

**Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia  
Board Meeting Minutes  
The Tower Hotel  
Saturday, November 30, 2024**

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia met on Saturday, November 30, 2024, at the Tower Hotel in Halifax, NS.

In Attendance: Dr. Russell MacSween (Chair)  
Dr. Sunita Sharma (Vice-Chair)  
Dr. Tim Silver  
Dr. Sachin Seth  
Dr. Asile El-Darahali  
Dr. Scott Schofield  
Dr. Erin Hennessy  
Mr. David Melvin  
Mr. Greg Fevens  
Ms. Michelle Fowler  
Ms. Sherry Whyte  
Dr. Doug Mackey (Registrar)  
Dr. Curtis Gregoire (Deputy Registrar)  
Ms. Jane Donovan (Executive Assistant)  
Mrs. Kaitlynn Zegray (Administrative Assistant)

**Agenda 1      Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement**

At 9:00 Dr. MacSween called the meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and proclaimed a land acknowledgement.

**Agenda 2      Introduction**

No introductions were required.

**Agenda 3      Conflict of Interest Declaration**

The Chair asked the Board members if they had or were aware of any other Board members who had a conflict of interest with any of today's agenda items. None was identified.

**Agenda 4      Approval of the Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda.

It was moved – Dr. Asile El-Darahali

**Motion 2024 - 51**

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

**Motion Carried**

**Agenda 5      Approval of the draft September 27, 2024 Board Meeting Minutes**

**a) Errors and/or Omissions**

The Chair asked if there were any errors or omissions in the minutes from the September 27, 2024, meeting. None being identified, the Chair stated that the minutes of the September 27, 2024 meeting are approved as presented.

**b) Business Arising**

Business arising is incorporated into the agenda.

**Agenda 6      Review of Email Motions**

- a. This motion was circulated by email, voted on, and passed by the Board on June 13, 2024.

Moved and seconded - Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Sachin Seth

**MOTION 2024-34**

“That effective June 14, 2024 Dr. Sarah Hunter, Dr. Marla MacAulay, and Ms. Shanelle Topp be appointed to the Discipline Committee, that Dr. Sarah Fakhraldeen be removed from the Registration Appeal Committee and appointed to the Discipline Committee, and that Dr. Maria Haddad be appointed to the Registration Appeal Committee.”

**MOTION CARRIED**

Note, the reference to this June 2024 motion was inadvertently omitted from the September 27, 2024 Board Meeting Agenda and Minutes.

- b. This motion was circulated by email, voted on, and passed by the Board on October 3, 2024.

Moved and seconded - Dr. Sachin Seth / Ms. Sherry Whytewood

**MOTION 2024-50**

“That the Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Proposal at the cost of \$34,385+ HST for the period of October 5, 2024 to October 5, 2025 be approved.”

**MOTION CARRIED**

**Agenda 7      Licensing Report**

Ms. Jane Donovan provided a licensing report.

The current licensing statistics as of November 22<sup>nd</sup> were presented to the Board members. This gave Board members a very detailed picture of current active renewals of dentists, corporations and facility sedation permits. There were a number of issues that came up this year but that may have been due to the fact that we launched all three renewals at the same time. Also, this was the first year the facility sedation permits were being renewed so there definitely was a learning curve with this.

Again, many registrants did not have their BLS/CPR (which is a requirement for license renewal) and were looking for places to take their recertification at the last minute. Multiple emails had been sent out regarding this.

We have had a lot of positive feedback about Alinity and as time goes on there should be less questions from registrants.

At this time Dr. Sachin Seth took the opportunity to provide a high level status report on the new upcoming dental assisting program that will be offered at Dalhousie University.

**Agenda 8      Registrar's Report**

The Registrar provided a written and verbal overview of the activities related to migration under the *Regulated Health Professions Act* (RHPA). He outlined the various documents to be developed and approved in the coming months as well as the collaborative efforts of the other health regulators.

## **Agenda 9**

### **Chair**

Dr. MacSween provided a verbal report.

Since the last Board meeting in September the Chair has attended the Governing Council meeting which was on the same day and later several in-house meetings;

- Several meetings of the HR Committee.
- Meeting with external legal counsel Ms. Kim Turner – this will be discussed later in the agenda.
- Several meetings with the Registrar.

This was Dr. MacSween's last meeting as Chair of the Board and he will sit as a member until December 2025.

The Chair acknowledged all the hard work everyone has done and thanked the Registrar for all the work done with the new Regulated Health Professions Act.

#### **b) Strategic Plan**

Chair encouraged everyone to review the current Strategic Plan keeping in mind that when we move to the new legislation the Board will have to update the plan.

## **Agenda 10**

### **Board Committee Reports**

#### **a. Human Resources & Governance Committee**

##### **i. Appointments and Reappointments**

#### **MOTION 2024-51**

Moved and seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Sachin Seth

"That Mr. David Melvin be appointed Chair of the Human Resources and Governance Committee commencing January 1, 2025."

**Motion Carried**

#### **MOTION 2024-52**

Moved and seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma /Dr. Erin Hennessey

"That Dr. Scott Schofield be appointed Chair of the Standards and Guidelines Committee and removed from the Registration Review and Infection Prevention and Control Committees commencing on January 1, 2025."

