

# TECH TALK

*Tech Talk keeps you up to date on College activities. Please keep on file for reference.*

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## COLLEGE REPORT

As we were preparing this newsletter I could hardly believe that the summer is over and fall is upon us already. It seems like such a short time ago that we were all making our plans for how we were going to manage to carry on with business and our lives during the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games. Thanks to the efforts of the staff, the College office did not see any negative impact from having the Winter Games hosted in Vancouver and we were able to get through the busy renewal period without any difficulty at all.

This past spring we did not need to hold an election for the Board as all of our current elected members' terms carried through this period. In addition, there was only one public member whose term was completing and the Ministry reappointed Ms. Diane Minichiello to a third term on the Board. This appointment is for three years and will run through September of 2013. Welcome back Diane!

The Registrar and the Chair of the Board attended the meetings of the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR) that were held in Halifax on April 30 and May 1, 2010. The Canadian Alliance has now formally incorporated and its membership consists of representatives from almost all of the Provincial dental technology regulators in Canada. The

Alliance was formed out of an expressed desire to continue to work together on a national level and to build on the work that was started with the labour mobility meetings. The CADTR plans to work cooperatively with all levels of government and other stakeholders on common issues of concern that effect dental technology regulation on a pan-Canadian basis.

The College is hoping to send out renewal notices by email this year to all registrants for whom we have an email address on file. Email as a means of communication with registrants has proven very successful at other Colleges and has both cost savings and environmental benefits over traditional mailings. If you have not yet provided your email address to the College, please either login to the College website to update your profile, or call the office and we can update the information for you.

For further information about the activities of the Board or the College, feel free to call the office and ask to speak with the Registrar.

*Ronald Revell, RDT*  
Registrar

## MANDATE

*It is the duty of the College at all times to serve and protect the public, and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest.*

## GST / HST

As I'm sure you are all aware, the BC government introduced the Harmonized Sales Tax which became effective on July 1st. The College, like many other organizations, businesses, and individuals, experienced some confusion over how the new tax would impact us. Because the College charged GST on registration and renewal fees, there were questions about whether we would be required to charge the 12% HST on those fees or if registration fees were one of the items that were on the list of "exceptions".

The Board was also unsure of how the implementation of this additional tax would effect our daily operations as there would be some additional costs on the goods and services that we use. As the College has a GST exempt status and collected the GST for the government on registration fees, we were eligible to claim tax credits for the amount of GST we paid throughout the year on our supplies and services. This resulted in the College receiving approximately \$4000 in GST refunds from the government each year which was then included in our general revenue.

In consultations with our auditors, we discovered that we would be required to charge the 12% HST on all registration

and renewal fees, which would mean an automatic 7% increase in the cost to registrants to maintain their registration. We were also told however that the Canada Revenue Agency had a provision that gave the College an option for the Board to revoke the collection of the GST/HST on registration and renewal fees. We were advised that if the College did revoke collecting GST/HST of the fees, we would no longer be eligible to receive any refund of the GST/HST that we paid.

After weighing the impact of the HST on registrants against the loss of revenue from the refund the College could receive, the Board decided to revoke the collection of the HST effective July 1, 2010. It is expected that a slight increase in registration and renewal fees in the next fiscal period will be needed to make up for the loss of income from the GST/HST refunds that the College is no longer eligible for. The good news is that this increase is not expected to be as great as the amount of tax we would have been collecting on those fees even without any cost of living adjustment!

## EXAMINATION UPDATE

### Practical Exams

The 2010 Practical Examinations were once again held during a two week period in August at Vancouver Community College. The College's Technical Assistant, Mr. Wallace was very busy throughout the late spring and early summer preparing the models and organizing the scheduling of the exams. There were 23 candidates challenging the exam this year and the marking of the Candidates' assignments is progressing.



We would like to thank Mr. Karol Hoffman, RDT for his assistance with the invigilation of the exams at VCC, and Mr. Joe Birner, RDT for allowing the College to use his laboratory for preparing the exam models and other materials we provide to the practical exam participants.

### Theory Exams

The next sitting of the theory exams will be held on November 19, 2010 and further information about the exam will be mailed to eligible candidates in October.

Please note that the College's

### **3-Year Continuing Education Cycle**

**will be ending on:**

**February 28, 2011**

All Registered Dental Technicians are required to complete 30 hours of Continuing Education Credits in each 3-year cycle.

Time is running out for those technicians who have not yet met this requirement to obtain the necessary credit hours. Please check the revised Continuing Education Guide included in this mailing for updated information about eligible activities and submitting claims for Con Ed Credits.

**Plan ahead to ensure that you meet the requirements for renewal of your registration!**

Please call the College for further information or to inquire about your specific credit record.

## CALL FOR EXAMINERS

### *Have you considered becoming an Examiner?*

The College is interested in talking to RDTs who may be looking for a way to 'give back' to the profession of dental technology. Why not consider becoming an examiner! Examiners are needed each year to mark all of the completed practical exam assignments according to the established marking criteria of the College. Orientation and training is provided, and many of our examiners say that they enjoy the time they spend working with the College in this capacity.

