



THE CANADIAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS ASSOCIATION
L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DES HYGIÉNISTES DENTAIRES

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August 14, 2008

Ms. Salme Lavigne, RDH, Dip. DH, B.A., M.S. (DH)
Director, Dental Hygiene
D35 Dental Building
780 Bannatyne
Winnipeg, MB
Canada,
R3E 0W2
Sent by e-mail to: Salme_Lavigne@umanitoba.ca

Dear Ms. Lavigne,

The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) strongly supports the work that you are undertaking to develop a dental hygiene baccalaureate degree program at the University of Manitoba. CDHA's *Policy Framework for Dental Hygiene Education (2000)* reports that a baccalaureate degree has the potential to respond to an expanding body of dental hygiene theory, changing demographics and oral disease patterns, and the increasing need for quality oral health services. CDHA stands firmly behind the goal of developing a baccalaureate degree, as we believe that dental hygiene education must evolve to meet the needs of the students, the dental hygiene profession, and the public.

Several recent events mark a significant growing interest by dental hygienists in the area of research. Presently at UBC, more than 50% of the Masters of Dental Science students hold a baccalaureate degree in dental hygiene. In 2003, the CDHA developed an inaugural *Dental Hygiene Research Agenda*, and in 2004 the new Canadian Foundation for Dental Hygiene Research and Education was launched. The Foundation awarded research funding for the past four years and in 2008 a new Masters award for dental hygiene students was announced. In September 2008, CDHA will release a new document for consultation called *Dental Hygiene at a Crossroads: Knowledge Creation and Capacity Building in*

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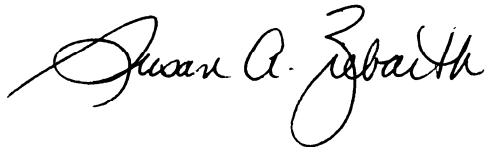
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the 21 Century. This document calls for an urgent need to increase the availability of degree programs and post-graduate education opportunities with a research focus in order to support a growing research agenda.

The Baccalaureate degree at the University of Manitoba will provide increased opportunities for students to gain knowledge and skills which will prepare them to be involved in graduate research. This will support the profession and ultimately lead to improved oral health for Canadians.

In closing, we wish you all the best in your development of this important baccalaureate degree. Please do not hesitate to contact us, should there be anything that we can assist with.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan A. Ziebarth". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Susan" and last name "Ziebarth" clearly legible.

Susan Ziebarth, BSc, MHA, CHE
Executive Director

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