

# NB Bulletin



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## OHM 2021

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# Bulletin

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# notices

## IS YOUR HYGIENIST LICENSED TO PRACTICE?

The NB College of Dental Hygienists (NBCDH) takes this opportunity to remind all dentists/employers that they must request a copy of their dental hygienist's license yearly. This ensures that the employed dental hygienist is registered to practise and confirms any specific designations if applicable (self-initiation and/or local anesthesia). If the specific designation does not appear on their license, this would indicate that they have not yet been submitted their certificate of completion and received authorization by the NBCDH. Completing the education is only the first step.

Note that dental hygiene licenses are valid from January 1st to December 31st. However, licenses must be paid and received by November 30th.

Their status with the NBCDH can also be confirmed by utilizing the find-a-member feature on our website at [www.nbcdh.ca](http://www.nbcdh.ca). A search can be completed by entering a first name, last name, or license number. Clicking on the name will provide their licence status with any specific designation obtained.

In addition, the NBCDH would like to emphasize the fact that all dental hygienists are required to hold, at minimum, a CPR/AED level C certificate every two years to be deemed valid for licensure.

## IS YOUR DENTAL ASSISTANT LICENSED TO PRACTICE?

Reminder By-law 3-2

(d) No dentist shall employ a person as a Certified Level II dental assistant unless that person holds a current Certified Level II dental assistants license. You can find the list of licensed dental assistant in the members website (HOME PAGE - NBDS UPDATES)

## NEW MEMBERS

Dr. Carla Sherman  
Dr. Elaine Weismann

Dr. Fay Pereira  
Dr. Maziar Dowlatshahi

## AED'S BECOMING MANDATORY

Beginning in 2023, AED's will be mandatory in all dental clinics across the province. We do have a partnership with CardioChoc which is available to members. They have the Samaritan 350 (semi-automatic) or Samaritan 360 (automatic) available for purchase. If you are interested, contact [info@cardiochoc.ca](mailto:info@cardiochoc.ca) and indicate you are of member of the NBDS.



# *A note* from the president

*Unity is strength.. when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. - Mattie Stepanek*

Naïve. Hopeful. Inexperienced. Unrealistic... Perhaps one could say I was all of these anticipating the arrival of a new year. A fresh start. A life without COVID-19.

It has been just over a year since COVID-19 consumed our world. The sudden upheaval of what we once knew. Being forced to navigate through a multitude of uncertain challenges has been exceptionally arduous to say the least. Quite the roller coaster ride!

I would be lying to you, and myself, if I said I have not felt discouraged several times over the past year... mourning loss, fearing decisions, toilsome conflict, feeling defeated... BUT, although I will not discredit these feelings, I will reflect and point attention to and be thankful for the remarkable changes and progressions that have transpired over this past year. Finally, it seems like there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

I am proud of our profession as whole. During lockdown, we did what was right at that time. By shutting down our practices, despite the encompassing

hardships, we were able to take a step back and evaluate what was necessary to return to work safely. Not only was the collaborative effort of our province evident, but our voice was unified and supported nationally. We have been working closer than ever before with public health, advocating for our profession and witnessing the results. It has been humbling and inspiring to be a part of this progression.

It is truly remarkable, that less than a year ago pharmaceutical companies were just venturing into the realm of producing a vaccine. Now, we are here, in 2021, with effective vaccines being administered and new advancements under research. As vaccinations have been rolling out, it is essential we educate ourselves and others on the importance of getting vaccinated to achieve herd immunity. A research and consulting firm named "BEworks" conducted a study on vaccine hesitancy and found that around 28% of people are on-the-fence about getting vaccinated while 9% do not intend on getting it at all. As doctors, we should always side

with science. We should do our best to educate and encourage dental staff to get vaccinated. Of course, it is ultimately their decision, but it is important they make an informed decision. My hope is that by the time you are reading this, we will have received our first vaccination.

We are privileged to be living in a province that is considered to be one of the safest places to live in Canada. With that, we have consequently been very fortunate to practice safely while providing comprehensive care. Dental health is critical to overall health and well-being. The sacrifices and restrictions we have assumed in order to provide the same standard of care is commendable.

Although the uncertainty has not gone away, I move forward with some comfort knowing that, despite the ongoing challenges, there are many people working effortlessly and tirelessly to bring health and safety to our world.

I am encouraged by our profession's perseverance during this time.

