



**Important
Survey for
RDA's**

**A Message
from Manitoba's
Rep on the
CDAA**



**President's
Message**

**New hire at the
MDAA Office**

**RDA of the Month
Winners**

**Kristina Velasco
(January 2022)
Denise Krebs
(February 2022)
Aisley Bautista
(March 2022)**

***The Winner
\$100 Gift Card
Courtesy
of Maxident !!!***

MDAA Presidents Message.....	3
Welcome the new staff member.....	4
RDA of the Month	
Kristina Velasco (January 2022)	5
Denise Krebs (February 2022).....	6
Aisley Bautista (March 2022).....	7
MDAA Awards.....	8
Canadian Dental Assistant's Association; Manitoba's Rep.....	9
CDAA Survey re. Mental Health.....	10
MDAA correction	12
MDA e alert - New President.....	13
HUB.....	14
Canadalife Center (code and discounts for MDAA Members).....	15
Some levity.....	16

Spring Newsletter 2022

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association Spring Newsletter

Hello fellow RDA members! Happy Spring! Well, as I sit and write this, we have been having a potential week of rain just after it was such a nice, beautiful Mothers Day weekend. I do not know about you all but I for one am excited to start planning for camping season, enjoying some fun fireside evenings. I would like to acknowledge that this newsletter is normally out a bit earlier but due to demands in the office we are sending out a bit late.

Life in this world right now is such a difficult time. There are still the lingering challenges and affects with Covid and the explosion of people around us being sick with it. There is also a life changing event that is so impactful on the world; the war that is happening. Some of us may have a direct or indirect connection to people in the Ukraine, I feel so sad watching the devastating affects that are happening. I find it surreal to think we are over here complaining about some snow or rain that is slowing us down as people lose their homes, families, life, and men to a war that seems so wrong. I cannot imagine trying to escape with the knowledge that your spouse, brother, dad, or son must stay and fight for your country. It seems such an unimaginable time and experience for us who cannot relate to these challenges.

We have had a few things that have happened in the last few weeks, the MDA convention I feel was successful and it was great to see people come by and ask questions or express interest in concepts or ideas. It is important to hear these comments as we need voices to make some noise. We had a new person at the booth if anyone noticed; our new CEO.

On that note it is my pleasure to introduce our new Chief Executive Officer, Duncan Stokes. He comes with an elaborate history of relative experience that I believe will support the MDAA members and the board goals and planning. He comes with extensive history relating to board and non-profit experience. He has managed to jump into the position with little guidance during a very busy time as we prepare for our April Continuing education and annual General meeting. There have been some slight delays in our communication to the members regarding the details and organization for the CE/AGM and we appreciate your patience as we adjust accordingly with Duncan and his duties, although he has done an excellent job managing the required details. I will take a moment to acknowledge the AGM was seemingly quite disorganized. It is a challenge as we navigate this virtual world, and this year with the addition of a new employee it presented some new challenges that I had to navigate, not very well I might add. I want to thank everyone for hanging in there, next year we will do better and learn some new tricks to maneuver through the virtual meeting.

I want to take a minute and encourage everyone to try something different this summer, try somewhere new to go maybe a new beach or park. Rent a bike and cruise the forks or find something else fun and new! There are many things to try in Manitoba with Travel Manitoba offering discounts for Manitobans.

[Home \(tripmb.ca\)](http://tripmb.ca)

Also watch for details regarding special celebrations after summer for the RDA's, we are always looking for ways to enhance our membership.

Lastly, please remember to fill out the MDAA survey that was delivered in the MDA registration package and send it back to us in the self-addressed stamped envelope. These details can assist in our assessment of what needs to change in our province regarding Registered Dental Assistants in Manitoba.

Spring Newsletter 2022

Hello. I wanted to take a couple minutes of your time to introduce myself to you. My name is Duncan Stokes. In late March of this year, I my duties as the staff person at the Manitoba Dental Assistant's Association office in Winnipeg.

I have several years experience in non-profit management, combined with many more working in communications and marketing. My career has included 20 years as a radio broadcaster (Thompson, Dryden, ON and Winnipeg), terms managing the Snowmobilers of Manitoba (Snoman Inc.), and the Manitoba Eco-Network offices, as well as experience in the communications and marketing departments at Winnipeg Harvest (now Harvest Manitoba) and the MS Society of Canada (MB Division).

I embrace the challenge of managing the MDAA office and hope to utilize my talents and experience to help the association any way I possibly can.

