

**ANNUAL REPORT SASKATCHEWAN DENTAL ASSISTANTS' ASSOCIATION o/a COLLEGE OF  
DENTAL ASSISTANTS OF SASKATCHEWAN  
DECEMBER 31, 2024 *fiscal year end***

**2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

President: Rikki Cooper, RDA

President Elect: Melissa Blow, RDA

Officer (in place of Past President): Shannon Elaschuk, RDA

Directors:

Karen Ritchie, RDA

Catherine Wright, RDA

Ashley Michell, RDA

Theresa Donald, RDA (Jan to Mar 2024, resigned Mar 2024)

Cordelia Patton, RDA – April 2024 (to Dec 2024; resigned Feb 2025)

Stacey Wempe, RDA (April 2024 to Dec 2024)

Jim Coulter (Public Member)

Lillian Hicks (Public Member)

Michelle Buddecke (Public Member - Aug to Oct 2024; resigned Oct 2024)

**OVERVIEW:**

Meetings:

- SDAA Council, February 10, 2024 Saskatoon
- SDAA Council, April 19-20, 2024, Regina
- Annual General Meeting, April 20, 2024, via Zoom
- SDAA Council, September 8, 2024, Saskatoon

The SDAA/CDAS Board participated in a thorough regulatory governance training session in conjunction with the Board of the College of Dental Hygienists of Saskatchewan on September

7, 2024 to better prepare the Board to understand and comply with the recent changes to legislation and the upcoming changes identified in the forthcoming *Health Professions Act*.

**REGULATORY BODY LICENSING STATISTICS:**

The number of licensed dental assistants in Saskatchewan continues to increase.

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Annual FP</b>	1349	1393
<b>Annual NP</b>	217	196
<b>Annual Temporary restricted practice (not yet passed NDAEB theoretical exam)</b>	13	15
<b>Reinstatement</b>	na	28
<b>Total renewals (included in np, temp and fp, reinstatement) *</b>	<b>1579</b>	<b>1632</b>
<b>New Registrations included in above classes (includes new grads, those coming from other Canadian jurisdictions (details below), and internationally trained applicants)</b>	na	140
<b>International (i.e., 11 of 140 in 2024)</b>	na	11
<b>New grads (i.e., 113 of 140 in 2024)</b>		113
<b>Change of Status (started the year as non-practice and moved to full practice status)</b>	na	12

\*Total renewals include anyone who has previously held a license with SDAA/CDAS whether it was a continuous license or if they returned to practice after a lapse in licensing.

Another way to confirm the movement of individuals is through the number of letters of good standing (LOS) that are produced in a year. Below you will see the comparisons showing both incoming and outgoing letters of standing for the last three years:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Sent TO BC	4	10	8
Sent TO Alberta	8	18	24
Sent TO Manitoba	1	3	2
Sent TO Ontario	1	5	5
Sent TO Prince Edward Island	0	2	1
Sent TO Canadian Armed Forces	0	1	1
Sent TO Commonwealth of Massachusetts	0	1	0
Sent TO New Brunswick	0	0	1
Sent within Saskatchewan (to employers or other regulatory bodies)	0	1	10
<b>Total LOS produced by SDAA/CDAS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>70</b>

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Coming FROM BC	not avail	0	1
Coming FROM Alberta	not avail	4	11
Coming FROM Manitoba	not avail	0	4
Coming FROM Ontario	not avail	3	2
<b>Total registrants coming into Saskatchewan from other Canadian jurisdictions</b>	<b>Not avail</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>18</b>

It is important to note that many registrants request a letter of standing yet still continue to practice dental assisting in Saskatchewan. These individuals may request the LOS because they need it for an employer (i.e., Government of Saskatchewan); for another health care discipline where they are dually trained (i.e., dually trained and licensed in dental hygiene and dental assisting); or if they live near a border town and practice in more than one province.

Despite work toward devolving all of the previously provided membership services, SDAA/CDAS continues to provide a public “job board” where employers can purchase advertisements targeting registered dental assistants. This role is expected to be assumed by the dental assisting membership organization that was initiated in 2023.

Within the province, dental assistant positions continue to be in demand. The below offers a comparison of the number of job postings that were processed by SDAA/CDAS by year:

<b>Job Postings</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Regina	53	66
Saskatoon	71	73
Out of Prov	4	6
Other communities	42	63
<b>Total Postings Annually</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>208</b>

Staff responded to over 4000+ phone licensing inquiries, and 7500+ email inquiries from January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024. The level of inquiries increases significantly over the renewal period and around the annual graduation time. For example, during the last weeks of the renewal period - January 15 to Feb 1 – we received over 660 phone calls and 2300+ emails.