— Dr. Carlie Lemoine  
President



# *Paul Blanchard* **executive director**

2020 has been a whirlwind year. At this writing, we will all have been living in a global pandemic for a full year. This once in a centennial event affects everyone. You should be proud of the way you and members of your team have responded to this unprecedented situation. Without a doubt, your work has been appreciated and it has confirmed that dentists truly are essential healthcare professionals.

Throughout this pandemic, the New Brunswick Dental Society has been working on your behalf, to ensure that dentists are well supported with an effective operational plan. This plan has stood the test of time and continues to be effective even through the red and lock down phases we recently experienced. Members of the Covid-19 advisory committee chaired by Dr Mary Ann Wiseman have done a fantastic job and should be commended for their tireless efforts. This committee will be meeting again in March 2021 to make any recommendations and updates to the operational plan.

The NBDS has been working with Public Health officials to ensure that dental staff, especially front-line staff, receive the Covid-19 vaccine as soon as possible. We

were pleased to hear the Minister of Health confirm that dentists and dental assistants would receive their vaccines in early Q2. We continue to advocate for all dental staff. We have also raised the issue of dentists as possible immunizers, based on the positive interest we have received from members on this topic.

As the pandemic has evolved, the need for PPE has emerged as a major issue. For this reason, we have partnered with SOWINGO to provide access to lower prices for office supplies and PPE. I encourage you to visit the NBDS Supply Hub in the members area of our website. We also encourage you to go to our member website and check out the “Top 5 Employment Law Issues Going Into 2021” written by the law firm of Stewart McKelvey.

The pandemic has affected plans for the 2021 dental conference. We are collaborating with other Atlantic provinces to organize the Atlantic Virtual Dental Conference which will be held from June 10 through 12, 2021. Visit our website and join us <https://avdc2021.com/>

The NBDS continues to meet with the Department of Social Development officials to discuss the MOU which has been expired for more than a year. We have been working WorkSafeNB to enable dental technicians to come into NB from Quebec to provide important maintenance work.

April is Oral Health Month. Follow us on social media platforms as we continue to highlight the lengths to which dental offices are going to ensure everyone’s safety.

We recognize the hard work that dentists and their staff have been doing throughout this past year. To say that you have been ‘adapting’ would be a serious understatement. These are indeed unprecedented times. We thank you for your professionalism and dedication. We are all looking forward to a time when we can all safely be vaccinated and return to our ‘new’ normal.

**— Paul Blanchard  
Executive Director**



# registrar's message

## LOOKING FORWARD TO 2022 AND A NEW CONTINUING EDUCATION CYCLE

At the risk of stating the obvious, I want to pause for a moment and recognize the teamwork and collegiality that has helped Dentistry move through, and continue to move through, the COVID-19 crisis.

There is little that solidifies a relationship between friends and colleagues, new and old, like going into battle and coming out the other side. From my observation, there are a lot of new friendships out there!

The entire team that surrounds dentistry has been remarkably strong, ready to learn, willing to work as a team, and ready to adapt (almost daily). It is remarkable.

Navigating a crisis requires an ability to adapt and a key adaptation is a commitment to learning.

This brings me to your Continuing Education requirements.

On December 18th, 2020, I reported that the Executive Committee of the Board

determined that the regulatory requirements for Continuing Education for 2021 was deemed satisfied and a new process would be announced for 2022.

To be clear, we are not deferring 2021 CE requirements. No matter who you are, your requirements are currently satisfied, and we are building something new for you that will start in 2022.

The reason for this decision was in part, a recognition that COVID-19 was its own CE Cycle and also that no one needs extra pressure to find hours in this climate. It is also a good time to reflect and come-up with something new, hopefully something better.

Consistent with other jurisdictions, we envision a modernization of Continuing Education to permit you, as a member, to report your own hours "on-line". Ideally, a database sophisticated enough to accept confirmation of participation in courses by providers, electronically.

With respect to the philosophy of Continuing Education itself, we expect to articulate a more thoughtful subset of education objectives that place a premium on clinical dental, dental practice management, dental / medical emergencies, and participation in the profession.

Also, in light of the experience of the past year, it is expected that some thought needs to be placed on the role of technology and hands on learning.

Should you have comments or suggestions which would lead to improvements in the Continuing Education process and / or composition please feel to contact me at registrar@nbdent.ca.

