

# Annual Report 2024

Protecting the public interest in matters related to dental care



**Provincial Dental Board  
of Nova Scotia**



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## Message from the Chair

Without a doubt, 2024 was a big year for the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS). The year was dominated by our preparation for the impending migration under the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).

We were able to accomplish this monumental task while maintaining our core regulatory functions thanks to the talented and diverse pool of individuals serving on our Board and Committees, as well as extremely dedicated staff and external consultants.

As Chair, I was privileged to attend meetings of various provincial and national organizations working in the regulatory sphere. The interconnectedness of these organizations helps us all fulfill our collective mandate of protecting the public when it comes to dental care.

In 2024, the PDBNS continued to foster positive relationships with the Nova Scotia Dental Association (NSDA), the Nova Scotia Dental Assistants Association (NSDAA), and Dalhousie's Faculty of Dentistry where our objectives align (e.g., helping registrants better understand practice standards).

The upcoming migration under the RHPA will set the wheels in motion for many structural and procedural changes for the PDBNS. Most obvious is the change we will see in Board composition and numbers, with a lower total number of Board members and a higher percentage of non-registrant Board members. Our Board will also change from the model of a "working Board" to that of a "governance Board". These are not just PDBNS or Nova Scotia phenomena but rather are in line with evolving trends nationally as regulatory bodies are called to increasing transparency in fulfilling their public protection mandate.

While this can seem like an erosion of self regulation, it is important to appreciate that under the RHPA, panels for Statutory Committees (such as the Complaints Committee and the Registration and Licensing Review Committee) will continue to be populated primarily by registrants who bring their profession-specific lens to their determinations while upholding the principle of public protection. As well, each panel of a Statutory Committee will continue to have a public representative. The PDBNS is extremely fortunate to have an amazing pool of public members serving on our Board and Statutory Committees.

On a personal note, I feel privileged to have served as PDBNS Chair during the last full calendar year before this organization migrates to a new legislative structure and adopts a new name and governance structure. I am confident that the organization will continue to successfully uphold its public protection role, thanks in no small part to the talent and dedication of staff as well as registrants and public members who serve on our Board and Committees.

Respectfully,

Dr. Russell MacSween



## Message from the Registrar

To echo Dr. MacSween, 2024 was a busy year for the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) as we worked to reach several milestones ahead of migration under the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#).

Among this work was the updating and repackaging of provisions which are under the authority of the Regulations pursuant to the 1992 [Dental Act](#). Under the RHPA, many of the matters currently addressed in [Regulations](#) under the *Dental Act* will be addressed in Bylaws, Practice Standards, or Policies. We see this as a positive evolution which will facilitate adaptation of provisions in response to emerging trends. As an example, the current PDBNS *Code of Ethics* (embedded in government [regulations](#)) is based on an historical version of Canadian Dental Association (CDA) *Code of Ethics* dating back many decades – clearly due for review and modernization. We welcome the increased flexibility that

will come with these provisions moving out of government regulations which are more challenging to modify than Bylaws, Practice Standards, or Policies.

The work which has taken place in 2024 (like that which remains in 2025) would have been entirely more challenging were it not for the support of other organizations. Regulatory bodies for all health professions in Nova Scotia have worked collaboratively and tirelessly over the past couple of years to navigate the legislative changes to come. The larger regulatory bodies are quick to lend support to the smaller ones, sharing processes they have developed with their larger staffing models. Coordinated through the [Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network](#) (the “Network”), there have been countless meetings of the Network as a whole as well as the many sub-committees tasked with dissecting and responding to specific elements of the RHPA and the [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#).

Similarly, the regulatory bodies for dentistry and dental assisting across Canada have open lines of communication and are always quick to lend support or share what they have learned and developed as they have worked toward regulatory best practice. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to my counterparts across the country and their staff.

There remains much work to be done in 2025, and I am grateful that the migration date became a moving target. Going into 2025, there are several policies which have yet to be developed, guidelines which need to be updated to align with new legislation, and bylaws to be created. For each of these there are multiple steps including drafting, preliminary feedback from Board and Committee members, review by legal counsel, sharing with stakeholders for feedback, final revision, and Board approval.

I am extremely grateful to be surrounded and supported by such a dedicated group of contributors: Chair, Executive Committee, Board and Committee members, staff, Deputy Registrar, consultants, and legal counsel. Lastly, I thank registrants for their patience as we have juggled the legislative changes with other administrative tasks.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Doug Mackey



## Mission

To serve the public interest as the legislated body responsible for licensing dentists and dental assistants.