In my spare time, I am a father, grandfather, son, brother and uncle among many other titles. I consider myself a 'sports junkie', especially for Winnipeg's Jets, Blue Bombers and Goldeyes, as well as Valour FC. I am fascinated by animals, especially apes. I count dog and cat rescues as part of my family.

I was born, raised and have spent most of my life living and working in Winnipeg, I love the city. The mosquitoes, the extremes of hot/cold weather and even the jokes about Winnipeg are things I take in stride.

I look forward to meeting you.

Prepared by Duncan M. Stokes



Kristina Velasco

Starting our year off for 2022 for our RDA of the month is Kristina Velasco. With so much going on in the world and so many things different than we know or are used to, one thing is for certain, RDAs will always be an integral part of the dental team that we are happy to recognize anytime we can!

Kristina is an alumni of CDI college completing her education and training there graduating in 2017. You will presently find Kristina at City Place Dental where she keeps the office in order and helps others without hesitation. Always looking to expand her knowledge of the industry she loves to learn new things in the field of dentistry. Kristina passes this knowledge along as she enjoys educating and creating a positive experience for patients.

When not at the office Kristina enjoys boxing, video games and spending time with her dog Ryu (as pictured above). We could not mention Kristina's interests without mentioning BTS she is "the biggest BTS fan you will ever meet".

Denise Krebs

"My work friends I have made over the years have become like family, supportive and caring as we journey through life together"

In the chilly and oh so snowy month of February we recognize Denise Krebs for being a long time and exceptional RDA!

Denise's has been an RDA for an amazing 39 years! After attending Providence College for a year Denise's love for working and helping people lead her to Dental Assisting.

Upon graduation in 1983 she started her career with Dr. Marty Greenfeld, whom she worked with full time for 10 years, and many additional years part time. She is extremely grateful to Dr. Greenfeld whom she says "taught me to not only be the best Dental Assistant but pushed and challenged me and taught me life lessons, that I am ever grateful for"

Denise left private practice after the birth of her son Brayden in 1993. Finding a change in circumstances she found herself returning back to the work force. Asked by one of her instructors (Joanne Shields) if she would like to work at the Dental College, Denise accepted the offer and 29 years later you can still find her there! Working at the college, Denise found a diversity in jobs where "it has never been boring". She credits the diversity of the different jobs with being able to grow and learn new skills as not only as an RDA but in life. Working in many different departments she has had the opportunity to "meet many great patients student, and staff over the years"

In her spare time Denise enjoys working out, running, cycling , skiing, baking, watching sports, traveling and taking sunset pictures. She has even opened her home to help Ko-

Aisley Bautista

As the harsh winter came to an end and we embrace the Spring, how perfect that our RDA of the Month for March would be one of our newer RDAs.

New to the industry and already making an impression Aisley began her dental assisting career following her practicum as a Phase II Dental Assistant in May of 2021. She started at Grand Smiles Dental in July 2021. Aisley's co-workers say she "loves working with the people and making them feel comfortable while in our office".

In her spare time, she enjoys time with her family, skating on the river at The Forks, traveling abroad and baking.

Aisley's co-workers are so excited to see her as the MDAA's RDA of the month. They "love to see her smiling face" and say it is "truly a pleasure to work with her every day".

Congratulations Aisley on winning a \$100 Gift Card courtesy of Maxident!

maxident
PRACTICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE



The Manitoba Dental Assistant's Association is pleased to continue with its Annual Awards.

The MDAA will again be presenting two monetary awards to deserving recipients.

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association Dependant Award

A \$500.00 award to one dependent of a Registered Dental Assistant, who is in good standing with the Manitoba Dental Association, to a post-secondary educational institution that they are currently registered in to further their education

Registered Dental Assistant Continuing Education Award

A \$300.00 award to a Registered Dental Assistant in good standing with the Manitoba Dental Association for Continuing Education in a field of their choosing.

As the MDAA Representative to the CDAA I would like to report on what has been happening with CDAA this spring.

In early March CDAA participated in a working group with the CDA on a Grant Proposal to the Department of Employment and Social Development's under the Sectoral Workforce Solutions Program (SWSP). The CDA is seeking grant monies to work on initiatives with CDAA to deal with workplace issues that Registered Dental Assistants are having across Canada. CDAA has recently participated in briefing sessions with members of parliament to express our opinions on these issues and we are waiting to see if CDA will be approved for the Grant. If CDA does get approval CDAA is looking forward to working collaboratively with CDA on these issues.

