



MDAA

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

WINTER

RDA of the Month

President's Message

Award Winner

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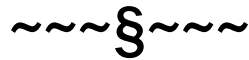
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“To advance the careers of dental assistants in Manitoba, and to promote the dental assisting profession in matters of education and professional activities that enhance the delivery of quality dental healthcare to the public.”

President's Message



MDAA President Trina Bourgeois

Well November and December have been a crazy weather ride! From a not bad fall to WTH is this nasty cold! I guess this is what we live in here, and really, I guess it is better than living with floods, hurricanes, and other weather-related issues. We choose to live in this beautiful multi-season province and must appreciate what comes "weather" we like it or not!

The MDAA BOD has been busy with planning, celebrating, and supporting our members. We had our Continuing Education session in October with our ever-favorite Kathy Purves speaking on the new IPAC document to be implemented in January of 2023; her sessions are always well received. This was followed by a session with Dr. Robert

Kaufmann speaking on Radiograph education and techniques in Endodontics and general practice. The membership attendance has increased with the virtual option, and we really appreciate the ability to reach our rural members.

In November the MDAA hosted a Family Fun Day skate at Billy Mosienko arena which was supported by Drs. Scherle and Vint. It was a day to celebrate and support our members and we offered hot chocolate, coffee, and some fun sweet treats of cupcakes and tooth cookies. Some of us dusted off the old blades for a cruise around the ice. It was not as attended as we would have hoped. We welcome the MDAA members to send us a note anytime with any comments or possible suggestions of what we could offer to "celebrate our members". This could be sent to mdaa@mdaa.ca with subject "requests".

I would like to remind all the registered dental assistants that we are still offering the RDA of the Month and hope that you will *support and celebrate your RDA staff* and nominate them for RDA of the month. It is very easy and the details are on our website but all you need is a short bio (paragraph or two) and a photo which can be sent to email mdaa@mdaa.ca; we do the rest, and the monthly draw is shared on our website and the winner receives a GC then has a chance to win more great GC prizes.

Between the MDAA and CDAA the associations have been busy identifying details within the memberships gathering information in different surveys regarding Mental Health and wage details. There have been many comments and data acquired and will be used to identify areas of need within the dental assistant community. Please take the time to fill out any surveys that come your way, these help guide the associations in the needs of the members.

Enjoy the Winter season and all its celebrations, enjoy the beautiful winter and its offering before it gets to frigidly cold! Ohh wait too late!

Happy Holidays to all, however that may be celebrated.

Trina Bourgeois

President of the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association



CDAA President Heather Brownlee

Hello dental assisting colleagues!

As CDAA President, I reluctantly inform our members of the resignation of our Executive Director Stephanie Mullen-Kavanagh in late August of this year. Stephanie has been such a positive addition to the CDAA National office advocating tirelessly for RDAs across Canada and internationally for the last 8 years. The CDAA Board of Directors and Organizational Members want to express our greatest thank you to Stephanie for all she has done for the CDAA. I am positive we will continue all her work on the various committees she has served on with our new Executive Director. CDAA struck a hiring committee in late October, and we are diligently working on announcing a new Executive Director to start in 2023.

In September, I was interviewed by Sierra Bellows from the CDA Essentials Journal for an article from a Dental Assistant's perspective on the challenges facing the dental assisting workforce today. You may access the article [here](#)

On September 27th CDAA launched with our partners ProLink Insurance and Industrial Alliance Insurance, a unique offer exclusive for CDAA member dental assistants and their families the opportunity to buy up to \$50,000 of critical illness insurance with no medical questions – their acceptance was guaranteed. In addition, members could buy up to \$10,000 of coverage for their children. I am pleased to announce that we had a remarkably successful campaign.

At the beginning of October, the CDAA launched the CDAA 2022 Job Market, Compensation and Benefit Survey. Thank you to all that participated. Without your input, collection of data used to advocate for RDAs is not possible on a national or a provincial level. CDAA is currently working on tabulating all the data and results will be released to the stakeholders in the first quarter of the new year.

In early October, Dianne Henning, Past CDAA President and myself took part in round table discussions with the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS brings together Canada's top-ranked health and biomedical researchers and scholars to work on on-going and urgent health concerns of Canadians) to generate ideas on how to implement some leading health human resources (HHR) policy practices and initiatives, and identify which of these may be most effective and feasible within the Canadian context. The full results of the consultations will be released in the spring of 2023 on their website.

On October 6 on and December 5, 2022, I virtually attended meetings as the CDAA representative to the Organization for Health Action (HEAL). HEAL continues to advocate for fair treatment and support for the Canadian health sector. In October, HEAL launched an HR survey with all 40 organizations members with specific focus on steps to improve retention within the healthcare sector. A summary of the results was presented to the federal Minister of Health, Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos at a meeting in Ottawa along with some formal questions brought forward by HEAL stakeholders.

As many of you are aware on December 1, 2022, the government of Canada launched the first stage of the CANADA DENTAL BENEFIT. On October 18th, I attended a meeting on behalf of the CDAA Health Canada officials, the Chief Dental Officer of Canada, and officials from the Canada Revenue Agency explaining the legislation and how the benefit will work.

