

ACDH Council met in person on June 23 & 24, 2023 for a business meeting. The following are highlights of key discussions and decisions from the meetings:

Council Discussions:

- The IPC guidelines were developed collaboratively by the College of Alberta Dental Assistants, College of Alberta Denturists, College of Dental Technologists of Alberta, and the College of Registered Dental Hygienists of Alberta—collectively known as the Colleges. Many resources were used to develop the guidelines including documents from Canadian Standards Association, Alberta Health, Alberta Health Services (AHS), Alberta Occupational Health and Safety, and IPC documents from other Colleges and jurisdictions. Council discussed the requirement for gowns and requested that the College explore potential alternatives to the gown requirement within the IPC Guidelines while maintaining appropriate PPE.
- Council reviewed and approved the draft CRDHA 2022 Annual Report, pending inclusion of the audited financial statements.
- The development of the new Jurisprudence Exam modules has been completed and was piloted by the UofA students, teachers, Council, Committees, and staff. Any applicant who applies for registration with the College is required to complete the new modules. Feedback on the modules has been very positive.
- Council discussed the current political climate in Alberta and the new Labour Mobility legislation that focuses on removing barriers to attract skilled workers.
- Council had a discussion about the potential for future amalgamation of regulatory colleges.
- Council discussed stakeholder relations and will revisit this topic at the September strategic planning meeting.
- Council thanked Beth Blair for her commitment to the college over the past 3 years as a councillor and committee member.

Council Decisions:

- Following a recommendation by the Registration Committee, Council approved a motion on December 10, 2021, stating “that a vulnerable sector check be required as part of the registration application process and that a vulnerable sector check be required for all registrants, once per 3-year reporting period”. The Vulnerable Sector Check (VSC) requirement was implemented for registration purposes as of November 1, 2022. Council

approved changes to the [VSC Policy](#) which permits the College to develop the VSC requirement for all registrants as of the 2024 renewal period.

- Council approved a new [Practice Hours Policy](#) to align with the updated *Dental Hygienists Profession Regulation* which requires that applicants for registration on the general register and registrants applying for practice permit renewal report practice hours to the College. This policy clarifies the College's expectations related to the reporting of practice hours.
- Council discussed the functionality of the non-practicing register. Before Bill 46, members on the non-practicing register were able to attend and vote at AGMs, could vote for councillors, and had access to college communications like the quarterly magazine.

With the separation of regulatory colleges and professional associations, the benefits of being on a non-practicing register were divested.

Currently, when an individual has left the general register by either switching to non-practicing or cancelling their registration, the process to transfer or reinstate is essentially identical. Council made the decision to remove the non-practicing register as of November 1, 2024 for the following reasons:

- It currently does not provide registrants with a benefit over cancellation of their permit, but conceptually registrants think that there is a benefit.
- Processing a reinstatement and a transfer is the same amount of administrative work.
- Council discussed the Council-approved CPR and implementing a potential lapse period. The registrant database has the capability to flag registrants whose CPR policy is expiring and can also flag when a CPR policy has lapsed, so oversight and accountability has increased through the use of technology.

Council agreed to update the [CPR Policy](#) to permit a lapse in CPR certification of no more than 30 days, however it must be current upon practice permit renewal.

- Council discussed the difference between the term “patient” and the term “client”.

RDHs have a broad practice statement where they can practice as clinicians, educators, researchers, administrators, health promoters and consultants. In these practice settings, there may be clients receiving services who are not patients (e.g., a dental hygiene student, a research participant). However, the vast majority of RDHs in Alberta are practicing in a traditional dental or dental hygiene practice, where it may be more applicable to be treating “patients” rather than “clients”.

After a lengthy discussion, which included an environmental scan of other healthcare providers in Alberta, the other DH regulators across Canada, associations and competencies, Council decided to change the term “client” to “patient” and adjust the Standards of Practice, Code of Ethics and Guidelines to reflect the adjustment.

- Council approved the following list of Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics, effective August 1, 2023:
 1. Advertising
 2. Client Centred Care
 3. Clinical Therapy
 4. Code of Ethics
 5. Collaboration
 6. Communication
 7. Conflicts of Interest
 8. Continuity of Care
 9. Documentation
 10. Drugs General
 11. Drugs Prescribing
 12. Duty to Report
 13. Evidence Informed Practice
 14. Informed Consent
 15. Ionizing Radiation
 16. Privacy and Confidentiality
 17. Professional Accountability
 18. Record Management
 19. Safety and Risk Management

For more information on the registrant consultations, please refer to the [Standards Of Practice Consultation Summary Report](#)

- Council approved those registrants renewing on the General register for the 2023-24 permit year be required to declare upon renewal that they have read and understood the new Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.
- Council approved those registrants may claim a maximum of 0.25 continuing competence program credits per Standard of Practice and Code of Ethics after reading and providing a self-reflection in the form required by the College.
- Council approved the change to Bylaw 2(a) from six regulated members to five regulated members, effective July 1, 2023.