In April CDAA sent two briefs one to the HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES, SKILLS AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND THE STATUS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (**HUMA**) regarding CDAA's position on Labour Shortages, Working Conditions and Care Economy and another one to the HOUSE OF COMMONS STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH (**HESA**) regarding CDAA's position on the Canada's Health Workforce. In both briefs CDAA is advocating for the importance of having formally trained/certified RDA's as oral health professional to offer many services that can contribute to improving the oral health of Canadians.

In May CDAA sent a letter to the Minister of Health, The Honorable Jean-Yves Duclos, P.C., M.P. stating CDAA's perspective on the issues facing Canada's Health workforce and those issues impacting the provision of oral healthcare to Canadians. In the letter we expressed concerns we have regarding such issues as the uneven regulatory landscape for RDAs across Canada, barriers facing disabled Canadians accessing oral healthcare, the impact Covid 19 has had on the RDA workforce, the importance of making the new Federal Oral Health Program as barrier free as possible and including RDA in delivery of Oral Health Care in Long Term Care Home.

CDAA will be meeting in person June 10th and 11th in Ottawa, Ontario for our Annual AGM.

If anyone has any questions regarding CDAA or is interesting in participating as a member at large on any of the standing committees we have please contact me through the MDAA office at anytime.

Respectfully submitted
Heather Brownlee RDA



Examining the Mental Health Status of Dental Assistants in Canada Introductory Letter

Dear Dental Assistants:

The Canadian Dental Assistants' Association (CDAA) would like to invite you to participate in a national study that examines mental health and the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our members. As essential health care workers, providing service to Canadians during the pandemic, dental assistants are uniquely placed to assess the impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on their mental health.

In mid-2021, the CDAA became a knowledge user partner for the Health Professionals Workforce Partnership proposal to address health worker burnout. Building on this initial phase, the HPWP will utilize a grant received from the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) to create a toolkit of interventions aimed not only at the individual, but at the team and organizational levels to address the factors causing or exacerbating burnout and mental health followed by an evaluation of a customized approach. This project, entitled: *Addressing the Harms of COVID-19 on the Health of the Canadian Health Workforce* will require data from each of the participating professions. As a collaborator on this project, and a member of the Advisory Committee, the CDAA will need to provide critical insights and develop tools that will address the needs of dental assistants. This survey will assist the CDAA in completing the work on the *Addressing the Harms of COVID-19 on the Health of the Canadian Health Workforce* project over the coming two years.

Purpose: Inviting members from the CDAA, this study will gauge and compare the level and impact of mental health issues, including stress and burnout, as well as mental illness of dental assistants within the Canadian health care system.

We would like to determine and examine the current state of mental health in our profession and provide insight and opportunities for future initiatives.

This study is intended only for those individuals who have reached the age of majority in their province of residence at the time they participate in the survey.

The study is accessible in both official languages from May 12 – June 6, 2022 at midnight EST at the following links:

English survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FPNWHDP>

French survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P7Y9R6V>

Time: The survey will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You will be asked questions on different rating scales regarding your current mental health (e.g., stress, burnout mental health issues, psychological distress) and your quality of work-life (e.g., stressors, satisfaction).

Confidentiality: You will be participating in this study **confidentially**. All the information provided can be considered anonymous and will be aggregated for dissemination purposes. We will not ask you to provide personal or workplace identifiable information.



Benefits: Although you may not personally benefit from participation, other than having your opinion heard, your responses will provide valuable information. It is anticipated that the study results will provide future benefits to participants by identifying the impact work environments have on mental health, which may support initiatives helping to relieve workplace burden. The information from this study will also support members from all organizations in understanding the mental health challenges facing our profession. The study results will be made publicly available.

There will be no incentive or remuneration provided to individuals participating in the study.

Risks: As this study does not collect personal identifiers and does not require in-depth discussion of a sensitive topic, there is minimal risk to participants. It is possible you may feel some psychological discomfort in filling out the survey as questions relating to your mental health status will be asked. You have the option to withdraw from completing this survey at any time by selecting the 'Exit' button at the top right-hand side of the survey screen. You may also skip any question you wish not to answer and continue with the remaining questions. However, as you will not be identifiable in the survey results, the investigators will not be able to remove any information provided after the survey is closed. Should you continue to feel discomfort, please contact your local health care services for support.

Please note that the online survey tool used in the study, SurveyMonkey, is hosted by a server located in the USA. The US Patriot Act permits U.S. law enforcement officials, for the specific purpose of anti-terrorism investigations, to seek a court order that allows access to the personal records of any person without the person's knowledge. In view of this we cannot absolutely guarantee the full confidentiality and anonymity of your data. With your consent to participate in this study, you acknowledge this.

Contact: Should you have any questions regarding the study itself, please contact Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh, Executive Director, CDAA at skavanagh@cdaa.ca.

