

# Mosaic

THE  CANADIAN  
ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC  
HEALTH DENTISTRY

ASSOCIATION  CANADIENNE  
DE LA SANTÉ DENTAIRE  
PUBLIQUE

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## Road Map to Universal Dental Care in Canada

Andrea Richard, *CAPHD Administrator*

In the summer of 2020, CAPHD Board of Directors appointed an ad hoc committee to develop a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health. Leaders in dental public health from across the country volunteered to develop the road map.

As the national voice for dental public health in Canada, that exists to support government, institutions and agencies who are dedicated to improving oral health, CAPHD felt it was necessary to develop a road map to ensure oral health equity and facilitate discussion, should the committee commit to studying the possibility of national dental care.

The roadmap was sent to key Federal Ministers prior to the Throne Speech in September 2020 and was sent to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health on October 13, 2020.

The full document can be found here:

<http://www.caphd.ca/advocacy/position-statements>

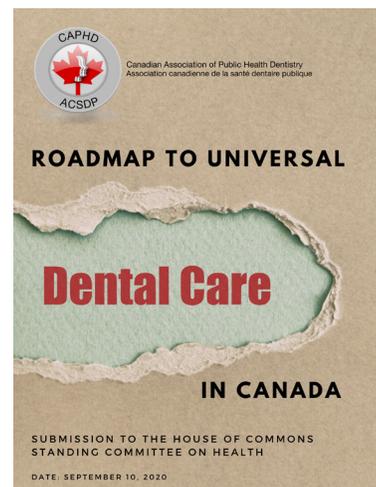
On October 26, 2020 a notice of motion was introduced to the Standing Committee on Health.

"That pursuant to Standing Order 108(2), the Committee undertake a study on the development of a national dental care program as an insured service for Canadians; that the Committee report its findings and recommendations to the House; and that, pursuant to Standing order 109, the Committee request that the government table a comprehensive response to the report."

The motion is mentioned at 13:04 found here:

<https://parlvu.parl.gc.ca/Harmony/en/PowerBrowser/PowerBrowserV2/20201026/-1/34066?Language=English&Stream=Video>

This is wonderful news and a good first step to making universal dental care a reality for those who need it most! Thank you to our members who volunteered to advocate for such an important issue! 





# President's Message

**Dr. Sonica Singhal**

**T**he Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) is the voice of dental public health in Canada and its membership comprises oral health care providers from a number of different professional and educational backgrounds. I am honoured to have served as the President of this esteemed organization from 2019-2020, which this report reflects.

Inequitable access to oral health care is not just a Canadian issue but has been a global phenomenon. The CAPHD has always been vocal about improving access to oral health care for all Canadians and has used various platforms in the past to advocate for it and this year was no exception. For dental public health in Canada, this is one of the most opportune times as in December 2019, in the Throne speech of the new government and Health Minister's mandate letter, a commitment has been made to explore national dental care. This is a historic moment — the first in Canada, when the federal government has shown willingness to talk about access to dental care. John Kingdon, a specialist in American politics, has considered policy advocates as the most important actors in the policy world, as they develop policy alternatives and combine them with problems to present solutions to policy makers at the right time. Policy advocates may use innovative ideas and unconventional strategies to influence administrators, and promote desired policy outcomes. Therefore, I urge, to each one of you, to support the organization with your wisdom, experience, and skills, to discuss how we can take this agenda forward.

Though there is never a dull moment in the field of oral health, these times are particularly interesting as oral health is not observed in isolation anymore; as more and more connections are being drawn between oral and systemic health and as more and more oral health care

providers have started perceiving themselves as health care providers vs. restricting themselves to oral health.

The theme for the 2019 CAPHD conference was "The mind the body and the mouth: Collaborative community health". Members explored about various public health issues including HPV infections, cannabis and mental health. The conference committee received encouraging reviews, which actually reflects perceptions of our membership. I commend each one of you for expanding the scope of your routine practices and exploring the opportunities to learn more about other health issues which are directly and indirectly all linked to oral health. 🍁

We invite CAPHD members to attend the  
**CAPHD Annual General Meeting**

**December 10, 2020**

**3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time**

**Virtual Event**

**1.0 CE credit**

**Registration Link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_sCC9rTNAS2yktXFqwH5ijg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sCC9rTNAS2yktXFqwH5ijg)