Stay safe and the best to you and your families, and dental team.

— Dan Leger  
Registrar

# Awards



**Dr. Daniel Violette**

Congratulations to Dr. Violette for receiving the CDA “Award of Merit” which recognizes an individual who has served in an outstanding capacity in the governing or service of CDA and dentistry in Canada. Dr. Violette has been a leader and contributor to his profession and his community in New Brunswick for three decades. He was president of his local dental society for 4 years in the late 1990s and also served as president of the NBDS in 2009. In addition, he joined the CDA Board of Directors in 2014 and has been involved in many different task forces and working groups over the years.



**Dr. Mike Taylor**

Congratulations to Dr. Taylor for being awarded the 2020 Canadian (AGD) Dentist of the Year. Dr. Taylor has contributed substantial service, in conjunction with a consistent commitment to enhancing the image of general dentistry through the continuous delivery of quality continuing education while at the same time maintaining a busy general dentistry practice in Saint John New Brunswick. Dr Taylor also has demonstrated leadership in many areas of civic involvement though YM/YWCA Association and Saint John water fluoridation committee (1989) and has held the position of Dental Consultant WHSCC (Work Safe) since 1990.

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## **Dr. F.A. Godsoe Prize**

*The Dr. F.A. Godsoe Prize which based on the 2019-2020 academic year and is given to three New Brunswick Doctor of Dental Surgery students was awarded to the following:*

To support the New Brunswick student who has shown the greatest proficiency in Patient Care I. (1st-year student going into second year) – **Alexa Nicholson**

To support the New Brunswick student who has shown the greatest proficiency in Cariology I. (1st-year student going into second year) – **Alexa Nicholson**

To support the New Brunswick student who has shown the greatest proficiency in Foundation Sciences Clinical Practice. (3rd-year going into fourth year) - **John Chungman Yoon**

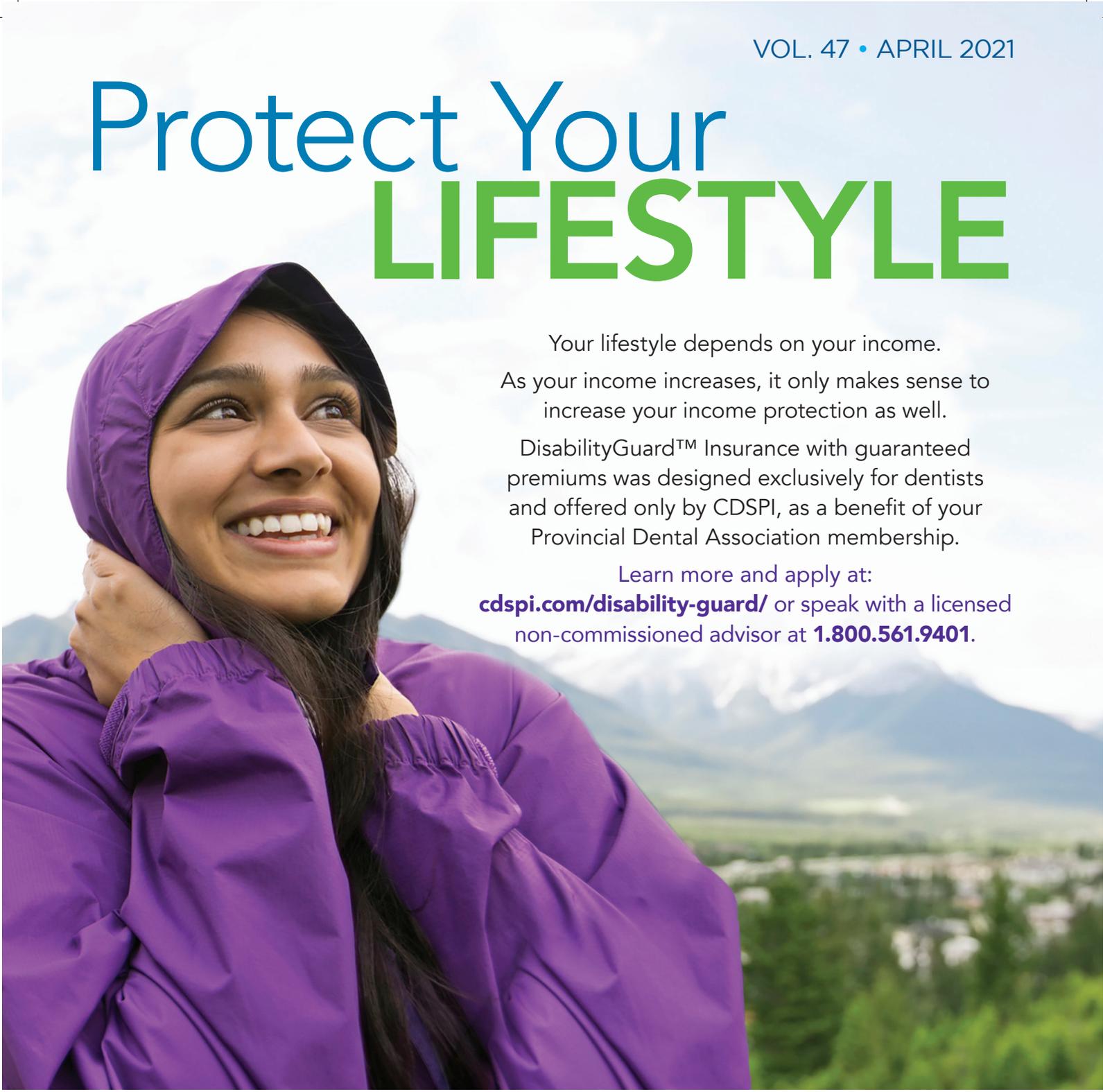
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## 10 Things You Need to Know about Estate Planning as a Canadian Dentist