By participating in this survey, it is assumed you fully understand the study and consent to participate. While your identity will remain anonymous throughout the data collected in this project, it is assumed you consent to the use of your responses in this study.

Your colleagues in oral health and overall health, on behalf of the CDAA Board of Directors,

Dianne Hennig, OSTJ RDA MFR
President
CDAA

Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh
Executive Director
CDAA



CORRECTION

Earlier this year, the Manitoba Dental Assistant's Association sent out an e-Blast offering some clarity regarding the Scope of Practice,. If you didn't receive it, or didn't have a chance to read it, the following is worth repeating.

Earlier this year, the MDAA office sent out a notice regarding the "Scope of Practice".

It had been updated in 2016. That was not reflected on our website at that time.

The MDAA has since changed our website to show the accurate information.

The MDAA regrets that error and apologizes for any confusion our oversight may have caused.

See the link below for accurate details of the bylaw for Registration and Certification of Dental Assistants.

[Click here](#)



Dr. Thomas S. Colina

On January 28th, 2021 the Manitoba Dental Association elected Dr. Tom Colina as its 98th President.

Tom Colina attended Brandon University for pre-requisite courses in dentistry between 1983 -1985. He received his Doctor of Dental Medicine (D.M.D.) degree from the University of Manitoba in 1989. His special interest in treating pain patients has led to him to pursue knowledge and complete a

Master of Science degree in Orofacial Pain and Oral Medicine from the University of Southern California and a Fellowship with the American Academy of Craniofacial Pain. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Dental Sleep Medicine.

With the belief that the best way to learn is to teach a subject matter, Tom has been a part time faculty member at the Dr. Gerald Niznick College of Dentistry, University of Manitoba since 2003. He lends assistance in the Temporomandibular Disorder Clinic and the Sleep Disorder Clinic as well as provide didactic lectures to dental and dental hygiene students on the subjects of comprehensive dentistry, orofacial pain, oral medicine and oral pathology.

For the Manitoba Dental Association, he has served as a member of the Communications Committee, Peer Review Committee, Governance & Nominations Committee, and as consistent Chair for the Open Wide Clinic (the initiative that sees the Manitoba Dentists collaborate with UM Dental School to provide a day of free dentistry to those who cannot routinely afford dental services) Organizing Committee. He has been involved in past biennial MDA All Dentist Musical productions, having played the roles of Audrey II in Little Shop of Horrors, Nicely Nicely Johnson in Guys and Dolls, and Fester in The Addams Family.

Tom's community engagement has involved serving as Project Manager (2010-12) for the elder abuse awareness program called Innovative Cultural Approaches in the Prevention of Elder Abuse, a federally funded regional program under the New Horizons for Seniors, an arm of the Human Resources and Skills Development Department of the Canadian Government. For the past provincial government, he was the Chair (2011-14) of the Manitoba Ethnocultural Advisory and Advocacy Council which had the mandate of advocating on behalf of the ethnocultural communities in Manitoba and providing information, advice, and recommendations to the then Minister Responsible for Multiculturalism. He has been involved or has led dental humanitarian missions to Peru, the Philippines, Guatemala, and Zimbabwe.

His free time is spent at the lake cottage fishing, foraging for mushrooms, and self-reflecting in peace and quiet. Tom is married to Sharon, and has two children, Alana and Nicholas.

Tom looks forward to the new experiences and challenges that the upcoming year will

Exclusively tailored to MDAA Members!!

HUB Suite of Discounts

Save with HUB's Digital Marketplace

As a valued member of the **Manitoba Dental Assistants Association**, you are eligible for a voluntary benefits program including special deals not available to the general public.

Your member benefits provider is HUB International. HUB's member clients have access to HUB's Digital Marketplace, an exclusive portal to a world full of discounts that pays to explore. It includes:

- Exclusive deals, cash-back rewards and free shipping on electronics, home improvement items, clothing, hotels, car rentals, gyms, pet care and more.
- A wide array of products with brand names you know and trust.
- HUB's Property, Health and Travel Insurance programs created just for us. It's your direct path to insurers not readily available to the public and possibly even more savings!

Getting on board is easy. Just click to register for free. We invite you to check out all the benefits, protection and savings at your fingertips. If you like what you see, take advantage!

[Click here](#)

canada
centre

life

Exclusive MDAA Discounts

Your MDAA assigned password for all events is
MDAA1

- Click the event you want to attend
- Click Filters – select the discount indicated in your offer
- Enter Password - and Click the Unlock

[Click Here for Event Information](#)



HA HA HA

