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Media Release

Canada's Dental Hygienists Elect New President

October 7, 2014 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is pleased to announce the installation of its new president, Mandy Hayre, at its recent annual general meeting in Moncton, New Brunswick. Mandy hails from British Columbia and joins president-elect Donna Scott (Yukon, Nunavut, Northwest Territories) and directors Gerry Cool (Alberta), Janel Parkinson (Saskatchewan), Mary Bertone (past president, Manitoba), Sandy Lawlor (Ontario), Sophia Baltzis (Quebec), Joanne Noye (Nova Scotia), Tracy Bowser (Prince Edward Island), Tiffany Ludwicki (Newfoundland & Labrador), and Wendy Taylor (New Brunswick) on CDHA's board for 2014–2015.

Mandy brings a wealth of clinical, educational, and administrative experience to the position of president. Since her graduation from the College of New Caledonia in 1991, Mandy has practised in a variety of settings, including general and periodontal offices, a long-term care facility, a hospital, and her own dental hygiene office. At the same time, she was able to further her education, completing a Provincial Instructor Diploma at Vancouver Community College, a Bachelor of Dental Science degree at the University of British Columbia, and a Master of Education degree at the University of Victoria. She launched a dental hygiene diploma program at Vancouver Island University, serving as its chair for the first six years, and is currently the chair of dental programs at Camosun College in Victoria.

Mandy's desire to give back to the dental hygiene profession is evident from the many local, provincial, national, and international bodies on which she serves. She is a steering committee member for the first low-cost dental clinic in the Upper Vancouver Island area; a clinical examiner, investigator, and mentor for the College of Dental Hygienists of British Columbia; a site surveyor for the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada; an exam committee member for the National Dental Hygiene Certification Board; and a delegate to the International Federation of Dental Hygienists. "I feel so privileged to be a part of the dental hygiene profession," she remarks, adding, "There is nothing that I enjoy more than being able to contribute to its continued growth and maturation. As president, I hope to ignite conversations with other health professions about the interdisciplinary opportunities that exist among us, to the benefit of our members and the Canadian public."

Serving the profession since 1963, CDHA is the collective national voice of more than 26,800 registered dental hygienists working in Canada, directly representing 17,000 individual members including dental hygienists and students. Dental hygiene is the sixth largest registered health profession in Canada with professionals working in a variety of settings, including independent practice, with people of all ages, addressing issues related to oral health. For more information on oral health, visit: www.dentalhygienecanada.ca.

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