## Evidence to support safe return to clinical practice by oral health professionals in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic:

A report prepared for the Office of the Chief Dental Officer of Canada

Dr James Taylor  
*Chief Dental Officer of Canada*

Canadian oral health practitioners are returning to practice in a very different environment to the one they left prior to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in the domain of infection control and prevention. Oral health professional organizations, institutions, regulatory bodies and those in clinical care settings, in all Canadian jurisdictions, are making decisions each day on how to best care for patients and guide the professions in the context of the return to clinical practice during the pandemic. Further, they are having to make these decisions in a highly complex, rapidly evolving environment, based at times on incomplete scientific information.

In light of this, the Office of the Chief Dental Officer of Canada (OCDOC) commissioned McGill University to draft a comprehensive knowledge product concerning key issues that inform the provision of oral health care by relevant providers in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. Around this work, the OCDOC then convened a representative multidisciplinary knowledge-based group from the national oral health professional and federal government health domains. The group's role was to work collaboratively to contribute to the generation a single high-level national document on the current evidence by the team from McGill. This document will then reside in the public domain to be accessible to decision makers as they carry out their respective responsibilities.

The participants in this collaboration included:

### **Federal Health Portfolio**

- Public Health Agency of Canada – Clinical Lead COVID-19
- Health Canada – COVID-19 Task Force

### **National oral health regulatory federations**

- Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada

## Des données scientifiques appuyant un retour sécuritaire à la pratique clinique par les professionnels de la santé buccodentaire au Canada pendant la pandémie du COVID-19 :

Un rapport préparé pour le Bureau du dentiste en chef du Canada

Dr James Taylor  
*Dentiste en chef du Canada*

Les professionnels canadiens en santé buccodentaire retournent à la pratique dans un environnement très différent de celui qu'ils avaient quitté avant le début de la pandémie de la COVID-19, particulièrement dans le domaine du contrôle et de la prévention des infections. Les organisations professionnelles en santé buccodentaire, les institutions, les organismes de réglementation et les intervenants en milieu de soins cliniques, dans toutes les juridictions canadiennes, prennent chaque jour des décisions sur la meilleure façon de soigner les patients et de guider les professions dans le contexte du retour à la pratique clinique pendant la pandémie. De plus, ils doivent prendre ces décisions dans un environnement très complexe et en évolution rapide, parfois basées sur des informations scientifiques incomplètes.

C'est dans cette optique que le Bureau du dentiste en chef du Canada (BDCC) a chargé l'Université McGill de rédiger un produit de connaissance complet sur les questions clés qui éclairent la prestation des soins de santé buccodentaire par les fournisseurs concernés au Canada pendant la pandémie de la COVID-19. Autour de ces travaux, le BDCC a ensuite convoqué un groupe de connaissances multidisciplinaire représentatif des domaines nationaux des professionnels de la santé buccodentaire et du gouvernement fédéral. Le rôle du groupe était de travailler en collaboration pour contribuer à la production d'un seul document national de haut niveau sur les preuves actuelles par l'équipe de McGill. Ce document restera alors dans le domaine public pour être accessible aux décideurs dans l'exercice de leurs responsabilités respectives.

Les participants à cette collaboration sont les suivants:

- Canadian Dental Regulatory Authorities Federation
- Canadian Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities
- Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators

#### **National oral health professional associations**

- Canadian Dental Association
- Denturist Association of Canada
- Canadian Dental Assistants Association
- Canadian Dental Hygienists Association

#### **National oral health academic association**

- Association of Canadian Faculties of Dentistry

The ODCOC will have this document updated several times over the course of 2020-2021, in order to capture the rapidly evolving knowledge base in this area. Evidence gaps identified during this process will be identified to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research by the ODCOC, with a recommendation for priority research funding consideration in these areas.

