



Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry  
Association canadienne de la santé dentaire publique

## Position Statement on the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP), March 2024

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The Canadian Association of Public Health Dentistry (CAPHD) would like to applaud and acknowledge the tremendous efforts made by the federal government on the latest phase of development of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). This unprecedented initiative will enable many of our equity-deserving Canadians to access much-needed oral health care, potentially improving their overall health and well-being while decreasing the burden of oral disease in Canada.

The CAPHD promotes and advocates for equitable oral health care for all Canadians. We will continue working with the government, partner organizations, and our membership to support the CDCP and advocate strongly for its uptake and utilization across Canada.

The CAPHD is closely following the phased rollout of the CDCP and eagerly awaits early reports regarding plan enrollment and utilization. Our Association believes it is critical for the CDCP to remain responsive to the evolving needs of Canadians. Continuous evaluation of the CDCP will be important for informing data-driven policy adjustments and interdisciplinary collaborations will be vital in enhancing the CDCP's effectiveness. As the plan matures, the CAPHD looks forward to more emphasis on preventive services for caries and periodontal diseases. This includes upstream services that increase oral health literacy, such as oral health education and counselling, and encouragement of interventions addressing the microbiology of dental decay and gum disease.

To encourage more oral health providers to support the plan and increase access to care for underserved Canadians, the CAPHD proposes alignment of the CDCP fees with existing provincial fee guides in the future. We believe that harmonized compensation rates will encourage more providers to participate in the plan. Additionally, the CAPHD would like clarification on how healthcare providers can coordinate benefits for individuals eligible under more than one public insurance (federal, provincial, territorial and/or municipal). This clarification is essential to streamline the process for healthcare providers and ease the financial burden for eligible individuals, which aligns with the CAPHD's preference for minimizing out-of-pocket expenses for patients.

By addressing these key areas, the CAPHD aims to encourage greater provider participation in the plan and support a sustainable model of care. Success in these endeavors is contingent upon the active involvement of oral healthcare providers, equity-deserving communities, and high-risk populations. The CAPHD commits to advocating for enrollment strategies that actively engage all crucial stakeholders and promote provider enrollment within its membership. These collaborative efforts may enhance the plan's reach and impact, and support Canadians to access the oral health care they need.

Again, the CAPHD expresses profound gratitude for the recognition of oral health's vital role in the overall well-being of all Canadians. The CDCP has the potential to contribute towards increasing our population health significantly in the forthcoming years. By prioritizing oral health, we anticipate a notable reduction in the overall burden of disease, thereby alleviating pressures on our healthcare system.

In closing, the CAPHD aims to provide ongoing updates as the phased CDCP rollout continues. Members are encouraged to share their thoughts and feedback throughout this process by contacting [info@caphd.ca](mailto:info@caphd.ca).