## Vision

To set, regulate, and uphold the standards of our professions to ensure the public's trust.

## Values

Trust	Responsibility	Integrity	Professionalism
Ensuring public confidence in the dental and dental assisting professions	Executing our duties in a transparent, fair, and impartial manner to meet our mandate	Protecting the public interest through evidence-based decision making	Maintaining our leadership role in providing responsive services to the dental community and the public

# Strategic Initiatives

## Regulatory Compliance

To support licensees' compliance with the Dental Act and Regulations as well as with PDBNS policies and guidelines

## Governance

To maintain a capable, functional, and efficient Board responsible to uphold legislation in the public interest

## Collaboration and Communications

To ensure effective relationships and access to information in the interest of public awareness

## Operations

To ensure resources are used efficiently and effectively for maximum output

# Our Organizational Structure

In 2024, the Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) operated under the authority of the 1992 [Dental Act](#) with the mandate to protect the public interest in matters related to dental care. The PDBNS fulfilled this role primarily through:

- Registration and licensing of dentists and dental assistants,
- Quality assurance measures such as:
  - establishing practice standards and guidelines,
  - reviewing dental practices, and
  - operating a Mandatory Continuing Dental Education program, and
- Investigating complaints.

Additionally, the PDBNS authorizes advanced practice for qualified dentists to:

- Administer sedation in dental practice
- Administer neuromodulators (e.g., Botox), and
- Prescribe, take, and interpret cone beam computed tomography (CBCT) images,

The PDBNS also:

- Monitors clinic protocols (such as infection prevention and control) through the Dental Practice Review process,
- Issues permits for dental clinics to have qualified dentists administer sedation, and
- Issues renewable permits for professional corporations to engage in the practice of dentistry.

Oversight and strategic direction are provided by a 12-member Board. The composition of the Board is established by the [Dental Act](#):

- 5 dentists appointed by the Nova Scotia Dental Association (NSDA)
- 3 dentists appointed by government
- 1 dental assistant appointed by the Nova Scotia Dental Assistants' Association (NSDAA)
- 1 dental assistant appointed by government
- 2 public members appointed by government

## 2024 Staffing Model

Dr. Doug Mackey - Registrar (3 days)

Ms. Jane Donovan - Executive Assistant (5 days)

Ms. Kaitlynn Zeegray - Administrative Assistant (5 days)

Dr. Curtis Gregoire - Deputy Registrar (contract – variable hours)

Mr. Chris Holland - IT Consultant (contract – variable hours)

Ms. Laurie MacDonald - Bookkeeper (contract – variable hours)

Dr. Mary McNally – Complaints Committee Administrative Support (contract – variable hours)



# 2024 Board Membership

Board Member	Position	Appointment
Dr. Russell MacSween	Chair	NSDA
Dr. Sunita Sharma	Vice-Chair	Government
Dr. Sachin Seth	Member	Government
Dr. Erin Hennessy	Member	NSDA
Dr. Scott Schofield	Member	NSDA
Dr. Asile El-Darahali	Member	NSDA
Dr. Tim Silver	Member	NSDA
Ms. Sherry Whyte	Member	NSDAA
Ms. Michelle Fowler	Member	Government
Mr. Greg Fevens	Public member	Government
Mr. David Melvin	Public member	Government



Top row: Dr. R. MacSween, Mr. Chris Holland (IT)

2<sup>nd</sup> row: Dr. S. Seth, Dr. T. Silver, Dr. S. Sharma, Mr. G. Fevens

3<sup>rd</sup> row: Dr. S. Schofield, Dr. Asile El-Darahali, Dr. D. Mackey (Registrar)

4<sup>th</sup> row: Dr. E. Hennessy, Ms. J. Donovan (Exec Assistant), Ms. Kaitlynn Zeegray (Admin Assistant), Ms. M. Fowler

Bottom row: Ms. S. Whyte, Mr. D. Melvin, Dr. C. Gregoire (Deputy Registrar)



