



HI EVERYONE – SALUT À TOUS!

Happy March – spring isn't that far off! I hope this message finds you happy and healthy.

In my message today, I want to focus on some professional opportunities available to Registered Dental Hygienists (RDHs) – some of these will be new and some have been around, but the fees are being waived.

To support the continuous learning of RDHs, continuing competence and access to Dental Hygiene care, the following items are available for your consideration:

- **Drugs in Dental Hygiene Practice Course and Examination**, which was previously available at a cost of \$250 is now available to any RDH, **free of charge**.
- The cost of upgrading to a **Specialty Certificate of Registration**, currently \$75, will be waived.
- The cost for **Authorization to Self-initiate**, which is currently \$75, will be waived.

These fee changes will come into effect on April 1, 2023. If you have any questions regarding these items, please feel free to contact the CDHO Practice Advisors.

The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada or Le Parcours : Votre voyage au sein du Canada autochtone

As you will be aware, Canada, through its government, organizations and some individuals, has a horrifying, disturbing history of abuse of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples and communities. In recent news, we have learned, and we continue to learn, of the discovery of thousands of unmarked graves at the sites of former residential schools in Canada. This is a dark and shameful aspect of Canada's history. It is estimated that at least 150,000 First Nations, Métis, and Inuit children were taken from their homes and communities and placed in the residential school system. In 2015, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) described residential schools as “a systematic, government-sponsored attempt to destroy Aboriginal cultures and languages and to assimilate Aboriginal peoples so that they no longer existed as distinct peoples.”

The [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action](#) contains a resounding call, either implied or explicit, for the need for all Canadians to educate themselves about this history and the lives of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people who live on this land we call Canada. Naomi Sayer, an Ontario-based Indigenous lawyer states that reconciliation is both a “collective and personal process that every

Canadian can and should participate in” and “includes learning about the history and developing an understanding of how this history has shaped the experiences of Canada’s Indigenous peoples”. Justice Murray Sinclair, Chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission from 2009 to 2015 said that “Reconciliation is about forging and maintaining respectful relationships. There are no shortcuts.”

The Council and staff of the CDHO take its responsibilities and obligations regarding Truth and Reconciliation very seriously. Council and College staff are engaged in activities that support learning and understanding of the lives and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada. As an organization, the CDHO also has a responsibility to engage in its own Reconciliation journey. As part of this organization-led journey, the College is supporting the education of Registered Dental Hygienists in the lives and experiences of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit people in Canada by providing free access to the NVision course: ***The Path: Your Journey Through Indigenous Canada*** or ***Le Parcours : Votre voyage au sein du Canada autochtone***.

As an indication of the commitment of the CDHO to its own responsibility in the broader Reconciliation process, the cost of this course will be assumed by the College for all CDHO Registered Dental Hygienists. Completion of this course will be educative and assist RDHs in a way that positively impacts their practices. Making this course available during a time when QA program requirements are somewhat reduced seemed like good timing and completion of this course certainly will count toward your QA requirements. In keeping with the significance and weight of the Reconciliation process, we had discussed making completion of this course a mandatory QA requirement. However, in the spirit of collaboration, your participation is **strongly** recommended.

Reconciliation is a process, and like a journey, it has a beginning. We are very pleased to join with you in this process by providing you with this educational opportunity.

All of these items – fee changes and access to **The Path/Le Parcours** will become available at the beginning of **April 2023**. We will provide you with further access and administrative details in the near future, but we wanted to inform you of these opportunities as you planned your future Continuing Professional Development activities.

Thanks again to all of you who support the continuing health of the people of Ontario. It continues to be such a privilege for me to work with such a group of inspiring, committed health care professionals, the Council and Committees of the CDHO, and the amazing group of individuals who are members of the CDHO team!

Dr. Glenn Pettifer
Registrar/CEO

NOTICE TO THE PROFESSION: SIMREN SAHOTA

Please be advised that Ms. Simren Sahota is not a member of the College and is not authorized to practise as a dental hygienist in Ontario. If you are aware of this individual working as a dental hygienist, please notify the College by contacting complaints@cdho.org.

As a reminder, employers should verify the credentials of dental hygienist employees using the [College’s Public Register](#). Even when using a dental recruitment service or temporary agency, employers should ensure that the candidate is appropriately registered with the College and able to practise as a dental hygienist in Ontario, as not all such agencies perform these checks.

SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE

Please note that we will be working on IT upgrades and our website will be offline from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on March 4th. Thank you for your patience.

WE ARE ON INSTAGRAM – GIVE US A FOLLOW!

Follow us on Instagram to stay up to date!

You can find us via our handle [@cdho_ohdo](#) or this [link](#).



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