The report is now accessible on the Government of Canada website the following link: [www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/evidence-safe-return-clinical-practice-oral-health.html?utm\\_source=Emailblast&utm\\_medium=E-mail&utm\\_campaign=McGill\\_report\\_covid\\_ENG](http://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/evidence-safe-return-clinical-practice-oral-health.html?utm_source=Emailblast&utm_medium=E-mail&utm_campaign=McGill_report_covid_ENG) 

#### **Portfolio de la santé au niveau fédéral**

- Agence de la santé publique du Canada – Chef Clinique COVID-19
- Santé Canada – Groupe de travail COVID-19

#### **Fédérations nationales des autorités de réglementation de la santé buccodentaire**

- Fédération des organismes de réglementation en hygiène dentaire du Canada
- Fédération canadienne des organismes de réglementation dentaire
- Organismes canadiens de réglementation des assistant(es) dentaires
- Alliance canadienne des organismes de réglementation de la technique dentaire

#### **Associations professionnelles nationales des professions en santé buccodentaire**

- Association dentaire canadienne
- Association des denturologistes du Canada
- Association canadienne des assistant(es) dentaires
- Association canadienne des hygiénistes dentaires

#### **Associations académiques nationales des professions en santé buccodentaire**

- Association des facultés dentaires du Canada

Le BDC fera une mise à jour de ce document plusieurs fois au cours de la période 2020-2021, afin de capter la base de connaissances en évolution rapide dans ce domaine. Les lacunes en matière de preuves identifiées au cours de ce processus seront cernées aux Instituts de la recherche en santé du Canada (IRSC) par le BDCC, en recommandant à celle-ci de prioriser le financement de la recherche dans ces domaines.

La version française du rapport est disponible sur le site internet du gouvernement du Canada au lien suivant : <https://www.canada.ca/fr/sante-publique/services/maladies/2019-nouveau-coronavirus/professionnels-sante/donnees-probantes-retour-securitaire-pratique-clinique-sante-buccodentaire.html> 

# CAPHD AWARDS

## 2019 Life Membership

Dr. Barry Maze was awarded the Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry's Life Membership



Dr. Barry Maze graduated from the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Manitoba, 49 years ago and spent 44 of those years in public dental programs and in various roles in public health dentistry. He started his public health career as a clinical dentist in 1975 in the Children's Dental Care Program of Prince Edward Island and was fortunate to have Dr. Bob Romcke as the Director of Dental Public Health and as a mentor in dental public health concepts. In 1983-86 Barry taught at the National School of Dental Therapy and then returned to PEI, again as a clinical dentist. He became the Director of Dental Public Health upon Dr. Romcke's retirement in 1994.

In 2007, Barry retired from the provincial government and for the next ten years he did several consulting projects for Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada, provincial and territorial public dental programs, NIHB, etc. From 2016 to 2019 he filled in as the Acting Regional Dental Officer for the Atlantic Region, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch of Indigenous Services Canada.

Barry has been a member of CAPHD for over 30 years. He served as secretary/treasurer in 1994-98 and in 1997 he developed the initial CAPHD website and maintained it for a number of years. In 2003 he presented at the hearings of the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada (Romanow Commission), representing CAPHD and FPTDWG. Barry was presented with the CAPHD Distinguished Service Award in 2005.

Representing the Federal, Provincial and Territorial Dental Working Group, Barry was the coordinator and chief editor of the first Canadian Oral Health Strategy (2005-10) and

was the coordinator of the Canadian Oral Health Framework (2013-18). He was presented with a fellowship in the Pierre Fauchard Academy in 2006.

## Recipient of the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future (ACFF) Student Bursary 2020



Stop Caries NOW for a Cavity-Free Future  
Canada-United States Chapter

Ms. JuHae Lee, BSc

**Abstract:** Assessing the oral health related quality of life of First Nations and Metis Children in Manitoba.

**Bio:** Ms. JuHae Lee lived and grew up helping with her parents work in Grassy Narrows First Nations, Ontario for the past 11 years. She holds a BSc from University of Waterloo and recently defended her Thesis (for MSc in Oral Biology) under the supervision of Dr. Robert Schroth, at the University of Manitoba.



Her MSc research explores the oral health disparities such as Early Childhood Caries (ECC) and Oral Health Related Quality of Life (OHRQoL) among First Nations and Metis children in Manitoba. 🍁

## CAPHD AWARDS

**Do you know someone who has made a significant contribution to dental care in Canada?**

CAPHD awards are a special way to recognize organizations and professionals who have made a difference!