## 2024 Board Committees

Human Resources and Governance	Finance and Audit	Standards and Guidelines	EDIRA	Dental Assisting Scope of Practice
Dr. S. Sharma - Chair	Dr. T. Silver - Chair	Dr. S. Seth - Chair	Dr. R. MacSween, Chair	Ms. M. Fowler
Mr. D. Melvin	Dr. S. Schofield	Dr. S. Schofield	Dr. S. Schofield	Ms. S. Whytewood
Dr. R. MacSween	Mr. G. Fevens	Ms. Sherry Whytewood	Dr. Asile El-Darahali	Dr. E. Hennessy
Dr. S. Seth				Dr. R. MacSween
Dr. E. Hennessy				Mr. D. Melvin

## 2024 Ad-Hoc and Other Non-Statutory Committees

Sedation Inspection Team	Code of Ethics Committee
Dr. Curtis Gregoire – Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon	Dr. Mary McNally, Chair
Dr. Ben Schelew – Medical Anesthesiologist	Dr. Martin Gillis, Vice-Chair
Mr. Kevin Piggott– Biomedical Engineer	Dr. Scott Schofield
	Dr. Asile El-Darahali

## FRPA Compliance

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia (PDBNS) is fully compliant with the 2008 [Fair Registrations Practices Act](#) (FRPA). The report from the 2025 FRPA Review can be accessed on the Nova Scotia Government website [at this link](#).

# 2024 Statutory Committee Membership

## Complaints Committee

The 2024 Complaints Committee operated under the authority of the [Discipline Regulations](#) pursuant to the 1992 [Dental Act](#).

Dr. Clare Champoux (Chair)  
Dr. Nada Haidar  
Dr. Tom Raddall III  
Dr. Blair Raddall  
Dr. Sarah Foley  
Dr. Frances Tompkins - Term commencing Feb.1, 2024  
Dr. Glenda Ross

Dr. Earle Carson  
Ms. Alma Layden  
Dr. Lee Erickson (Term ending November 30, 2024)  
Ms. Donna Dickie (DA)  
Ms. Shirlene Dancause (DA)  
Ms. Susan Wedlake (Public)  
Ms. Janelle Gray (Public)

## Discipline Committee

The 2024 Discipline Committee operated under the authority of the [Discipline Regulations](#) pursuant to the 1992 [Dental Act](#).

Dr. Tom Boyle (Chair)  
Dr. Ian Ross  
Dr. William Whyte  
Dr. Stuart Kirby  
Dr. David Quigley  
Dr. Daniel MacLellan  
Dr. Chris Baker  
Dr. Natalie Brothers  
Dr. Wayne Ramier  
Dr. Mark Sutherland

Mr. John Scott (Public)  
Ms. Karen Fitzner (Public)  
Ms. Marina Crawford (DA) – Feb. 1 – Nov 30, 2024  
Dr. Mark Vallee - Term commencing June 1, 2024  
Dr. Thomas Steeves - Term commencing June 1, 2024  
Dr. Marla MacAulay - Term commencing June 14, 2024  
Dr. Sarah Hunter - Term commencing June 14, 2024  
Dr. Sarah Fakhraldeen - Term commencing June 14, 2024  
Ms. Shanelle Topp (DA) - Term commencing June 14, 2024  
Ms. Jackie Snooks (DA) - Term commencing Nov. 30, 2024

## Registration Appeal Committee

The 2024 Registration Appeal Committee operated under the authority of the *Qualifications for Registration and Licensing of Dentists Regulations*.

Dr. Gorman Doyle (Chair)  
Dr. Terry Worthen  
Dr. Sarah Fakhraldeen - Term ending June 14, 2024  
Dr. Maria Haddad - Term commencing June 14, 2024

Ms. Angela O'Hanley (DA)  
Ms. Gwen Haliburton (Public)  
Mr. Doug Lloy (Public)

## Mandatory Continuing Dental Education (MCDE) Committee

The 2024 MCDE Committee operated under the authority of the *Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Regulations*.

Dr. Kevin Walsh (Chair)  
Dr. Sayed Mirbod  
Dr. Raegan Meadows  
Ms. Jackie Snooks (DA) - Term ending Nov. 30, 2024

Ms. Audra Hayden (DA) - Term ending Nov. 30, 2024  
Ms. Muna Saadi (DA) - Term commencing Nov. 30, 2024  
Ms. Marina Crawford (DA) - Term commencing Nov. 30, 2024

## Dental Practice Review (DPR) Committee

The 2024 DPR Committee operated under the authority of the *Dental Practice Review Regulations*.