Although examiners are needed in all competency areas, we are in particular need of technicians who practice in the areas of Orthodontics as well as Complete Dentures and Cast Partial Dentures. If you think you might like to become an examiner, please contact the Registrar directly for further information or to request an Examiner Application Package

## HONOURABLE MENTION

Back in April, I received an email from a colleague at another regulatory college with a web link to a local Kelowna news story that was about a registrant of this College. After reading the story I felt that the individual deserved some recognition for what he had done.

The report was by Kim Calloway from radio station Power 104 and he wrote about Mr. Brian Dye, a Registered Dental Technician, who was the grand prize winner in one of their station's call-in contests. Mr. Dye, who owns Class 1 Orthodontic Lab, won the \$10,000 grand prize and immediately gave the money away to a friend who he said, needed it more than he did. Mr. Dye deserves to be commended for this kind act.

It is nice to know that there are still generous people in the world who put the needs of others before themselves. I would like to think that there are many more people like Mr. Dye out there, and perhaps we just don't get to hear about them as often as we should.

## HEALTH PROFESSIONS REVIEW BOARD

In March of 2009, under Part 4.2 of the *Health Professions Act*, the government of BC created the Health Professions Review Board (HPRB) as an independent administrative tribunal. The Review Board was given the responsibility and authority to conduct an independent review of certain registration and inquiry/discipline committee decisions made by any of the Health Professional Colleges.

Individuals who are not satisfied with a decision of the Registration Committee, or a complainant who is dissatisfied with the disposition or timeliness of Inquiry Committee investigations conducted by a College, may apply to the Review Board for a review of those decisions. Upon receiving notice of an application for a

review the College must then respond in a formal manner, which will almost always necessitate the involvement of our legal counsel.

To date there has only been one application to the HPRB for a review of one of our College's decisions, however it is expected that more will be submitted as time goes by. At this time, the impact on the College's operations, and the financial and human resources needed to deal with these reviews cannot be estimated. Based on what we see happening at other Colleges, it is expected that there will be significant legal costs involved in meeting this new requirement the government has enacted



March 10-12  
**2011**

Earn up to 15 CE credits, visit the two day tradeshow with over 500 exhibit booths and be part of the Spectrum Pacific Techno-Clinical Meeting at the Pacific Dental Conference. Online registration begins October 15th, 2010 at... [www.pdconf.com](http://www.pdconf.com)

## INSPECTION PROGRAM

The College's routine inspection program under the direction of the Inquiry Committee is again operating on a regular basis and the Inspector has been out around the Province inspecting laboratories on a regular basis.

Generally, the inspections show that registrants practice the profession in accordance with the requirements of the legislation and the Bylaws, and the program is well received. There have however been a few issues that have been seen on several occasions and I think they are worth mentioning here as a reminder for others.

As you are aware, everyone who provides dental technology services in British Columbia must be registered with the College, either as a Dental Technician, an Assistant, or a Student. One of the most frequent matters that I see reported is that an RDT is found to be delegating to someone who is not currently registered as an Assistant. It is the responsibility of the supervising Dental Technician to ensure that they only delegate to Assistants or students registered with the College. A simple call to the College office and you can find out if the person you are delegating to has a current registration.

Another matter that is important has to do with the requirement for laboratories to comply with proper asepsis procedures, especially in instances where there is contact with the general public (patients). The College's Policy and Guidelines for services that involve a registrant's direct contact with the public set out a number of recommendations to ensure the safety of both the patient and the staff at the laboratory.

This policy includes guidelines for implementing proper hand-washing protocols, disinfection of shade tabs, cleaning and disinfecting the patient receiving areas, and the use of gloves, clean lab coats, masks, and other protective equipment. It is the responsibility of the supervising Dental Technician to ensure that all dental technology services that are provided to the public are performed in a competent and professional manner. If you would like to receive a complete copy of this policy, please contact the College.

### BOARD

- Gordon Robertshaw, RDT, Chair
- - Patrick Poyner, LLB, Vice-Chair
- Junichi Eto, Assistant
- Hege Jahr, RDT
- Anil Kumar, RDT
- Azim Lalani, CA
- Diane Minichiello, BEd, MA
- Therese Roche, RDT
- Barry Van De Snepscheut, RDT

### STAFF

- Ronald Revell, RDT, Registrar
- Susan Still, Office Manager
- Joseph Wallace, RDT, Technical Assistant/Inspector
- Christina Sklavenitis, Receptionist/Office Assistant

## TECH TALK

*is published by the:*

### COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS OF BC

N208 - 5811 Cooney Road  
Richmond, BC V6X 3M1

Tel: (604) 278-8324

Fax: (604) 278-8325

Toll: 1-877-666-8324

Website: [www.cdt.bc.ca](http://www.cdt.bc.ca)

- Ronald Revell, RDT, Registrar  
registrar@cdt.bc.ca
- Susan Still, Office Manager  
manager@cdt.bc.ca
- Joseph Wallace, RDT  
Technical Assistant, Inspector  
tech@cdt.bc.ca
- Christina Sklavenitis  
reception@cdt.bc.ca