**Nomination due date extended to Dec 1, 2020**

[www.caphd.ca/about-us/awards](http://www.caphd.ca/about-us/awards)



# 2020 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

by **Andrea Richard**  
RDH, CAPHD Administrator

We entered 2020 with a conference planning team eager to host our annual gathering in Winnipeg, Manitoba. That all quickly changed as the pandemic hit Canada in March 2020. We continued to monitor the epidemiology of the COVID-19 pandemic and it was clear that our plans needed to change. The public and our delegate's health were at the forefront of this decision. Our planning team took on the task and embarked on the planning of our first ever virtual conference, Oral Health Care in a Changing Landscape.

We received feedback that CAPHD members would miss the regular conference as a way to network and learn from those who have the same dedication to dental public health, but grateful for the chance to receive some continuing education from the comfort and safety of their own homes. So we gathered near and far around our computer screens and brought our own coffee for several online sessions.

Thank you to Dr. Figueriedo, Dr. Adegbelembo and Dr. Abbey for sharing your experiences of how dental public health responded to COVID-19. Thank you Dr. James Taylor, Dr. Tim Ricks and Dr. Benoit Varenne for exploring Canadian, American and global opportunities and challenges in oral health care. Thank you to researchers from across the country who presented a variety of high quality Canadian research.

Sometimes life is not exactly what one expects. This pandemic has brought on an assortment of challenges, but it also forced some positive changes. It pressed CAPHD to quickly adapt to the world of virtual learning and we learned CAPHD members value this support. We can only adapt to change and take on what is given to us.

So a huge thank you to members who continue to support CAPHD and to this year's planning committee: Dr. Singhal, Dr. Da Silva and Dr. Dawson.

We will continue to monitor the pandemic and will decide on the date and the location of the 2021 conference at a later date.

If you didn't have the chance to join the live sessions, presentations and recordings can be accessed on the members section of the website: [www.caphd.ca](http://www.caphd.ca) 



**Access to Oral  
Health Care for  
All Canadians...**

**RENEW YOUR CAPHD MEMBERSHIP TODAY.**  
WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE THE POSSIBLE!  
[www.caphd.ca/membership](http://www.caphd.ca/membership)

## British Columbia's Northern Health Unit Success Story

Dianne Grebliunas

*Certified Dental Assistant, Population and Preventive Public Health Dental Program*

A group of innovative dental public health staff with Northern Health, B.C., partnered with primary care nurses (PCN) and primary care assistants (PCA) to help successfully identify high risk 1 year old children for early preventive oral health interventions.

Carmen Gottschling-Aceto RDH, Shirley Gray, Dianne Grebliunas CDA, and Brenda Roseboom RDH collaborated with PCNs and PCAs to schedule 1 year old children into Dental Fluoride Varnish Clinics when parents contacted the clinic to schedule routine 18 month immunization appointments.

This program was piloted in six Northern B.C. communities: Smithers, Houston, Hazelton, Prince Rupert, Terrace and Kitimat. Over a 3-year period, the percentage of identified high risk 1 year old children receiving early preventive oral health interventions increased from 22% to 67%.

The dental public health team hope the next steps in this endeavour will be to further integrate the scheduling of immunization visits with dental fluoride varnish and oral health education clinics as part of the process of scaling the program up throughout rural British Columbia.



## Rourke Baby Tool

The Rourke Baby Record (RBR) is an evidence-based health guide for primary healthcare practitioners of children in the first five years of life. It was recently updated in October 2020 and now includes new information on oral health including new guidance on teething and the new Caries Risk Assessment Tool.

To learn more about the Rourke Baby Record go to: <http://www.rourkebabyrecord.ca/rbr2020/default>

The full summary of changes to the Rourke Tool can be found here: <http://www.rourkebabyrecord.ca/updates>

The Caries Risk Assessment Tool can be found here: [https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/education/index.html](https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/education/index.html)

CAPHD participated in the stakeholder meeting about the Caries Risk Assessment Tool and more information about the development of this tool can be found here:

[https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health\\_sciences/education/about-ccra-tool.html](https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/health_sciences/education/about-ccra-tool.html)



The Canada-United States Chapter of the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future (ACFF) is pleased to offer a community based grant program to help fund interprofessional projects that will have a positive impact on the oral health of pregnant women and children 0-5 years of age. The ACFF are accepting applications for the 2020-2021 grants beginning September 15th, 2020 until December 15th, 2020.

Apply now at <https://chapters.acffglobal.org/canada-us/grants/>