Dr. Mariette Chiasson (Chair)

Dr. Stuart MacDonald

Dr. Daniel Albert

## Publication of Notices

Notices for registrants and members of the public regarding matters such as changes to Bylaws and Practice Standards can be found on our website [at this link](#).

# Appointment of PDBNS Registrants to External Organizations 2024

## National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB)

Dr. Tanya Cook – PDBNS appointee to NDEB Board

**Examiners Recommended by the PDBNS and Appointed by the NDEB (2024)** – Note that there are other PDBNS registrants who are NDEB Examiners recommended by Dalhousie University's Faculty of Dentistry and appointed by the NDEB.

Dr. Daniel Albert  
Dr. Shelly Anderson  
Dr. Cynthia Andrews  
Dr. Chris Baker  
Dr. Michelle Belliveau  
Dr. Tom Boran  
Dr. Patricia Brady  
Dr. Chris Cameron  
Dr. Clare Champoux  
Dr. Tana Cook  
Dr. Alfred Dean

Dr. Gorman Doyle  
Dr. Asile El-Darahali  
Dr. Lee Erickson  
Dr. Wayne Garland  
Dr. Martin Gillis  
Dr. Curtis Gregoire  
Dr. Nada Haidar  
Dr. Erin Hennessy  
Dr. Patricia Johnson  
Dr. Terrie Logue  
Dr. Ian MacAskil

Dr. Doug Mackey  
Dr. Carolyn MacNutt  
Dr. Marla MacAulay  
Dr. Russell MacSween  
Dr. Sathya Murty  
Dr. Andrew Nette  
Dr. Greg Power  
Dr. Tom Raddall  
Dr. Richard Raftus  
Dr. Wayne Ramier  
Dr. Santana Rooyakkers

Dr. Scott Schofield  
Dr. Sachin Seth  
Dr. Sunita Sharma  
Dr. Tim Silver  
Dr. Mark Sutherland  
Dr. Thomas Steeves  
Dr. Peter Thompson  
Dr. Kilby Townshend  
Dr. Mark Vallee  
Dr. Kevin Walsh  
Dr. Terry Worthen

## National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB)

Ms. Donna Rushton – PDBNS appointee to NDAEB Board

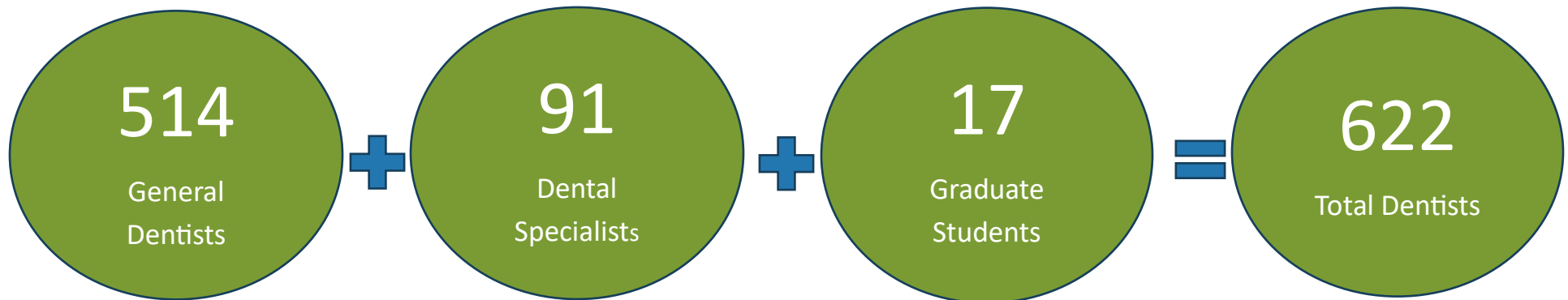
## Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program Board

Dr. James Brady – PDBNS appointee to NSPMP Board

Dr. Chris Lee – PDBNS appointee to NSPMP Practice Review Committee

# Dentists by the Numbers

As of December 31, 2024



## Dental Specialists

- 1 Dental Public Health Specialist
- 11 Endodontists
- 16 Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons
- 2 Oral Pathologists
- 0 Oral and Maxillofacial Radiologists
- 26 Orthodontists
- 9 Pediatric Dentists
- 14 Periodontists
- 11 Prosthodontists

41

dentists applied for registration and  
licensing in 2024.