On October 27th CDAA sent a brief to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Health (HESA) in response to HESA's study on children's health, outlining our position on the importance of oral health in the advancement of children's overall health and how dental assistants are an untapped resource that could be used in daycares and schools to provide nutritional instruction and proper toothbrushing techniques to elementary school children.

November 14th and 15th I attended an in-person meeting in Ottawa as the CDAA representative to the Canadian Oral Health Policy Lab presented by the Alliance for a Cavity Free Future. The mission of the event was to explore what else is needed in terms of investments or other conditions to maximize caries prevention and care among infants and children, given recent developments in oral health care policy and practice in Canada and internationally. The lab was also attended by public health dentists, hygienists, nurses, researchers, and other stakeholders interested in creating a platform to deliver preventive dental care as opposed to the traditional drill and fill concept.

On November 30th CDAA was invited to attend a HEALTH MINISTER SPECIAL EVENT hosted by Minister of Health, Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos on the recent launch of the CANADIAN DENTAL BENEFITS program relating to children's oral health care. Manitoba Board Representative, Tabatha Blais, attended this event on behalf of the CDAA. She was asked questions from a dental assistant's perspective about children's oral health care and what direction future policy on this should take.

On December 14th CDAA will participate in a round table discussion hosted by Minister of Health Mr. Jean-Yves Duclos to discuss how to realize improvements to the oral health of Canadians. The CDAA will join our colleagues from the Canadian Dentist Association, Canadian Dental Hygienist Association, and the Denturist Association of Canada at this important discussion. CDAA looks forward to bringing you updates from these ministerial discussions over the coming months.

CDAA continues to advocate for Dental Assistants across Canada, but we do need your support and participation to do so effectively. CDAA is always recruiting DAs to serve on our many CDAA sub-committees. If anyone is interested in taking part in one of our committees at the national level, please contact us at info@cdaa.ca or skavanagh@cdaa.ca anytime for more information.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding CDAA you may contact me at hbdocuments@shaw.ca.

I would like to wish all our members a **WONDERFUL, HEALTHY AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AND ALL THE BEST TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES IN 2023.**

Heather Brownlee, RDA
CDAA President, 2022-23



Canada Dental Benefit

The interim Canada Dental Benefit is intended to help lower dental costs for eligible families earning less than \$90,000 per year. Parents and guardians can apply if the child receiving dental care is under 12 years old and does not have access to a private dental insurance plan.

Source

<https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/services/child-family-benefits/dental-benefit.html> (accessed December 5, 2022)

Important Update - The Canada Dental Benefit



A Message from MDA President Dr. Tom Colina



Dear colleague,

The interim Canadian Dental Benefit(CDB) becomes available December 01, 2022. To assist members with inquiries from the public related to the interim Canada Dental Benefit, please see below the updated FAQ's to two documents: 1. Questions the public may be asking about the CDB, and 2. Questions from our membership. Note that a link has been set up in the MDA website that the public or inquiring patients can be directed to access the FAQ's. Providing that an estimated children of 49000 Manitoba families could benefit from this initial phase of the dental plan, we recommend the dentists and dental offices prepare to see an increase in requests for paediatric visits before the end of 2022 and to early 2023.

Source: Manitoba Dental Association e-Alert, December 5, 2022

Questions MDA members may have

Questions the public may have

RDA of the Month - October



Shab Afzaly

Introducing the MDAA's RDA of the month for October 2022.

Shab is the hardest working person I know and is always ready. She communicates and cares so well for her patients and instantly makes them feel safe and comfortable!

She does all of the ordering for our office and is always on top of everything.

Her hard work does NOT go unnoticed and I appreciate her contribution to our office family.

Nominated by Whitney T

RDA of the Month - November



Jean Janzen

Jean has worked at Northgate dental centre for 30 years. Jean is always ready to lend a hand where needed. Her efficiency, reliability, and team work as well as care and concern for her patients make her a excellent example of a great dental assistant and fantastic employee /co worker.

Jean's excellent skill set and knowledge provides guidance and support to other RDA in our office.

In Jean's spare time she is an avid Bomber and Valour fan and enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

RDA of the Month - December



Alana Duncan
Academy Dental Group

Nominated by her colleague Jen, the RDA of the Month for December 2022 is Alana Duncan for RDA of the month.

Alana works at the Academy Dental Group.

Alana is the senior most assistant at the Academy Dental Group, having worked there for more than 20 years. Alana does all the ordering, works with the periodontist, knows all the ins and outs of the office, knows all the reps, and everyone goes to her for any help they need with anything!

“She's a walking encyclopedia of the office, she knows so much!” says Jen.

Do you have an RDA colleague/employee that you think is fantastic and you want everyone to know it?

[Nominate an RDA to be featured as our RDA of The Month!](#)

We will feature a brief write up and picture so we can share just how great your co-worker is for your workplace.

You can email submissions to mdaa@mdaa.ca. Please include a brief write up photo that we may feature on our website and in the MDAA newsletter.



MDAA C-E-O Duncan Stokes

From the office

Welcome to Winter! That change from Fall to Winter seemed to come in really quick.

