



Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia

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PDBNS Statement

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia is aware that the Halifax Regional Police have laid eight charges against a dentist who is accused of assaulting patients.

In mid-November 2020, the Provincial Dental Board received a significant number of complaints from the public about Dr. Errol Gaum, including allegations of events that date back many decades.

On November 19th, 2020, the Provincial Dental Board took the extraordinary decision to swiftly [suspend Dr. Gaum's license indefinitely](#) in the interest of public safety and has fully cooperated with the Halifax Regional Police in its investigation. Dr. Gaum remains suspended and cannot practise dentistry in the Province of Nova Scotia.

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia's investigation into the complaints received is ongoing. Formal investigations can take up to one year, while unusually complex cases, like Dr. Gaum's, may take significantly longer.

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia takes its role to protect the public in matters related to the delivery of dental care seriously, including its role in managing complaints and disciplinary actions.

Nova Scotians with concerns about dental care in the province are encouraged to file a written complaint, regardless of when an event may have taken place, so an investigation into their complaint can be launched.

While the Nova Scotia Dental Act prohibits the disclosure of information related to complaints, the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia would like to assure the community that all official complaints are investigated and brought to the Complaints Committee. When appropriate, a rigorous disciplinary process directed by provincial legislation follows.

Information on how to file a complaint is available at pdbns.ca/public/if-you-have-a-complaint.

Dr. Doug Mackey, Registrar
February 16, 2022