Estate planning is a topic many feel uncomfortable raising – after all, death is neither a popular nor pleasant topic. As a dentist, however, getting your estate in order today can help ensure that your practice is protected, that your wishes are followed and that your loved ones can receive the proceeds of your estate as quickly and tax-efficiently as possible. Here are ten things Canadian dentists should know about estate planning.

### 1. ESTATE PLANNING ISN'T JUST FOR THE ULTRA-WEALTHY

You have worked hard your entire life to build your dental career – and whether you own a large practice with multiple locations, a modest community practice or you practice within a hospital or other clinic – the assets you have accumulated deserve to be safeguarded for both your future and the future of your loved ones.

While a common misconception is that estate planning is only for those with a certain wealth status, it's simply not true. Estate planning is something every Canadian dentist should undertake.

### 2. THERE'S NO REASON TO WAIT

Estate planning goes hand in hand with tax planning, which goes hand in hand with retirement planning, and a major part of safeguarding your wealth is minimizing the taxes you pay – both during your lifetime and after your death.

For instance, if your spouse earns a lower income than you do, setting up income splitting strategies – such as spousal RRSP contributions, pension income splitting or paying them a salary to work in your practice – can reduce the amount of tax you

pay today and through your retirement. Consequently, you will retain more of your money for your estate.

And, because you have (smartly) shared with your spouse, it opens up more options for how you take care of one another and your family through two estates. An early start allows you to better coordinate your plans.

What's more, starting your estate planning early can allow you to resolve any questions or issues that may take some time – and give you the opportunity to really think about the legacy you wish to leave.

### 3. YOUR WILL IS THE CORNERSTONE OF YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Your Will is the most fundamental element of your estate plan and should be your starting point as you take on this task.

A Will dictates how your property will be distributed to your beneficiaries and identifies the executor who is responsible for carrying out your wishes. While many Canadians believe that their assets will transfer automatically to a surviving spouse or children, without a Will, you don't have the opportunity to identify how your property is to be divided among them, or to have your say on who would be responsible for minor children.

What's more, dying without a Will puts more financial and emotional strain on your family, as the distribution of your assets is more complex, time-consuming and potentially subject to more tax than necessary.

As a dentist, a Will is particularly important because you have your practice and patients to consider.

Whatever you wish to do with your practice, your Will should outline a protocol for dealing with it.

### 4. YOU CAN PASS ALONG CERTAIN ASSETS TAX-FREE

Assets flowing through your Will are generally subject to probate tax. But not all assets need to be transferred through a Will. By designating beneficiaries in your registered plans (RRSP, RRIF, TFSA) and insurance policies, for instance, the proceeds of those plans will pass outside of your estate, thereby minimizing probate taxes.

Gifting assets before your death, transitioning your assets into a trust and setting up co-ownership structures are other ways to avoid probate. All of these strategies should be evaluated with the assistance of an estate planning professional who can help you weigh the pros and cons of each, according to your situation.

