professor emerita at Dalhousie, having formally retired as Professor and Associate Dean of Research in 2021 from the Faculty of Dentistry. She also held a cross-appointment to the Faculty of Medicine’s Department of Bioethics.

Licensing Statistics as of December 31, 2023

Dentists	594
Dental Students (Post-graduate)	17
Registered Dental Assistants	836
Incorporations	385

Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to all who support the PDBNS in its legislated role of protecting the public interest when it comes to dental care. In particular, appreciation goes to Dr. Terrie Logue, Ms. Marina Crawford, and Dr. April Nason who recently completed their terms as Board members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dr. Doug Mackey, DDS
Registrar

REPORT OF THE CHAIR 2023

In 2023, we had a regular full compliment of in-person meetings and one additional zoom meeting in April. Those meeting dates were January 27, April 27, May 26, September 29, and November 25. As part of the November meeting, our professional development session took the form of a team building event the Activate activity centre in Dartmouth. Presentations to the Board members at regular meetings were as follows:

- Roles and responsibilities of Board members (Mr. Jason Cooke and Ms. Danielle Keating, Burchells, LLP).
- A presentation to consider a proposal for website modernization (Mr. Jean St-Amand, QB Marketing).
- An review of the PDBNS' investment portfolio (Mr. Gino Ciavarella, Cumberland Investments and Ms. Dana Scott, CDSPI).
- An update on the activities of the National Dental Examining Board (Dr. Tanya Cooke, PDBNS representative on the NDEB).
- Presentation of the PDBNS audited financial statements (Ms. Alida Mitchell and Ms. Andre Wilkie, Baker Tilley).

In addition to those presentations, we also had regular updates from Dalhousie Faculty of Dentistry, the Nova Scotia Dental Association (NSDA) and the Nova Scotia Dental Assistants Association (NSDAA).

Human Resources and Governance

2023 was a year of transition at the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS). As the year progressed, we saw five new members join the Board but also, we had to say goodbye to three members as the year closed out. I would like to congratulate and thank Dr. Terri Logue, Dr. April Nason and Ms. Marina Crawford for their years of service and dedication to helping guide dental regulation in Nova Scotia. This year we were pleased to have Ms. Kaitlynn Zegray join the PDBNS in the position of administrative assistant. Dr. Marriette Chiasson, Chair of the Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee has begun conducting the site visits under the DPR process. This will free up the Registrar and Deputy Registrar to attend to matters which cannot be delegated. Also, in 2023 Dr. Mary McNally has joined the PDBNS as a consultant to provide administrative support to the Complaints Committee.

With the end of Dr. Shelly Anderson's third and final term on the Board, we began the year without a Past-Chair. I assumed the role for Chair in January and Dr. Sunita Sharma began her term as Vice-Chair. I would like to acknowledge the effort Sunita has provided this past year. On top of having an enhanced role on the Executive Committee, she also fulfilled the role of HR Chair. Her contributions were appreciated by everyone.

Finance and Audit Committee

We thank Dr. Terri Logue for chairing this committee for the last several years and look forward to Dr. Tim Silver assuming the role in 2024. At the September meeting, the Finance and Audit Committee

presented a budget which was approved by the Board and included a 5% fee increase for registration and licensing.

Standards and Guidelines

We also thank Dr April Nason for chairing this committee for the last couple of years and look forward to Dr. Sachin Seth assuming this role in 2024. During the May meeting the Board passed motions to accept three guidelines. Among these was the internal PDBNS Policy on Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism. Another guideline passed by the board was for [Prescribing and Taking Dental Radiographs](#). The final one was a board policy on [Digital/Optical Scanning](#). During the November meeting the board passed a motion modifying the guideline regarding dental record retention within the [Recordkeeping Guidelines](#). The [PDBNS Standard of Practice for Infection Prevention and Control](#), which was published on December 1, 2022, came into effect on March 1, 2023. Much appreciation goes to Dr. Kyla Romard and the NSDA Clinical Affairs Committee who initiated the development of this document which brings Nova Scotia Dental offices in line with the IPAC standards in many other provinces and in compliance with accepted current public health standards.

Media Training

A media training workshop was held on March 25, 2023. This session was presented by Don Moors and Carrie Croft of the PR firm Temple Scott and attended by the Board's Chair, Vice-Chair, Registrar and Deputy Registrar.