40

applications  
approved

1

application  
rejected

# Advanced Practice Designation for Dentists

Dentists who meet the requirements set out in these Practice Standards may apply for additional certification/authorization:

Standard of Practice for the Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia in Dental Practice

Standard of Practice for the Use of Botulinum Toxin (Type A) and Esthetic Therapies in Dental Practice

Standard of Practice for the Use of Cone Beam Computed Tomography (CBCT) in Dental Practice

## New Applications for Permits and Authorizations in 2024

# of applications	# approved
9 Sedation Permits	9
20 "Botox" Permits	20
16 CBCT Authorizations	16

## Total Permits and Authorizations in Effect

as of December 31, 2024

151	Sedation Permits
121	"Botox" Permits
136	CBCT Authorizations
54	Facility Sedation Permits

Dental clinics where sedation is administered are required to obtain a Facility Sedation Permit which is renewable annually.

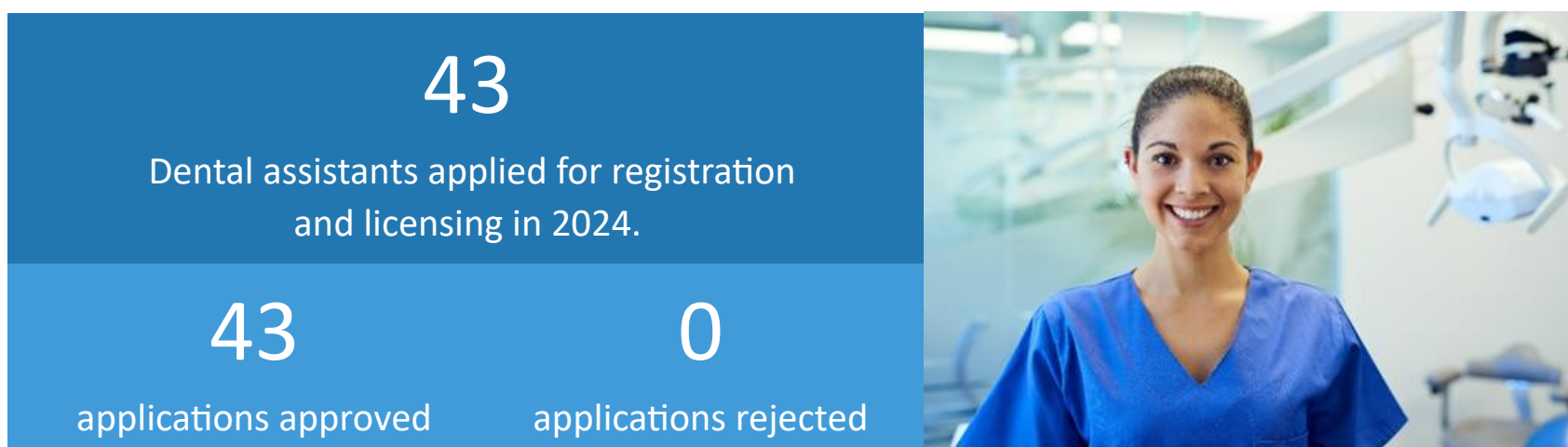


# Dental Assistants by the Numbers

As of December 31, 2024



Newly graduated dental assistants have 12 months from the time of initial registration to obtain certification through the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB). During this period, they are issued a Conditional Licence entitling them to practise the full scope of dental assisting. They must complete the NDAEB certification process within 12 months following initial registration and licensure.



# Continuing Competence Program

In 2024, the PDBNS Continuing Competence Program operated as the Mandatory Continuing Dental Education Program pursuant to the *Mandatory Continuing Dental Education [Regulations](#)* under the 1992 *[Dental Act](#)*.

The parameters for the program mirror closely what is found in the NSRDDA Continuing Competence Program and can be found on the NSRDDA website [at this link](#).

2024 Audits by the Numbers	Dentists	Dental Assistants
Total # of audits conducted	24	34
Number of satisfactory audits at initial review by Committee	15	24
Number of unsatisfactory audits at initial review by Committee requiring resubmission prior to license renewal	9	10
Number satisfactory by the time of licence renewal	24	34
Number still unsatisfactory by the time of licence renewal	0	0

# Professional Conduct

In 2024, the PDBNS' Professional Conduct Process operated under the authority of the *Discipline [Regulations](#)* pursuant to the 1992 *[Dental Act](#)*. It was more commonly referred to as the "Complaints and Discipline Process" and involved the work of two Committees: the Complaints Committee and the Discipline Committee (the latter of which would become the Professional Conduct Committee with migration under the RHPA).