### 5. A TEAM OF PROFESSIONALS CAN (AND SHOULD!) HELP

As an expert in the field of dentistry, you know the value of professional expertise. When it comes to estate planning, it's worth working with experts to help you ensure smooth distribution of your assets and to maximize their value.

**An estate planning lawyer** can help you map out your estate plan, draft your Will and identify the strategies that can benefit both you and your loved ones.

**A tax advisor** can identify tax strategies that will minimize taxes paid by you – and by your estate after your death.

**A financial advisor** can look at your complete financial picture and ensure your plans reflect your goals and priorities – today and into the future.

**A professional executor** is worth considering, particularly if you own an incorporated dental practice. Your executor will be responsible for distributing your estate according to the terms of the Will – and if you have a corporation, they will be responsible for making the complicated decisions that are required to ensure the most tax-effective transition of your corporation's shares. It's a job best suited to a pro.

## **6. YOUR PRACTICE DESERVES SOME SPECIAL ATTENTION**

As mentioned earlier, being a dental practice owner requires some additional planning on your part to ensure your practice is managed according to your wishes after your death. Business succession therefore ought to figure into your estate planning so that you can effectively pass the torch. Whether you want to keep the practice in the family, sell it to a partner or associate or sell it to a third party, it's worth taking the time to weigh your options and have conversations with individuals who may factor into the transition.

## **7. A POWER OF ATTORNEY IS AN ESSENTIAL COMPONENT OF YOUR PLAN**

While much of your estate plan deals with issues after your death, another critical component is planning for situations in which you become physically or mentally incapacitated. That's where a Power of Attorney (POA) comes in. A POA is a legal document in which you give another person/ people the authority to act on your

behalf should you be unable to make decisions for yourself. It is recommended to have a legal advisor prepare your POA.

## **8. LIFE INSURANCE CAN HELP YOU REACH YOUR FINANCIAL OBJECTIVES**

Life insurance can play a significant role in your estate plan as the death benefit could either be passed onto your heirs or be used to cover estate taxes and other fees. Generally, the death benefit of a life insurance policy is not subject to income or probate tax, giving you the comfort that the policy's full value will be used for your intended purpose.

It's best to speak with a licensed life insurance representative to determine how your insurance policy can be best used as an element of your estate plan.

## **9. REVISITING YOUR PLAN IS JUST AS IMPORTANT**

Life happens. And depending on when you create your estate plan, you could have children, those children could get married, divorced and/or have children of their own. You could buy or sell property or come into an inheritance yourself. As life evolves, it's worth reviewing your estate plan – a good rule of thumb is no more than five years – and make adjustments as needed.

## **10. CONVERSATIONS MAY BE DIFFICULT – BUT THEY'RE CRITICAL**

Before you set out to put your estate plan in writing, it's important to discuss your wishes with family members and business partners. In doing so, you can feel confident that the people you trust and care about will be prepared for the

emotional and financial outcomes of your Will, Power of Attorney and other estate components. Such conversations may also reveal positions you may not be previously aware of – i.e., your partner may not want to take on the practice, or your sister may not be comfortable acting as your Power of Attorney.

Having the detailed – and sometimes tough – conversations in advance can help establish a smooth transition of assets and can go a long way to ensuring your wishes are carried out as planned.

To learn how your insurance plans and investments can fit into your estate plan, please contact Dana Scott, Investment Planning Advisor\* from CDSPI Advisory Services Inc. at 1.800.561.9401 or [dscott@cdspi.com](mailto:dscott@cdspi.com).

*\*Advisory services are provided by licensed advisors at CDSPI Advisory Services Inc. Restrictions may apply to advisory services in certain jurisdictions.*