Legislative Amendments

Our registrar, Dr. Doug Mackey, made a presentation to the Law Amendments Committee at the provincial legislature in response to Bill 256 the Patient Access to Care Act which aims to reduce administrative barriers to licensure for health professionals currently registered or licensed in other jurisdictions. Dr. Mackey, along with the Registrars from several other health regulators, expressed general support for the intent of the Bill. The Bill was returned to the House unamended and was passed, receiving Royal Assent, and becoming law on April 12, 2023.

On November 9, 2023, the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA) received Royal Assent. On January 4, 2024, we were informed that we will be part of Phase 1 of the migration to the RHPA. This is expected to be complete by the Fall of this year. The next step will be for the government to create general regulations pursuant to the new Act. We have been told that these will be very procedural and that the individual professions will have little-to-no input. Following this will be the development of profession-specific regulations – the individual health regulators will have some input into the development of these. Even the new profession-specific regulations will be at a higher level than the current regulations, with many of the details moving into bylaws.

Strategic Plan

During the fall, the PDBNS executive developed the third [PDBNS Strategic Plan](#) which was presented to and adopted by the Board at the November meeting and published on our website. Even though we suggested a three-year timeline for this plan, we are fully aware that once we are migrated to the

Regulated Health Profession Act (RHPA) we will probably have to revisit the plan. The new Strategic Plan follows closely the themes of those previous, taking into consideration the RHPA and our new data management software, Alinity.

Alinity

Alinity is our new data management software system. As of now we are pleased with the performance of the program. To this point, we have implemented only the initial Alinity modules required for database management and license renewal. Going forward, we will be implementing additional modules for initial applications (for licenses and other permits) as well as maintenance of continuing education logs and audits.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Russell MacSween
PDBNS Chair

REPORT OF THE COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE 2023

The Complaints Committee met 15 times over the past year. The yearly average for cases over the past 2 decades has been 20 cases. This year the Committee heard 35 cases, 33 of which involved dentists and 2 involved dental assistants. Of the 35 cases heard, 23 were dismissed, 2 resulted in a letter of reprimand and 9 were referred to the Discipline Committee. Of these 35 cases, 1 was initiated by the Registrar and the others came from complaints submitted to the Registrar. At the time of this report, 16 complaints are under various stages of investigation, as well as numerous other complaints against a single dentist.

The trend is an increase in the number of complaints. The issues at the center of most complaints include a lack of adherence to the guidelines on maintenance of records, recordkeeping, informed consent, scope of practice, advertising and standard of care. Communication and documentation appear to be larger issues than competency.

As a first time Chair of this Committee, I have several people to thank for helping make this year productive, efficient, and enjoyable. I would like to thank everyone at the Provincial Dental Board office for administrative support, for conducting thorough investigations, and for providing the Complaints Committee with detailed information to facilitate our deliberations. Any information we requested was immediately sourced and provided to us in a timely manner. I would also like to thank the very dedicated Committee members who form the various panels for our hearings. The time commitment and dedication to fairness, while upholding our mandate, was greatly appreciated. I would like to thank PDBNS legal counsel who provide guidance to the Committee as it fulfills its legislated mandate. Finally, I would like to thank Past-Chair, Dr. Rick Raftus, for his mentorship, knowledgeable advice and unwavering support as I transitioned into this new role.

It is my hope that the overall number of complaints will decline as dentists and dental assistants strive to provide the best possible dental care for the people of Nova Scotia.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Clare Champoux, Chair, Complaints Committee

REPORT OF THE DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE 2023

This past year, 2023, was one of transition for the discipline for the Discipline Committee. Dr. Janet Cullinan retired from dentistry and regrettably can no longer serve on the Committee she graced with her wisdom for 21 years. Some of those early hearings we conducted went on for five or more days and placed a heavy financial toll on committee members (who had to take time off from their practices) making recruitment difficult. I could always count on Janet to step up. She will be missed. Another long-time member, dental assistant Michelle Fowler is leaving the Committee, but staying in organized dentistry in another capacity. Any case involving a registered dental assistant must have an assistant on the panel and she was invaluable on several occasions. For the last few years, we only had one member of the public on the committee, but with increasing scheduling issues we added Ms. Karen Fitzner to the roster. She already has been a panelist on two cases. Welcome Karen.

Now to the cases. The new norm (for cases referred to the Discipline Committee) has been to have the Registrar reach a settlement with the registrant. The settlement agreement is presented to the Complaints Committee which recommends it to the Discipline Committee for approval. In most cases that works.