The Continuing Education Committee is planning the next continuing education (CE) session for 2023. While details will be released at a later date, the CE session will be over Zoom once again. We recognize there are challenges we continue to work through, in order to maximize opportunities for RDA's to attend.

It has been brought to our attention that some of the RDAs on our e-Blast list are not receiving newsletters, registration notices, incentive programs and the like. I have reached out to and spoken to I-T (information technology) experts. I will continue to address those challenges. In the meantime, you might want to consider checking your junk mail routinely or adding the MDAA email address to your contacts.

In the interim, there is a page on the [MDAA website](#), that will contain notices with important announcements, (separate from the newsletters) that you can view.

I want to thank you as members of the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association. I began this position in March 2022, coming in after Heather Kinsman, who had done a great job for five years. There was/is a learning curve for me for sure. I want to say thank you for your patience as I worked through the initial months and continue to work my way through managing tasks and responsibilities into 2023.

I am excited about what may lie ahead. My professional experience working for membership-based associations has demonstrated to me that members want to make sure they are getting value. I believe there are some strong pillars in place, such as the continuing education sessions. I also believe that the awards that the MDAA offer value too. Those pillars help build that foundation helps in determining what else might be of value for members moving forward.

I also want to wish everyone a very happy holiday season and all the best in 2023. What we celebrate when we celebrate and how we celebrate may differ from person to person. I hope you all have a chance to celebrate with family, friends, loved ones...whoever is important in your life.

Holidays can also be a tough time for some people for a myriad of reasons. One of things that has stayed with me over the years is how a small act of kindness can have such a huge impact in bringing out a smile, a handshake, or a hug. If you have that chance to help someone out with a small act of kindness this holiday season, I hope you will take that chance and that you find out it's bigger than any gift you may receive. **Happy Holidays!**



Save the Date - MDA Convention 2023

April 20th - 22nd

Location - RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg

If you were a 2022 Trade Show Participant, you can still keep your Global Dental Exchange Page active through the year.

Visit the Global Dental Exchange and connect with the 2022 Trade Show Exhibitors - **Click Image below**

**GlobalDental
Exchange**

Hosted by:



wemissyoursmile.com

MDAA

Registered Dental Assistants

Continuing Educational Award

Katherine (Kat) Dilenna is this year's winner of the registered dental assistant Continuing Educational Award. Kat is a Patient Care Coordinator at University of Manitoba. **Congratulations to Kat!**

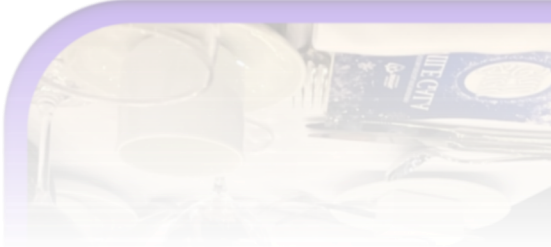


That the **MDAA offers** monetary **Education Awards**, once a year, to two deserving recipients.

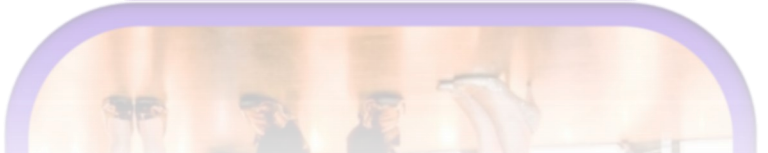
[Click here](#) to see eligibility criteria, how to apply and other questions you may have about the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association, Dependant Award **and** the Registered Dental Assistant Continuing Education Award.

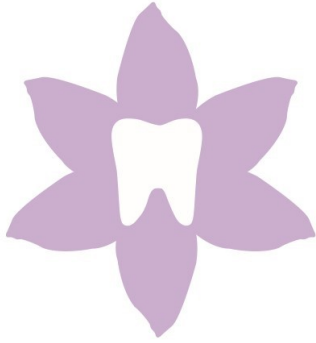


Kristen Burrige and Sunny Dhillon among the hundreds of supporters at the *Smile Gala*, in support of the **Manitoba Dental Foundation** on November 5th at the **RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg**.



MDAA Director Navroop Randhawa (right), **CEO Duncan Stokes** and **Maureen Fenwick** lend their support the **Manitoba Dental Foundation** on November 5th at the **RBC Convention Centre Winnipeg**.





MDAA

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

Who We Are

K

Trina Bourgeois

President

Heather Brownlee

President Elect

Jessica Derksen

Treasurer

C. Athena Wilford

Secretary

Tabatha Blais

Director

Marta Bhopalsingh

Director

Pam Mikos

Director

Meghan Ostlund

Director

Navroop Randhawa

Director

Duncan M. Stokes

Chief Executive Officer

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“There is no ‘I’ in team, but we are glad there is ‘U’ in volunteers.”

From the directors & staff at the
Manitoba Dental Assistants Association,
Happy Holidays!



(From left to right): MDAA president Trina Bourgeois, secretary Athena Wilford, director Meghan Ostlund.



Tabatha Blais and Logan enjoying some ice time at the
MDAA's Fall Family Fun Day at Billy Mosienko Arena.