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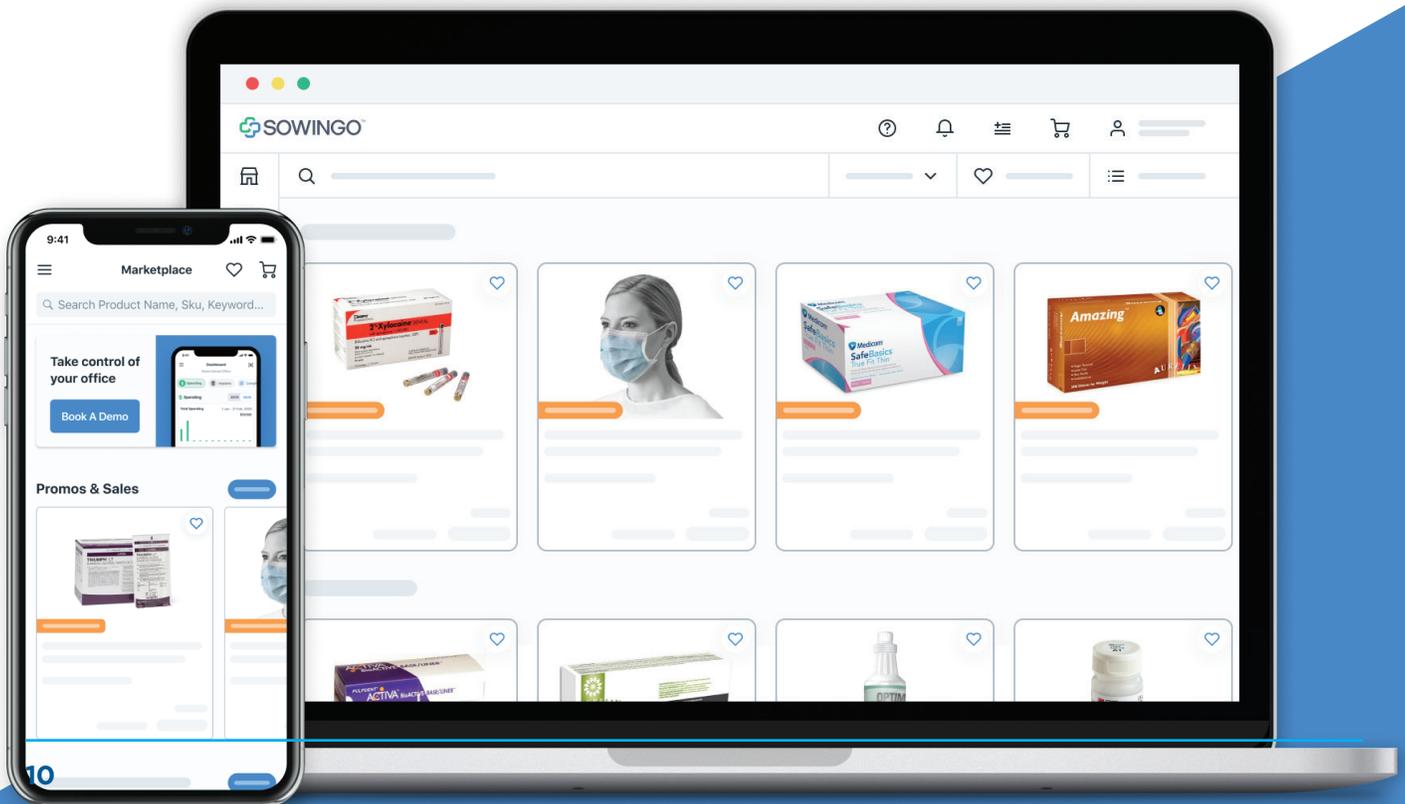
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# CDA & Advocacy

The impact of the pandemic continues to dominate CDA's agenda. Dentistry in New Brunswick has weathered the pandemic much better than our colleagues in most other provinces in Canada where the profession has been challenged economically and professionally. Having said this, more recently, there is growing concern related to the impact of the new and emerging variants and the availability and effectiveness of the vaccines. The CDA will continue to do all it can to assist the Corporate Members and member dentists to address these challenges.

The CDA has established a Covid-19 Practice Recovery Task Force ("The Task Force") as well as the CDA's Infection Control Working Group ("The Working Group"). The Task Force continues to work together with the Corporate Members, including the NBDS, to deliver on information exchange on return-to-practice across the country,