## Complaints Committee Snapshot

13 meetings
24 complaints adjudicated
24 decisions reached <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ 15 dismissals</li><li>✓ 3 counsels issued</li><li>✓ 1 caution issued</li><li>✓ 4 reprimands issued</li><li>✓ 1 referral to the Discipline Committee</li></ul>

## Discipline Committee Snapshot

10 meetings
2 complaints addressed
1 settlement agreement approved
1 matter carried forward to 2025

**Sections 8(2)(h)-(j) of the *[Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#)* set out the information to be included in a regulatory body's Annual Report pertaining to professional conduct matters.**



## Unresolved Complaints at the beginning of 2024 and their Outcome/Status as of December 31, 2024

For each complaint listed, the grey column indicates the type of complaint, the blue column indicates the outcome of those complaints which were resolved in 2024, and the green column indicates the status of the complaints which were still unresolved at the end of 2024.

**Note 1:** Cases indicated with \* have been resolved subsequent to December 31, 2024 at the time of this writing and will be reflected in the 2025 report.

**Note 2:** Thirty-nine complaints involving one registrant are pending investigation, and three further complaints involving the same registrant have been referred to the Discipline Committee (now the Professional Conduct Committee at the time of this writing). These complaints, all containing allegations of professional misconduct, do not appear in the table below as they have been stayed since July 2023, pending the outcome of a criminal proceeding. The registrant's licence has been indefinitely suspended since November 2020 and the registrant will not have the opportunity to challenge the suspension until after the criminal process is concluded. The suspension ensures the public is fully protected.

Unresolved Complaints as of January 1, 2024	Type of Complaint (May be more than 1 per complaint)				Outcomes of These Complaints Resolved In 2024																	Status of Unresolved Complaints		
	Professional Misconduct	Conduct Unbecoming	Incompetence	Incapacity	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Counsel	Caution	Reprimand	Authorized Resignation	Conditions / Remediation	Fine and/or Costs	Informal Resolution	Licence Surrendered	Fitness-to-Practise	Dispute Resolution	Restrictions Imposed	Revocation of licence	Settlement Agreement	Suspension	Written Advice	Pending Investigation	Under Investigation	Referred to Discipline
PDBNS-2018-06 *	✓	✓																					✓	
PDBNS-2020-10	✓																							✓
PDBNS-2022-20	✓										✓	✓												
PDBNS-2022-24	✓																						✓	



Unresolved Complaints as of January 1, 2024	Type of Complaint (May be more than 1 per complaint)				Outcomes of These Complaints Resolved In 2024																	Status of Unresolved Complaints		
	Professional Misconduct	Conduct Unbecoming	Incompetence	Incapacity	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Counsel	Caution	Reprimand	Authorized Resignation	Conditions / Remediation	Fine and/or Costs	Informal Resolution	Licence Surrendered	Fitness-to-Practise	Dispute Resolution	Restrictions Imposed	Revocation of licence	Settlement Agreement	Suspension	Written Advice	Pending Investigation	Under Investigation	Referred to Discipline
PDBNS-2023-06	✓	✓																						✓
PDBNS-2023-07	✓																							✓
PDBNS-2023-13	✓						✓																	
PDBNS-2024-14	✓					✓																		
PDBNS-2023-16							✓																	
PDBNS-2023-19						✓																		
PDBNS-2023-19	✓								✓															
PDBNS-2023-17	✓					✓																		
PDBNS-2023-20 *	✓																							✓
PDBNS-2023-21	✓					✓																		
PDBNS-2023-22	✓							✓																
PDBNS-2023-23	✓	✓																					✓	
15 TOTAL	14	3				4	2	1	1														3	4

## New Complaints Received in 2024 and their Outcome/Status as of December 31, 2024

For each complaint listed, the grey column indicates the type of new complaint, the blue column indicates the outcome of new complaints which were resolved within in 2024, and the green column indicates the status of new complaints which were still unresolved at the end of 2024.

**Note:** Cases indicated with \* have been resolved subsequent to December 31, 2024 at the time of this writing and will be reflected in the 2025 report.