On two cases that didn't work. One case (centering heavily around informed consent) was referred to the Discipline Committee by two different panels of the Complaints Committee for a contested hearing. There has been a delay in getting to that hearing because the registrant appealed, stating that they should be afforded a third hearing at the Complaints Committee level. In its November 15, 2023 written decision, the Discipline Committee dismissed the dentist's appeal. The complaint will now be referred to a newly populated panel of the Discipline Committee for a hearing.

A significant issue for the registrant seemed to be whether the matter would be reported on a named or unnamed basis. Starting soon under the new Regulated Health Professions Act, all sanctions and settlement agreements will be published on a named basis, which is consistent with current practice generally in regulated health professions in Canada.

A second settlement case involving a registered dental assistants' scope of practice was not accepted by the Discipline Committee on a wording issue but will hopefully be quickly resolved.

The third case involved the handling of dental records. The PDBNS Guidelines for storing dental records changed several years ago the length of storage time is longer than many registrants realize. Look it up. And while most dentists are pack rats, the change to digital leads to certain problems with how to handle and dispose of the paper records carefully. Mistakes were made. This is a learning situation. Take note.

Considering the number of cases which have been referred to the Discipline Committee in 2023, it looks as though 2024 will be a busy year for the Discipline Committee. We are currently recruiting new members. Think about it if asked. It is a rewarding but often an emotionally draining task we perform, always remembering our ultimate job is protecting the public.

Dr. Thomas H Boyle DDS
Chair, Discipline Committee

REPORT OF THE MANDATORY CONTINUING DENTAL EDUCATION (MCDE) COMMITTEE 2023

2022 started with Dentists being asked to participate in the Vaccination Administrator Training The Mandatory Continuation Dental Education (MCDE) committee last met in person on February 10th, 2023, to perform the annual audits for registered dental assistants and dentists. A random sampling had been conducted of all registrants whose MCDE cycle ended on December 31st, 2023. (Registrants are reminded that their MCDE cycle is now printed on their license cards for easy reference). As in previous years, this sampling was conducted by Dr. Samuel Stewart of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine. Those randomly selected for audit (32 dentists and 44 RDAs) were contacted with a request to submit their MCDE log and verification by January 28, 2023. Of those sampled, 9 dentists and 7 RDAs were found to have incomplete audits. (They had not submitted satisfactory verification of continuing education to meet the requirements of the guidelines). The requirement is to make up any CE shortfall prior to the next license renewal date, and these make up hours will not count towards their subsequent 3-year cycle.

By April 30 (the deadline for dental assistant license renewal) 6 RDAs had successfully completed their audits and renewed their licenses while one did not and was struck from the dental assistant register. The 9 dentists with incomplete audits all submitted complete audits by their deadline of November 30th, 2023.

A new requirement has been added to our MCDE guidelines, a Mandatory Medical Emergencies Course, which is to be taken once per 3-year CE cycle. Registrants whose MCDE cycle ended in 2023 were the first cohort for whom it was required to take a medical emergency course. An outline of the course requirements and links to acceptable course options can be found at this link: <http://pdbns.ca/licensees/mandatory-continuing-dental-education/mandatory-medical-emergencies-course>

All registrants are required to attest that they have current BLS/CPR certification at the time of annual license renewal effective 2023. It is no longer a requirement for those selected for MCDE audits to submit proof of a BLS/CPR course. However, such courses are still eligible for credit if a registrant chooses to include them in audit submissions (with hour-for-hour credit.)

As Chair of the MCDE Committee, I am soon to begin conducting a jurisdictional scan of other Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities (DRAs) with respect to their models of “continuing competence” assessment. This is in anticipation of new regulations and guidelines when the PDBNS is migrated to the Regulated Health Professions Act. In addition, the PDBNS will eventually be launching a module within Alinity, our new database management system, whereby registrants will upload CE verification on an ongoing basis and audits will take place internally.