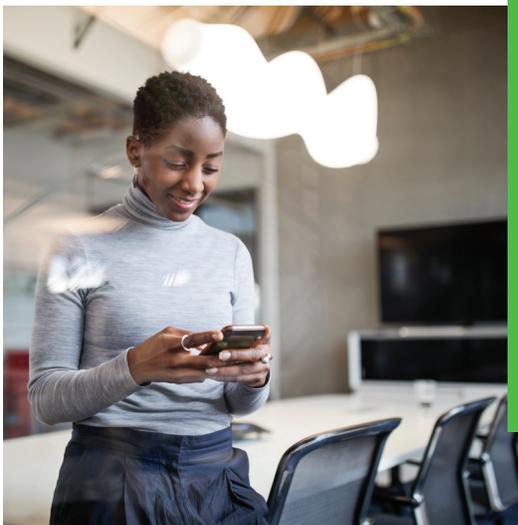
strategies of obtaining and securing PPE's, and communications to the public on dentists return to practice. More recently, the Task Force is evaluating a short course on mental health in the workplace from the Mental Health Commission of Canada. The Infection Control Working Group continues to meet regularly, and they are working on a Resource for Vaccine Hesitancy. The resource will help dentists facilitate the discussion with their teams around the importance of immunization. The Working Group has also recently completed the resource Medical Gown Using in Dentistry which has been distributed to the NBDS.

The CDA has also established a Governance Review Steering Committee (GRSC) to oversee the external governance review which was approved at the 2020 CDA AGM. The terms of reference for the review is completed and each

corporate member, including the NBDS, will have a representative on the GRSC.

The CDA has also started an internal Organizational Realignment Initiative. This process will examine CDA priorities and assess how the organization can better prepare to meet the challenges ahead. The CDA Board of Directors met last month to discuss this initiative and to set direction. The prospect of more Corporate Members transitioning to voluntary membership including those now required to separate their regulatory arm from their membership services arm, has been a significant factor in focusing CDA's efforts on how they can better serve Corporate Members and member dentists.

**— Dr. Kirk Preston  
CDA Board Representative**



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# New LAY Representative

## *Janet MacDonnell*

Janet and her husband live in Quispamsis. She is a graduate of the Dalhousie College of Pharmacy and has been involved in the profession in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick since 1986. She has extensive experience in providing pharmacy services to Long Term Care facilities, specialty compounding and with providing services to patients dealing with addiction.

Janet has served a two year term as President of the New Brunswick Pharmacists' Association in 2004. She was also President of the New Brunswick College of Pharmacists in 2010. Janet has received the Meritorious Service Award as well as the prestigious Bowl of Hygiea Award for service to community

and to the profession. She has been involved in a number of community programs, particularly those providing support for addiction in the greater Saint John region.

Janet has continued to be involved in a number of projects including the research and publication of a paper recommending solution for "medication and syringe disposal", which was funded by a grant from the NB Department of Environment. She was a significant proponent in the implementation of a new Pharmacy Act in 2009 as well as in 2014, which enabled New Brunswick pharmacists to prescribe medications, as well as to administer drugs

(and vaccines) by injection. From 2009 – 2012, Janet was retained as a consultant (subject matter expert) for the Province of New Brunswick during their implementation of an electronic Drug Information System.

Janet was recruited to act as Interim Executive Director for the New Brunswick Pharmacists Association from Jan- Sept 2020, supporting members during a global pandemic.

Janet continues to practice in a relief capacity in pharmacies across the Saint John region.

We are pleased and privileged to welcome Janet to the board of directors of the New Brunswick Dental Society.

