



CDHA congratulates New Brunswick dental hygienists on self regulation

Ottawa, 2 June 2009 — The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association congratulates New Brunswick dental hygienists on the move to professional self regulation. On 22 May 2009, the Legislative Assembly passed *Bill 29*, which sets out provisions to establish the New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists. The College will ensure safe dental hygiene practice by regulating, licensing and disciplining New Brunswick’s dental hygiene professionals.

The new legislation also permits self initiated dental hygiene practice. This will allow qualified dental hygienists to provide dental hygiene care in various practice settings such as facilities, hospitals, community health centres, and other settings without the need for a dentist’s involvement. The new legislation will ensure greater access to quality dental hygiene care to all New Brunswickers, especially marginalized and underserved populations. Using portable instruments within mobile clinics, dental hygienists will be able to address the critical need to provide oral care to vulnerable populations in remote and rural communities.

“I am delighted that my neighboring province is removing unnecessary barriers to practice,” said CDHA President Wanda Fedora, who is from Nova Scotia. “With this new legislation in place, the New Brunswick public will benefit from increased access, accountability, and quality of care. More people will now be screened and treated for oral health problems that may have a direct impact on their overall health.”

Dental hygienists in New Brunswick join the ranks of other self regulated professionals, such as nurses, physiotherapists, and pharmacists. New Brunswick’s legislation is now in line with Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia in the self regulation of dental hygienists.

“CDHA looks forward to working together with the New Brunswick College of Dental Hygienists to serve the public and their members,” Ms. Fedora stated.

To learn more about the dental hygiene profession and oral health, visit the CDHA website at www.cdha.ca.

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