The MCDE committee will be meeting in February 2024 to perform registrant audits for the 2021-2023 CE cycle cohort. I would like to thank committee members Ms. Audra Hayden, Ms. Jacqueline Snooks, Dr. Raegan Meadows, Dr. Sayad Mirbod for their valuable contributions to our committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Kevin Walsh, Chair, MCDE Committee

Updated MCDE guidelines

[http://pdbns.ca/uploads/licensees/MCDE GUIDELINES- Updated May 26, 2023 FINAL.pdf](http://pdbns.ca/uploads/licensees/MCDE_GUIDELINES-Updated_May_26,_2023_FINAL.pdf)

Current MCDE regulations

<http://pdbns.ca/licensees/mandatory-continuing-dental-education/mandatory-continuing-dental-education-regulation>

REPORT OF THE DENTAL PRACTICE REVIEW (DPR) COMMITTEE 2023

In early January 2023 a random sampling process, stratified by districts, was used to select 15% of licensed dentists in private practice to complete a self-assessment document. The sampling was conducted by Dr Samuel Stewart of the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine. The parameters for this process are prescribed for the PDBNS under the Dental Practice Review Regulations. From those selected for self-assessment, 15% were then selected, again through random sampling, as a subset for site visits.

On March 9, 2023, the DPR Committee met to review the self-assessment forms returned and to determine if additional site visits were required beyond the subset already randomly identified. Additional site visits were added as a result of 1 dentist's self-assessment form responses, and another for failure to return their self-assessment.

In addition to letters regarding site visits, and following the Committee's review of the self-assessment forms, 34 dentists were sent letters from the Chair requesting confirmation that certain modifications to their practices were implemented by a particular date.

Most site visits were completed in 2023 and the remainder will be continuing in early 2024. Visits revealed that the majority of dentists are meeting or exceeding the standards of practice recognized by the PDBNS.

However, recordkeeping remains the area where most deficiencies were identified. All dentists are encouraged to review the PDBNS Record Keeping Guidelines for detailed content of records and treatment entries.

The Review process to date has been conducted with the support and cooperation of registrants.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr Mariette Chiasson
Chair, DPR Committee

REPORT OF THE REGISTRATION APPEAL COMMITTEE 2023

The Registration Appeal Committee met once this year regarding one registration appeal.

A dental assistant had applied for licensure to practice dental assisting in Nova Scotia and their application was denied by the Registrar of the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia. That decision was appealed.

The Appeal Hearing was held virtually via Zoom on June 29, 2023. Present for the hearing were: the Appellant, Registrar and Legal Counsel for the PDBNS. Five members of the Registration Appeal Committee including the Chairperson heard the appeal.

Following the hearing the Committee subsequently discussed all matters pertaining to the appeal and reviewed all options in rendering a decision.

The applicant had worked as a dental assistant from 2006 – 2012. Due to a lack of continuous practice the applicant was required to pass examinations prescribed by the PDBNS and meet all requirements of the Board before a license could be issued. The PDBNS policies stipulate that a non-practicing dental assistant is required to pass the Clinical Practical Evaluation (CPE) administered by the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) before licensure renewal can take place.

Our decision required our committee to consider the relevant requirements for registration and licensing as per the Dental Act and Dental Assistants Regulations.

Sub-section **27(2)** of the Dental Act provides the requirements to obtain a dental assisting license after ceasing to practice:

27(2) *Where a person ceases to be engaged in the practice of dental assisting for the time prescribed in the dental regulations, the registrar shall not issue to that person a license to engage in the practice of dental assisting unless and until that person passes examinations prescribed by the Board and meets any other requirements imposed by the Board.*

Regulation **13(9)** of the Regulations is also relevant to this appeal as it states requirements for dental assistants who have not practiced dental assisting in the past five years. The section states the following:

13(9) *A Dental Assistant who has not engaged in the practice of dental assisting with (in)*

the preceding five years at the date of license renewal shall be required to pass examinations prescribed by the Board and meet the requirements of the Board before the license shall be issued.

According to PDBNS policies requirement 3(c) provides that “An applicant who has not met the continual requirement (defined as having practiced Level II dental assisting skills for a minimum of 900 hours in the preceding 5 years) will be required to pass the Clinical Practice Evaluation administered by the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB)”.

Unfortunately, after 3 attempts the applicant was unsuccessful on one of nine mandatory skills on the NDAEB Clinical Practice Evaluation.

Under the current Dental Act and Dental Assistants Regulations there is no mechanism available to the Registrar to grant a dental assistant license. Therefore, the Registration Appeal Committee dismissed the appeal.

I would like to thank the following committee members involved with this appeal process:
Dr. Terry Worthen, Ms. Angela O’Hanley RDA, Ms. Gwen Haliburton and Mr. Doug Lloy.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Gorman Doyle
Chair, Registration Appeal Committee