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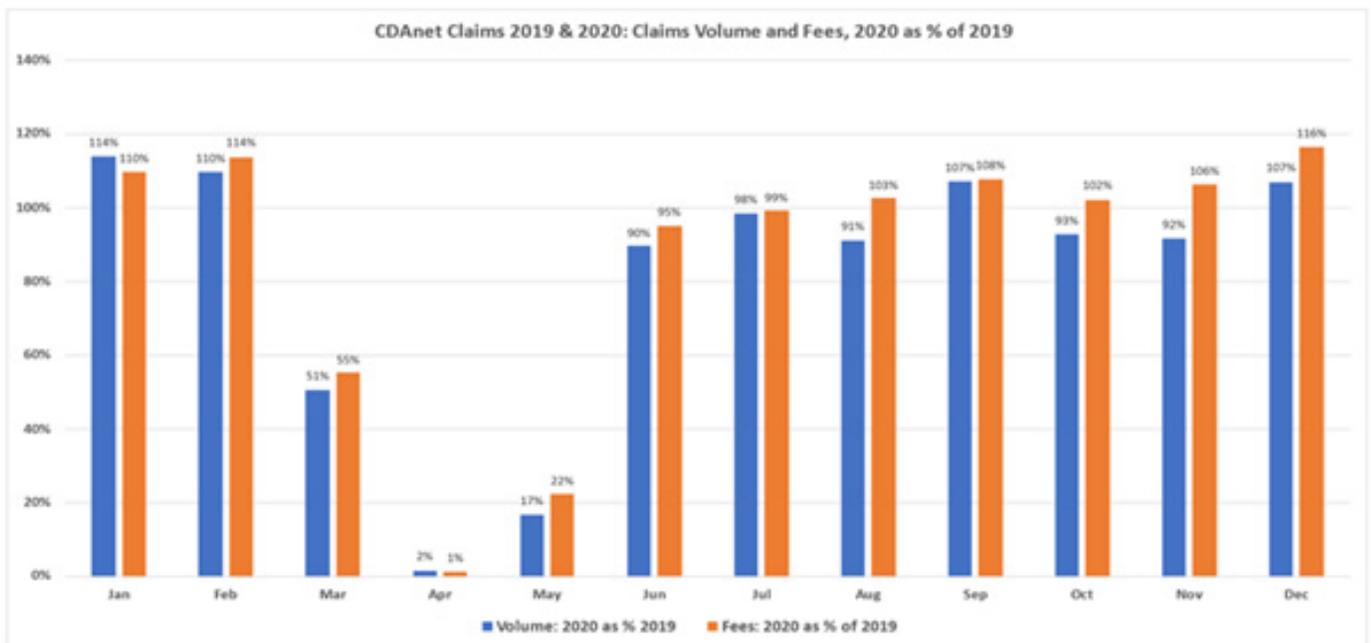
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# COVID-19 *impacts*

Covid-19 had a serious impact on the practice of dentistry in New Brunswick as can be seen in the chart below. The state of emergency was declared mid-March and dental practices were not allowed to open until mid-May. Most did not open until June 2020. While the volume of claims remains close to 2019 levels, it still remains lower overall. Dental offices may also be open longer hours than prior to the pandemic to accommodate more patients. The fees being charged are up from the year prior, which likely reflects more serious treatment, which is the result of patients not having been treated for three months. Also, the likelihood that dentists are treating more issues during one sitting as opposed to asking the patient to return for a number of future visits. This is in part due to PPE and fallow time restrictions.

New Brunswick 2019 and 2020



# Recognition



## ***Dr. Thomas Priemer***

We would like to thank and congratulate Dr. Priemer for his longstanding contributions to the Economics Committee. He chaired the Economics Committee for 16 years.

“I enjoyed my involvement with the NBDS as chair of the Economics Committee. It provided me with the opportunity to network with colleagues and professionals to gain insights about the myriad of factors that influence our dental practices. Effectively balancing profitability with affordable access to care has been the guiding principle and challenge, especially in trying times like these.”

***Dr. Nancy Jeffery:*** Dr. Jeffery started on the Peer Review committee in 2015, she has retired from practicing but still remains on the committee. She also served as secretary treasurer of the local Fredericton Dental Society from 2015-2017. Now she spends her time giving back to the community by volunteering at Greener Village. She was actually president of Greener Village for eight years. Thank you Dr. Jeffery for all your contributions over the years.

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## *Celebrating our hard working Dental Assitants for Dental Assistant Reconignition Week March 7-13*



# NBDS Ad Campaign

## *Oral Health Month*

**Theme:** The theme of the campaign is safety. We want the public to feel safe when they book their appointment and visit their dentist for treatment. We also want to make it clear that dentists are considered essential and will not be shutting down, as was the case at the beginning of the pandemic.

**Commercial:** In April for Oral Health Month, we will be airing an English and French commercial across the province. The English version will air on CTV while the French will air on CBC Radio Canada.

**Digital Ad Campaign:** The digital campaign began in early February with a graphic carousel ad on social media. We have multiple graphics being used in ads; one example is below. We also have a condensed version of our commercial which is 15 seconds, this will be previewed on social media leading up to Oral Health Month. As always, everything is in both languages and will be targeted based on location and the user's language settings. We will also have a CTV Big Box which is a digital graphics displayed on their website. This will go live in March leading up to the release of our commercial.

**Newspaper Column:** During Oral Health Month, we will also have an "Ask Your Dentist" column in the provincial newspaper. The English version will be published in the Telegraph-Journal, while the French will be published in the Étoile. The articles will be written by Dr. Abby Barton, president of the local Fredericton Dental Society.

