Rural and Remote Oral Care



Rural and remote communities have higher rates of oral disease, which can lead to serious health conditions. As a result, many people must be transported from their communities to urban centres where more costly and invasive treatments are provided. For these populations, the model is to bring people to treatment, rather than treatment to people.

Health human resources are a cornerstone of comprehensive health care for all populations. The government has taken steps to attract and retain some health care providers, such as nurses and doctors, to rural and remote communities, but dental care still needs to be addressed. Student loan forgiveness programs and tax subsidies are good economic incentives that should be extended to other health care providers, including dental hygienists, in order to optimize access to care.

What you can do!

The next government must take action to include dental hygienists in existing incentive programs to attract health care professionals to rural and remote communities.

These would include:

- Grants, scholarships, and bursaries in exchange for 3- or 4-year return-of-service commitments to work in underserved communities
- Student loan forgiveness for service commitments in underserved communities
- Wage incentives or tax credits for practising in remote areas

© 2015 CDHA | ACHD - If you would like to reproduce or reprint this document visit www.cdha.ca/copyright

CDHA ACHD
THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES
www.cdha.ca