



# ACDH

Alberta College of Dental Hygienists

2024 – 2027

# Strategic Plan

# Forward

**The Alberta College of Dental Hygienists (ACDH) is the regulatory body for the dental hygiene profession in Alberta. A regulatory college's job is to protect the public from unsafe practice and hold registrants of the profession accountable for the care they provide.**

In 2020, Bill 46, the *Health Statutes Amendment Act*, came into effect. It was the most extensive set of amendments to the *Health Professions Act* in 20 years. Significantly, it separated regulatory colleges from associations and unions. This clarified the College's mandate as a regulatory college to provide safe, effective, ethical and beneficial oral healthcare services to the Alberta public.

Accordingly, the ACDH's 2020 – 2024 Strategic Plan had four priorities:

- Embrace leading regulatory practices to protect the public.
- Identify and strengthen productive relationships with stakeholders.
- Ensure a strong understanding amongst stakeholders of the College's regulatory role in the healthcare system.
- Achieve effective governance and strong leadership to support our mandate.

Over the past four years, the College has taken steps to complete the significant work required by Bill 46 and achieve the priorities set under the previous strategic plan.

The 2024 – 2027 Strategic Plan outlines a clear direction forward for the College to be a leader in a changing regulatory environment. The College continues to prioritize high standards of competency, safety and ethics in order to provide Albertans with safe, high quality dental hygiene care.

# ACDH Council

The ACDH Council serves as the governing body of the College and fulfills specific roles and responsibilities as set out in the *Health Professions Act*.

The Council develops and oversees policies that direct the College in fulfilling the mandate to serve and protect Albertans by regulating the dental hygiene profession within the legal framework.

The Council consists of:

- 5 Regulated Members
- 5 Public Members, appointed by the Government of Alberta

The 2024 - 2027 Strategic Plan was developed and approved by Council. College staff are responsible for implementing the Strategic Plan on an operational level. The Strategic Plan aligns with the College's Mission, Purpose, and Values.



## OUR MISSION

To ensure Alberta dental hygienists have the knowledge, skills, attitude, and judgment to provide safe, effective, ethical and beneficial oral healthcare services to the Alberta public.

## OUR PURPOSE

We are committed to supporting all Albertans in their health and wellness journey through the achievement of oral health regulatory excellence.

## OUR VALUES

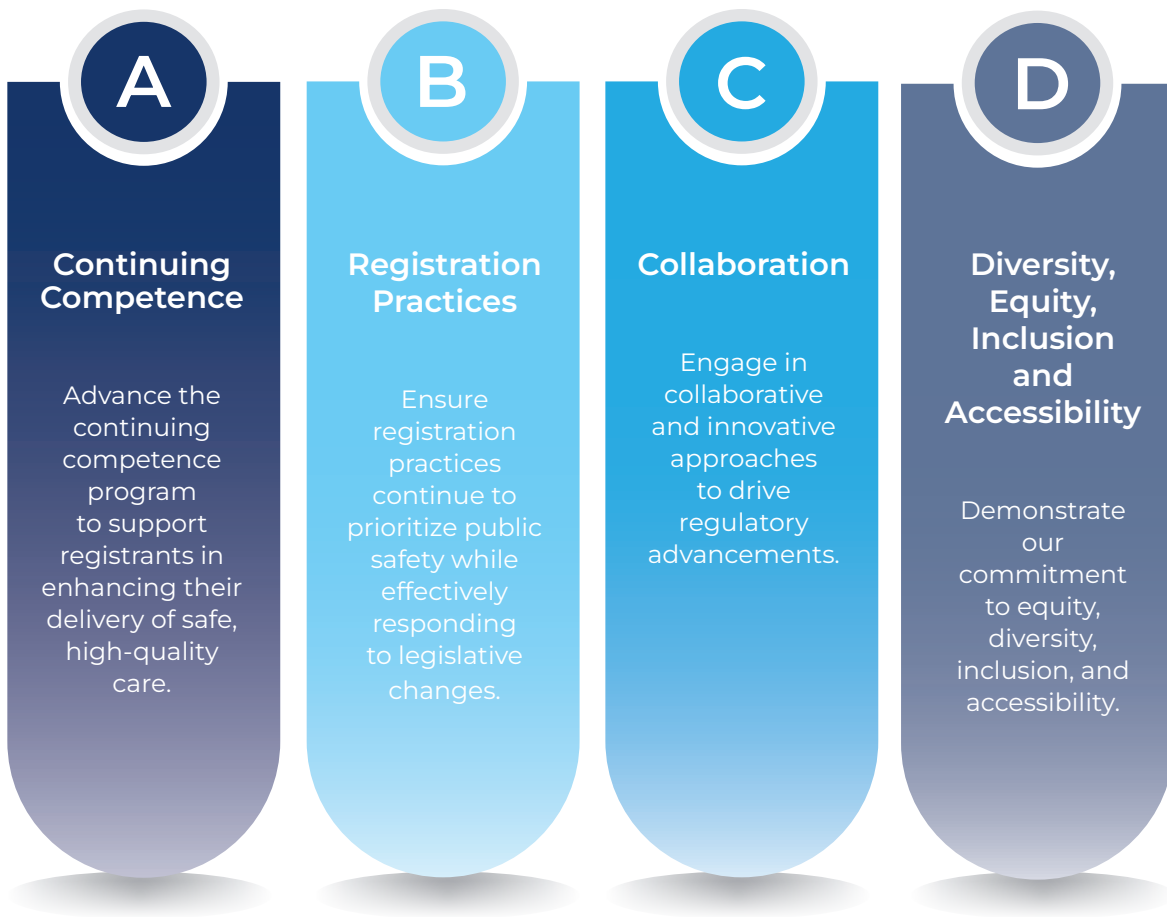
**Accountable** – We value individual and organizational accountability by accepting responsibility for our decisions and actions.