New Complaints Received in 2024	Type of Complaint (May be more than 1 per complaint)				Outcome of Complaints Resolved by December 31, 2024																	Status of Unresolved Complaints		
	Professional Misconduct	Conduct Unbecoming	Incompetence	Incapacity	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Counsel	Cautious	Reprimand	Authorized Resignation	Conditions / Remediation	Fine and/or Costs	Informal Resolution	Licence Surrendered	Referral to Fitness-to-	Referral to Dispute	Restrictions Imposed	Revocation of licence	Settlement Agreement	Suspension	Written Advice	Pending Investigation	Under Investigation	Referred to Discipline
PDBNS-2024-01*	⏏																							⏏
PDBNS-2024-02	⏏					⏏																		
PDBNS-2024-03	⏏				⏏																			
PDBNS-2024-04	⏏					⏏																		
PDBNS-2024-05	⏏					⏏																		
PDBNS-2024-06	⏏					⏏																		
PDBNS-2024-07	⏏					⏏																		
PDBNS-2024-08	⏏					⏏																		





New Complaints Received in 2024	Type of Complaint (May be more than 1 per complaint)				Outcome of Complaints Resolved by December 31, 2024																	Status of Unresolved Complaints		
	Professional Misconduct	Conduct Unbecoming	Incompetence	Incapacity	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Counsel	Caution	Reprimand	Authorized Resignation	Conditions / Remediation	Fine and/or Costs	Informal Resolution	Licence Surrendered	Referral to Fitness-to-	Referral to Dispute	Restrictions Imposed	Revocation of licence	Settlement Agreement	Suspension	Written Advice	Pending Investigation	Under Investigation	Referred to Discipline
PDBNS-2024-09*	✓																							✓
PDBNS-2024-10	✓					✓																		
PDBNS-2024-11	✓								✓															
PDBNS-2024-12	✓	✓																					✓	
PDBNS-2024-13	✓	✓																					✓	
PDBNS-2024-14	✓	✓				✓																		
PDBNS-2024-15	✓	✓							✓															
PDBNS-2024-16	✓						✓																	
PDBNS-2024-17	✓	✓				✓																		
PDBNS-2024-18	✓		✓						✓															
PDBNS-2024-19 *	✓		✓																					✓
PDBNS-2024-20	✓					✓																		
PDBNS-2024-21 *	✓	✓																					✓	
PDBNS-2024-22*	✓	✓																					✓	
PDBNS-2024-23	✓		✓																				✓	



New Complaints Received in 2024	Type of Complaint (May be more than 1 per complaint)				Outcome of Complaints Resolved by December 31, 2024																	Status of Unresolved Complaints		
	Professional Misconduct	Conduct Unbecoming	Incompetence	Incapacity	Withdrawn	Dismissed	Counsel	Caution	Reprimand	Authorized Resignation	Conditions / Remediation	Fine and/or Costs	Informal Resolution	Licence Surrendered	Referral to Fitness-to-	Referral to Dispute	Restrictions Imposed	Revocation of licence	Settlement Agreement	Suspension	Written Advice	Pending Investigation	Under Investigation	Referred to Discipline
PDBNS-2024-24 *	✓																							
PDBNS-2024-25 *	✓																						✓	
PDBNS-2024-26*	✓																						✓	
PDBNS-2024-27	✓		✓																				✓	
PDBNS-2024-28	✓																						✓	
PDBNS-2024-29	✓		✓																				✓	
PDBNS-2024-30	✓																						✓	
PDBNS-2024-31	✓																							
PDBNS-2024-32	✓				✓																			
PDBNS-2024-33	✓					✓																		
<b>33 TOTAL</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>3</b>														<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>

Published licensing sanctions and professional conduct decisions can be found [at this link](#).

# Dental Practice Review

In 2024, the PDBNS Dental Practice Review (DPR) Program operated pursuant to the *Dental Practice Review Regulations* under the 1992 *Dental Act*. The parameters for the program mirror closely what is found in the NSRDDA Dental Practice Review Program and can be found on the NSRDDA website [at this link](#).

In 2024, there were 82 dentists who were randomly selected to complete and return a self-assessment form. These were reviewed by the DPR Committee and letters were issued with feedback and also indicating whether the dentist was selected for an office visit (either randomly or as after review of the self-assessment form).

15 dentists were sent feedback requiring them to submit a written response confirming that they had implemented the recommendations into their practice. All 15 were compliant with this requirement.