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024-53**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Scott Schofield

“That Ms. Michelle Fowler and Dr. Russell MacSween be appointed to the Dental Assistants’ Scope of Practice Committee effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 – 54**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Sachin Seth

“That Ms. Muna Saadi be appointed to the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 - 55**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Sachin Seth

“That Ms. Marina Crawford be appointed to the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee and removed from the Discipline Committee effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 - 56**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Mr. Greg Fevens

“That Dr. Sayed Mirbod and Dr. Raegan Meadows be reappointed to the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Committee effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 - 57**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Erin Hennessey

“That Ms. Jackie Snooks be appointed to the Discipline Committee effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION – 2024 - 58**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Tim Silver

“That Mr. Greg Affleck be appointed to the Complaints Committee effective January 1, 2025.”

**Motion Carried**

This concludes all the appointments and reappointments.

ii. Summer Student Grant

The PDBNS had great success with the summer student in 2024. Due to the abbreviated summer vacation for dental hygiene students and pre-arranged travel out of province, the student did not have enough hours to satisfy criteria of the provincial Youth Employment Program, However, the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration did eventually honour the contract and reimbursed the PDBNS for approximately 65% of the student’s salary after the Department’s original decision to decline reimbursement was informally appealed by the PDBNS.

**MOTION – 2024 - 59**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sunita Sharma / Dr. Sachin Seth

“That the PDBNS apply for a summer student grant for 2025.”

**Motion Carried**

iii. Performance Reviews

Staff performance reviews were held at the Provincial Dental Board office on November 29, 2024.

Staff performance goals were made and will be re-evaluated at the same time next year.

At this point in the meeting, it was moved and seconded – Dr. Tim Silver / Dr. Scott Schofield

**b. Finance and Audit Committee**

**MOTION-2024-60**

“That the meeting be moved *in camera*”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION – 2024-61**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Tim Silver / Dr. Sachin Seth

“That the *in camera* session be ended”

**Motion Carried**

**c. Standards and Guidelines Committee**

This portion of the meeting was presented by Dr. Sachin Seth.

**MOTION 2024 – 62**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sachin Seth / Dr. Scott Schofield

“That the NSRDDA *Code of Ethics* be approved as presented to come into effect when the PDBNS migrates under the Regulated Health Professions Act.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 – 63**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sachin Seth / Dr. Erin Hennessey

“That the NSRDDA *Standard of Practice for Advertising and Marketing in Dentistry* be approved as presented to come into effect when the PDBNS migrates under the Regulated Health Professions Act.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **MOTION 2024 – 64**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sachin Seth / Dr. Erin Hennessey

“That the PDBNS *Standard of Practice Regarding Sexual Misconduct and Sexual Abuse* be approved for circulation to stakeholders for a two-week period from December 2 to 16, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

#### **Agenda 11      Old Business**

##### **a.    Policy on Maintaining Registrants' Information on a Digital Platform**

#### **MOTION 2024 – 65**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Sachin Seth / Mr. David Melvin

“That the PDBNS Policy on Maintaining Registrants' Information on a Digital Platform be approved as presented effective November 30, 2024.”

**Motion Carried**

##### **b.    Review of Communications Regarding Palestinian Flag**

The Registrar reviewed a matter in which a registrant had raised concern in October 2024 about a dental office displaying a Palestinian flag, alleging that it indicated support for terrorism.

Upon review and investigation of this matter by the Registrar, the Board determined that this was not a regulatory issue. The Board did not witness or experience anything that would indicate support for a terrorist organization, hatred of another group, or any other expression that would not be protected by the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. As such, there did not appear to be a role for the PDBNS regarding this matter.

#### **Agenda 12      New Business**



**a. Appeal of a Discipline Committee Decision to the Board**

The Registrar and the Deputy Registrar removed themselves from the meeting for this agenda item.

The Chair provided a high-level overview of an appeal which will be brought before the Board. A registrant is appealing a recent decision of the Discipline Committee which is permitted through a provision in Section 17(1)(f) of the *Dental Act*.

Independent legal counsel has been engaged to support the Chair and Board through this process. Neither the PDBNS' primary legal counsel nor the legal counsel for the Discipline Committee can support the Chair in this matter as to do so would constitute a conflict of interest.

**Agenda 13      Correspondence**

The Registrar reviewed correspondence between the PDBNS and the NSDA pertaining to various matters since the September Board meeting.

**Agenda 14      Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

- January 31, 2025 (Future Inns)
- May 30, 2025 (Future Inns)
- September 26, 2025 (Future Inns)
- November 29, 2025 (Location TBA)

**MOTION 2024 – 66**

Moved and Seconded – Ms. Shery Whytewood / Dr. Scott Schofield

“That the meeting be moved *in camera*.”

**Motion Carried**

**MOTION 2024 – 67**

Moved and Seconded – Mr. Greg Fevens / Dr. Sachin Seth

“That the *in camera* session be ended.”

**Motion Carried**

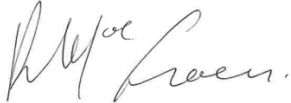
**MOTION 2024 – 65**

Moved and Seconded – Dr. Russell MacSween / Mr. Greg Fevens

“That the meeting be adjourned.”

**Motion Carried**

**Approved,**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russell MacSween".

**Dr. Russell MacSween, Immediate Past-Chair**

**January 31, 2024**