



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

For immediate release (Offert en français sur demande)

## Media Release

### Canadian Dental Hygienists Celebrate Excellence

October 9, 2019 (Ottawa, ON) — The Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) is proud to recognize several individuals for their outstanding contributions to the dental hygiene profession, the national association, research, and knowledge translation. "Our 2019 award winners have achieved much in their professional and personal lives," notes Leanne Huvenaars, CDHA president. "We are thrilled to celebrate their efforts with our annual awards."

The recipient of this year's CDHA Life Membership Award is Dr. Sharon M Compton, professor and director of the dental hygiene program at the University of Alberta. The recipient of this year's CDHA Distinguished Service Award is Cindy Fletcher, former executive director of the British Columbia Dental Hygienists' Association.

The winners of the 2019 *Canadian Journal of Dental Hygiene* (CJDH) Research Award for best original research article are Salima Thawer, Congshi Shi, Cynthia Weijs, and Lindsay McLaren for their article, "Exploring reported dental hygiene practice adaptations in response to water fluoridation status." The winners of the 2019 CJDH Research Award for best literature review are Dana E Belinski and Zul Kanji for their article, "Intersections between clinical dental hygiene education and perceived practice barriers." This year's *Oh Canada!* Readers' Choice Award recipient is Christine Fambely for her article, "Paying It Forward. Part Two: Special Olympics." Lastly, Ashley Chicote, a dental hygiene student at the University of British Columbia, is the recipient of the CJDH Student Essay Award for her essay, "Care aide abilities in oral care delivery and seniors' oral health outcomes."

These awards were presented at a luncheon on October 5 in St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador, during CDHA's biennial national conference. The event also recognized the winners of the second Dental Hygiene Superhero competition: Canada's newest dental hygiene superhero, Dianna Major, and runners-up Bev Woods and Shivvon Hayles.

CDHA is the collective national voice of more than 29,549 dental hygienists in Canada, directly representing 20,000 individual members, including students. Since 1963, CDHA has worked to advance the profession and promote the importance of oral health. Dental hygiene is the sixth largest registered health profession in Canada with professionals working in a variety of settings, including independent dental hygiene practice, with people of all ages, addressing issues related to oral health. For more information on oral health, visit: [www.dentalhygienecanada.ca](http://www.dentalhygienecanada.ca).

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