

TECH TALK

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

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ENCLOSURE

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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.

CHAIR'S MESSAGE

On behalf of Therese Roche, Barry Van de Snepscheut and myself I would like to thank our peers for our re-election to the Board last May. Also I would like to extend our thanks to the public members, Azim Lalani and Patrick Poyner, who were re-appointed to the Board for new terms. This will be my last term on the Board.

It is my pleasure to report to you that the Board has approved a significant change in the continuing education requirements; this change being that RDTs will no longer be required to have three hours of infection control CE Credits during each three year cycle. We certainly may obtain CE in this area if we feel it is beneficial for us to do so, and the credits for those hours will still count as technical credits towards our 30 hour requirement in the three year cycle.

This change acknowledges the fact that we are professionals who have been educated and examined in an appropriate manner and recognizes that we have the responsibility to self assess and determine the appropriate continuing education that we as individuals require at any given time in our careers. This is a further step in the development and evolution of the College's Quality Assurance Program.

What is quality assurance? As it pertains to our profession it is a way to ensure that as a group of individuals, we are behaving appropriately under the rules and regulations of the Ministry of Health and the College of Dental Technicians and that we continue to educate ourselves in a recorded manner. How does the College fill its

mandate to protect the public? One of the tools our College utilizes is the inspection process. As most of you are aware, the inspection program is once again active on a normal and scheduled basis as the staffing levels of the College are now as they should be. If upon inspection it is determined that the practice of dental technology could or should be enhanced if the registrant(s) were to receive continuing education in a specific area, be that infection control procedures or any other, then that request would be made and it would be a requirement to prove the completion of this continuing education in the suggested area in order to maintain your licensure as an RDT. It would only be if the registrant(s) failed to address this suggestion for additional specific continuing education that the College would have to invoke stronger measures.

It is my hope that this change to the CE requirements is the start of a different approach to the governance of the profession which may allow for new opportunities for Dental Technology to better serve the needs of all dental professionals and the public in the future.

On behalf of all of your Board Members I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you the very best of the Christmas holiday season and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Gordon Robertshaw, RDT
Chair of the Board

COLLEGE OFFICE CLOSURE

The College office will be closing for the holidays
at noon on December 24th
and will reopen on Monday January 4, 2010.



2010-11 REGISTRATION RENEWALS

Renewal application forms and invoices will be sent to all registrants before the end of January 2010. If you have moved, you are reminded that according to the Bylaws, you are obligated to provide the College with your current address. This will ensure that you receive all future College mailings.

This year the Board has taken into consideration the difficult economic times and has decided that the annual RDT and Assistant renewal fees will remain unchanged from last year.

Be sure to submit your payment, either online or by mail and include all of the documentation necessary to complete your renewal process before the deadline of February 28, 2010. Renewal payments made after this date are subject to an additional late payment penalty of \$150 for RDTs and \$75 for Assistants.

Registrants who have not submitted their renewal application and payment by March 31, 2010 will automatically be removed from the Register and as such will not legally be able to practice dental technology.

COLLEGE REPORT

As I write this report we are well into the holiday season and the end of 2009 is just around the corner. The College has once again had a busy year and I know that the staff are all looking forward to a little time off to celebrate the season with family and friends.

Last year at this time we were reporting on the pending implementation of a new database system for the College with the ability to accept online renewal applications and payment of renewal fees by credit card. I am please to report that this new option appears to have been quite popular as approximately 50% of registrants renewed online last year. We are aware that there were some technical issues with the new system last renewal including the fact that the website did not work well for Mac computer users or with some web browsers like Firefox and Mozilla. Those issues have been addressed and the system is now compatible with those computers and programs.

Based on the experience of other Colleges who have introduced an online renewal option, we expect that the number of online renewals will increase over the next few years as more of you take advantage of this simple and secure method of renewing your registration.

The College is also planning 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.

One of the main challenges facing the College as a result of amendments the government has made to the Health Professions Act is to develop and implement a Quality Assurance Program for registrants. The Quality Assurance Committee is in the initial stages of developing a program to address this requirement and is working with other Colleges under the HPA on this task.

The College is also planning to add some new website features in the next year including what we hope will be easier navigation menus and links. These changes will hopefully make finding the information you want easier and quicker.

With the hosting of the 2010 Winter Olympics here in the Greater Vancouver area in February, there may be some minor disruptions to our regular office routines as traffic issues impact both staff and volunteers' ability to get to the office. We do not anticipate that this will cause any significant reduction of services at the College, but we do ask for your understanding during that period.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and all the best for a Happy New Year!

Ronald Revell, RDT
Registrar

STUDENT AWARD

COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS OF BC ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

The College has established an endowment fund with the Vancouver Community College Foundation to provide an entrance scholarship to the applicant with the highest test score entering the Dental Technology Program each year. The 2009 scholarship was awarded to Keith Rock and presented by Ronald Revell, Registrar of the College. Congratulations



2009 ANNUAL MEETING

This year the College's 2009 Annual General Meeting was held at the Holiday Inn Vancouver Centre at 711 West Broadway on Thursday October 29th. There were 33 RDT registrants attending the AGM this year. The Annual Report of the Board, the Auditor's Report and the Audited Financial Statements were presented for those in attendance.

The College's Practical Exam Award is presented each year to the exam candidate who achieves the highest over-all average mark on the examination. Mr. Gordon Robertshaw, Chair of the Board presented the 2008 award to Mr. Woong Sun Ahn, RDT who achieved an average of 90% on his assignments!

Following the award presentation, Mr. Juri Oja and Mr. Mike Sager from WorkSafe BC, presented an update and information session on the H1N1 flu pandemic and prevention.



EXAMINATION UPDATE

PRACTICAL EXAMS

The 2009 Practical Examinations were once again held during a two week period in August at Vancouver Community College. There were 20 candidates challenging the exam this year and 8 successfully completed the exam and are eligible to register as Registered Dental Technicians. We would like to offer congratulations on their success and wish them well in their future endeavours.

We would like to thank Mr. Karol Hoffman, RDT for his continued dedication and support during the invigilation of the exams at VCC and also to Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Joe Birner for allowing the College to use their laboratories for the pouring of the casts required for the practical exams.

Thank you to all of the examiners for their hard work and for giving up their Saturdays to come in and mark the 84 assignments that were completed this year.

THEORY EXAMS

The first sitting of the theory exams was held on May 22nd where 11 candidates wrote the Competency Exam with 5 of the individuals passing. Seven candidates challenged the Jurisprudence exam with 6 passing.

The second sitting of the theory exams was held on November 20th where 11 candidates wrote the Competency Exam with 6 of the individuals passing. Ten candidates challenged the Jurisprudence exam with 6 passing.

Joe Wallace, RDT
Technical Assistant / Inspector

"NO ELECTION" NOTICE

There are no vacancies for elected Members of the Board for the 2010-2011 election period and so an election will not be held.

For your information, there will be one vacancy for a public member in May.



Happy Holidays!
From the Staff of the
College of Dental Technicians of BC

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:

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