## **COMPETENCY ASSURANCE AND DISCIPLINE PROCESSES:**

### Complaint Management:

The PCC committee received four complaints in 2024. Two were resolved in 2024 prior to advancing to discipline; one involved practicing without a license and the second involved professional misconduct. Two cases remained outstanding at the end of 2024; one involving practicing without a license and one involving professional misconduct.

### Disciplinary Processes:

No disciplinary hearings were held in 2024.

### Competency Assurance - Public Protection:

In 2024 SDAA/CDAS experienced a number of operational changes.

Following the recommendations of an independent consultant's review of all regulated dental assisting jurisdictions across Canada, SDAA/CDAS continued to implement consistent public protection measures to support labour mobility across the country, and to follow the legislation and regulations of *The Labour Mobility and Fair Registration Practices Act* of Saskatchewan. These changes support the movement of RDAs both to this jurisdiction and those who choose to practice in another regulated jurisdiction, and currency requirements include:

- 36 professional development credits and 300 practice hours per 3-year professional development cycle.
- Proof of annual infection control review/training
- Proof of current CPR training
- Registrant acquired professional liability insurance
- Maintenance of public register of all licensed RDAs available on our website and by contacting our office
- Maximum of three years of non-practice or lapsed registration without proof of successfully passing the NDAEB Clinical Practice Evaluation (CPE) skills to confirm "safe hands".

### Competency Assurance - Community of Practice

Along with the other Saskatchewan Oral Health Care Regulators (SOHC-R), SDAA/CDAS continued to support consistent Infection Prevention & Control Standards and responded to any related questions by licensees.

### Canadian Dental Assisting Regulatory Authorities (CDARA)

The SDAA/CDAS Executive Director/Registrar served as the Vice President of the National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB) in 2024, supporting consistency in dental assisting “safe hands” across the country.

### Program Advisory Committees (PAC)s

The Executive Director/Registrar continued to participate on the Program Advisory Committees (PAC)s of both dental assisting programs offered in Saskatchewan at Saskatchewan Polytechnic and the University of Saskatchewan.

### National Dental Assisting Examining Board (NDAEB)

One of the statistics monitored by the NDAEB is the pass/failure rate of first time national theoretical dental assisting exams across the country. The NDAEB written exam is available to write four times per year in March, June, September, and December with the largest group writing in June following the completion of most dental assisting programs. The below table shows us the performance of Saskatchewan trained dental assistants compared to the average of all Canadian trained dental assistants writing the national dental assisting board exam, one the June exam offering:

	<i>Initial exams #</i>		<i>Initial exams %</i>		<i>Rewrites #</i>		<i>Rewrites %</i>	
	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Pass</b>	<b>Fail</b>
<b>June 2022</b>								
Saskatchewan	85	7	92.4%	7.6%	0	1	0%	100%
Total examined in Canada	775	91	89.5%	10.5%	40	21	65.6%	34.4%
<b>June 2023</b>								
Saskatchewan	15	3	83.3%	16.7%	0	0	-	-
Total examined	16	3	84.2%	15.8%	1	0	100%	0%
<b>June 2024</b>								
Saskatchewan	81	12	87.1%	12.9%	-	-	-	-
Total examined	927	145	86.5%	13.5%	39	29	57.4%	42.6%

\*Source NDAEB Examination Summaries June 2022, June 2023, June 2024

### Legislative Updates:

Regulatory Bylaws were updated as per amendments to the Dental Disciplines Amendment Act, relating to Bill 120.

Administrative Bylaws were updated to align with the changes made to the regulatory bylaws, and to update language to clarify the regulatory role of the organization, including the name change to College of Dental Assistants of Saskatchewan.

### Devolution of Membership Services

All registrants holding a practice license were covered through occurrence-based malpractice insurance policy effective February 1, 2023 to January 31, 2024 that was acquired via independent vendors.

SDAA/CDAS Board Committee continued to meet and work with the membership association formed in 2023 – the Saskatchewan Society of Dental Assistants to support their initiation.

### Audited Financial Statements, 2024:

Attached.

Submitted by:

Brenda Yungwirth, BComm, MHS, CHE

Executive Director / Registrar