Letters Sent by Committee Following Review of Self-Assessment Forms	Number
No concerns raised and not randomly selected for clinic visit	42
One or more minor concern communicated but no clinic visit warranted. Response required from the dentist regarding measures taken to address concern.	15
Minor concern communicated to dentist, but not warranting a clinic visit. No response required from dentist.	1
One or more concerns raised leading to a clinic visit.	3
One or more concerns raised, but also in random selection pool for clinic visit.	3
No concerns raised in self-assessment form but in random selection pool for clinic visit.	7
Failure to submit a self-assessment form triggering a clinic visit.	2
Reminder sent to dentist regarding scope of practice for dental assistants (and restriction on dental assisting duties for non-registered individuals).	6

## Feedback Given Following DPR Office Visits

12 visits were randomly selected; 3 were based on self-assessment submissions. A description of the process for visits and follow-up is described on the following page.

	Infection Control and Prevention					Emergency Preparedness						X-Rays			Sedation		Recordkeeping											
Visit #	Sterilization area layout	Sterilization process indicator protocols	Spore test protocols	Gown use, doffing and disposal	IPAC manual accessible	Currency of BLS certification (all staff)	Printed emergency reference materials	Emergency drugs kit	Oxygen tank servicing	Periodic medical emergency drills	Emergency supplies well-located	Patient-specific X-ray prescription	CBCT Standard compliance	X-ray safety protocol	Sedation Standard compliance	Patient sedation records	Med intake form reviewed by dentist	Periodontal charting detail	Restorative procedure detail	Surgery detail	Extraoral and intraoral findings	Treatment linked to exam/diagnosis	Documentation of informed consent	Risk factors noted (e.g., decay)	Occlusion noted (esp children)	Billing/administrative processes		
2024-01		⬇					⬇		⬇	⬇																		
2024-02		⬇	⬇														⬇	⬇	⬇							⬇		
2024-03		⬇							⬇	⬇							⬇	⬇	⬇		⬇							
2024-04				⬇					⬇	⬇	⬇						⬇	⬇	⬇		⬇							
2024-05					⬇					⬇	⬇							⬇	⬇			⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇			
2024-06					⬇				⬇								⬇			⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇				
2024-07	⬇			⬇		⬇			⬇					⬇			⬇	⬇		⬇		⬇	⬇	⬇				
2024-08									⬇								⬇	⬇	⬇									
2024-09		⬇	⬇				⬇	⬇	⬇								⬇	⬇			⬇	⬇	⬇					
2024-10		⬇	⬇	⬇					⬇	⬇		⬇						⬇	⬇	⬇		⬇						
2024-11		⬇		⬇	⬇		⬇		⬇			⬇					⬇	⬇	⬇									
2024-12				⬇			⬇		⬇									⬇	⬇	⬇		⬇						
2024-13	⬇								⬇	⬇							⬇	⬇										
2024-14		⬇		⬇			⬇	⬇	⬇	⬇			⬇				⬇	⬇			⬇	⬇	⬇					

In 2024, DPR office visits were conducted by the Chair of the Committee. For each visit, the Chair reviewed office procedures against a standardized criteria checklist. Following each visit, the Chair sent a written report to the dentist outlining areas of compliance and areas with recommendations for modification of processes. For each dentist, it was subsequently confirmed that recommended changes had been implemented into their practice.

One DPR visit led to a formal complaint being lodged against a dentist by the Chair which was investigated by the Registrar and Deputy Registrar. The complaint was subsequently dismissed in 2025 as it was found, through the investigation, that all areas of concern had been remediated based on the feedback provided to the dentist in the written DPR report sent by the Chair.

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## Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network

The Provincial Dental Board of Nova Scotia is a member of the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (the “Network”). The Network facilitates collaboration among regulatory bodies for regulated health professions to protect the public interest through enhanced regulation. The Network’s membership includes 20 regulatory bodies and operates under the authority of the [2012 Regulated Health Professions Network Act](#). Recent initiatives can be [viewed here](#).

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## Contact Us

At the time of this writing, the PDBNS has migrated under the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#), becoming the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting.



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Registrants can access the [PDBNS 2024 Audited Financial Statements](#) by logging into the Alinity Registrant Portal, clicking on the “My groups” tab, and then selecting “Currently Licensed Registrants.”