

FILLING YOU IN

Calgary Dental Assistants Association

September 2009



Calgary Dental
Assistants Association

C.D.A.A.

Executive Committee 08/09

www.calgaryrda.ca

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Parliamentarian:

Danelle Fulawka

Archivist:

Linda Hohm

Director/Mentor

Danelle Fulawka

GENERAL MEETING:

MONDAY September 21, 2009

Greenwood Inn

3515-26th Street NE

Calgary, Alberta

6:30pm-9:00pm

AGM & Elections

Round Table Discussions

"Complete A Learning Objective"

Please Submit Topics For Discussion to

Betty Ann MacKinnon - presidenelect@calgaryrda.ca

Prior to September 20, 2009

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Spring Seminar:

SATURDAY April 17, 2010

President's Message

Hello everyone! I hope you all had a great summer taking vacations and spending quality time with family and friends.

Thanks to everyone who attended our "Emergency Meeting" in May. We had a lot of great feedback and we hope to have a better and more successful year this next year. Just a reminder that we are still looking for volunteers, whether it be volunteering for a position on the board or even just volunteering on a committee throughout the year, we need all the help we can get to make this association great for us.

Our AGM and elections will be held on September 21st at the Greenwood Inn. CADA AGM and Awards will be held at the Sheraton Cavalier September 18th and 19th and I encourage everyone to register and attend that event as well. Registration forms are available in the latest Suture Line or on the CADA website (www.abrda.ca under events/calendar)

The updated Bylaws and Manual of Procedures have been placed on our website for your review before the September General Meeting. Please take a look as we will be going over them at the meeting. (www.calgaryrda.ca under Resources>Bylaws/Manual of Procedures) Please also note that the Accountant's Summary is available for your review under Resources.

Hope to see you all in September! Have a great long weekend ☺

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

Getting involved in your association is very much a personal choice, based on where you are in your career and life cycles and where you are in your learning curve of life. For every choice made to contribute to volunteering there is a payoff for the person choosing to participate. The big question is so what's in it for me????

To answer this question you need to know a little more about the history of Dental Assisting. Dental Assisting started out as a "job" where training took place in the dental office. Associations of Dental Assistants started forming as early as 1945 and the early 50's for Dental Assistants to meet and share information. By the early 60's, formalized training groups were started in many locations across Canada, first in hospitals and later in secondary schools.* "NAIT graduated its first class of dental nurses in 1964, 36 grads and in 1958 U of A offered dental nurse courses and had 64 successful candidates". A national certification process was pursued by the Canadian Dental Assistants Association.

The recognition of Dental Assisting as a career began from those early groups of Dental Assistants who began meeting together and lobbying for recognition from government and other dental professions.

In Alberta, local membership associations were formed in Edmonton, Calgary, Grande Prairie, Peace River, Central Alberta, Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and Lakeland areas, not necessarily in that order. These membership organizations were recognized as independent organizations that worked together with the Alberta Dental Assistants Association, which was also a membership organization at that time.

Dental Assisting in Alberta continued to evolve and thanks to the Dental Assistants Association, Dental Assistants were recognized under the Dental Act of Alberta. In 1990, Dental Assistants were recognized as being self regulated under the Dental Disciplines Act and were given protection of title. Again, this promotion of Dental Assisting came at the hand of Dental Assistants, through their continued fight for recognition. It also came about due to the hard work and efforts of an organized group of dental assistants willing to give their time to the promotion of their profession.

In the late 1990's, the Alberta Government brought in the Health Protection Act. Dental Assisting had grown up and it was time to take on the responsibility of protection of the public. With this change, and the changes in legislation, our membership organization shifted from membership services to a more regulatory organization and became the College of Alberta Dental Assistants in 2006. As a regulatory organization, their primary job is protecting the public, and no longer was the promotion of dental assistants and their causes their first concern. The public comes first.

The locals associations purpose of providing a meeting place, promoting the profession of dental assistants, recognition of dental assistants contributions to their profession are all membership benefits. Local events, seminars and education or local concerns are now left to the membership organizations to continue to pursue.

During this time the Canadian Association branched off and the National Dental Assisting Examining Board was formed to replace the failing National Certification Program, so that a uniform standard of Dental Assisting Scope of Practice could be recognized across Canada.

Our Canadian Association who was once a membership organization became a service provider of the many membership services now offered to the Provinces such as malpractice insurance as well as other insurance and recognition programs such as National Dental Assistants week.

So, if the Provincial organizations are regulatory in nature, and our Canadian Association is a service provider, who is the voice for Dental Assistants in Alberta now? The answer is, you and I.

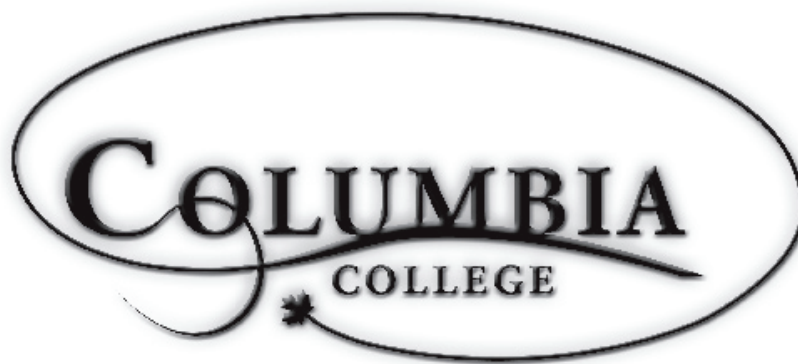
What's in it for me, you ask? For me, it is an opportunity to share my voice.... To get involved in the promotion of my profession.... To share information and concerns with other Dental Assistants who are looking out for me, not the government, not for legislation/regulation, but for what I want to be heard. It is for an opportunity to be a part of the changes that will come whether we want them to or not...

I believe that every dental assistant can find the right time when they are able to give back to the profession that enabled them to "have a good job", be recognized for the work we do, to be paid at a level that is more than would have been possible had it not been for those dental assistants before them who pushed for that kind of recognition.

What's in it for me? I've learned it is my very being, as a recognized Registered Dental Assistant. A chance to be me....

Danelle Fulawka RDA

*Taken from the 40th Anniversary Suture Line (1995)



Columbia College is now accepting applications for the Preventive Dentistry Program (scaling module).

For further information contact:

Heather Larsen, RDH
Preventive Dentistry Program Coordinator
Columbia College
heatherl@columbia.ab.ca
403-648-2254

<http://www.columbia.ab.ca/Programs/ProgramsProfessional/PreventiveDentistryProgram/tabid/107/Default.aspx>

Additional Continuing Education Opportunities

- Orthodontic Module
- Dental Probing Techniques (Full-mouth probe and PSR)- October 09/09
- Interim Coverage and Gingival Retraction Cord- September 11/09
- Pulp Vitality Testing
- Advanced Scaling Techniques (Gracey curettes)
- Clinical Refreshers
- Expanded Skills

For Further Information Contact:

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Continuing Education Coordinator
Columbia College
traceyg@columbia.ab.ca
403-648-2254

<http://www.columbia.ab.ca/Programs/ProgramsProfessional/DentalAssistantContinuingEducation/tabid/99/Default.aspx>

Columbia College:

Orthodontic Instructor required 4 weekends a year.
RDA Level II with Orthodontic Module
Send resume to: traceyg@columbia.ab.ca
403-648-2254