**Transparent** – We are committed to open and clear policies, procedures, and communication.

**Collaborative** – We value collaboration to create new ideas, enhance opportunities, and build relationships.

**Integrity** – We promote an environment of trust by demonstrating consistent, fair, and honest communication and behaviour.

# 2024 – 2027 Strategic Priorities



# Priorities and Objectives

## **PRIORITY A**

Advance the continuing competence program to support registrants in enhancing their delivery of safe, high-quality care.



### **Objectives**

1. Redevelop the continuing competence program in consultation with stakeholders.
2. Use data to identify gaps in registrant competence and evaluate level of risk.
3. Implement best practices and regulatory tools to support registrant competence.

## **PRIORITY B**

Ensure registration practices continue to prioritize public safety while effectively responding to legislative changes.



### **Objectives**

1. Identify and address opportunities to increase the effectiveness of our registration practices within the context of legislation.
2. Work with other Canadian dental hygiene regulators to recognize and explore solutions to the variances in regulation across provinces.
3. Use data and evidence to support enhancements to our registration practices.

## PRIORITY C

Engage in collaborative and innovative approaches to drive regulatory advancements.



### Objectives

1. Build relationships with health regulators to be at the forefront of knowledge-sharing.
2. Establish partnerships with other Alberta oral health regulators to improve operational efficiencies.
3. Strengthen relationships with government to have a proactive role in legislative change.
4. Identify and explore opportunities where dental hygienists can be involved in primary care initiatives.

## PRIORITY D

Demonstrate our commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility.



### Objectives

1. Assess and improve upon Council, College, and registrant initiatives through an EDIA lens.

# College Operations

Led by the Registrar and CEO, staff are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the College and for implementing the Strategic Plan to achieve its purpose of protecting the public through regulatory excellence. College operations include:

- Complying with provincial and federal legislation and regulations, including the *Health Professions Act* and Dental Hygiene Regulations
- Setting registration and annual renewal requirements
- Processing applications for new practice permits from recently graduated dental hygienists and dental hygienists practicing in other jurisdictions
- Conducting program assessments on dental hygiene educational institutions
- Processing applications for annual practice permit renewal from registrants
- Setting continuing competence requirements and managing the Continuing Competence Program
- Developing standards of practice, guidelines, and the Code of Ethics
- Maintaining a public database of registrants
- Providing regulatory education about the practice of the profession
- Advising registrants on compliance with meeting their standards of practice and Code of Ethics
- Investigating complaints regarding the conduct of registrants and, when applicable, conducting hearing tribunals to determine sanction outcomes



# Stakeholders

ACDH stakeholders are individuals and groups who are interested in the work of the College, are influenced by the work we do, or who participate in regulatory changes that impact the College.

Strategic Priority C emphasizes collaborative and innovative approaches regulation, and this work will be driven by our relationships with our stakeholders.

The following outlines ACDH key stakeholders as identified by Council.





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