



NEWSLETTER

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

A MESSAGE FROM MDAA PRESIDENT

HEATHER BROWNLEE

Wow! Where has the year gone? I can't believe summer is right around the corner. As we approach the summer months, things tend to slow down a bit as we all enjoy the long, hot days that Manitoba is always blessed with.

This year, the MDAA office will be on reduced hours from June to September, as our Executive Director, Tess Peter, is welcoming a new member to her family. Emails and voicemails will continue to be monitored during this time, but please allow up to 72 hours for a response. The best way to reach us during this time will be via email at mdaa@mdaa.ca.

MDAA has had a very busy spring! In March, the Board participated in a Strategic Planning session with Volunteer Manitoba. We identified three specific areas that we will be focusing on. We hope to roll out the plan this fall.



We held our AGM on the Thursday evening of the MDA Convention on April 12, 2025. It was delivered in a hybrid format, both in-person and virtual. Overall, we felt it was a great success and plan to offer the same format again next year, with some upgraded technology to offer a smoother experience for our virtual participants.

At the convention this year, the MDAA hosted our very own lounge for RDAs to relax and enjoy a beautiful candy bar, along with coffee and tea. We loved the opportunity to connect with so many of our members and hear their ideas on how to strengthen our association, along with the challenges they face in their day-to-day work lives.

On Saturday night at the President's Gala, we were proud to present Jaida Johnson with the Dental Assistant of the Year award, as voted by her peers. She received a certificate of achievement and a gift card to a local spa.

Tess and I have also presented to both the winter and spring graduating classes at CDI, sharing insights into the work of the MDAA and CDAA. We'll also be participating in the RRC Polytech graduation later this May.

MDAA is always working to communicate to our members that we are here to advocate for you. Please also remember that we have a representative, elected by you, on the MDA Board. Trina Bourgeois is that representative. She is a strong voice for RDAs in Manitoba and welcomes any suggestions on how we can strengthen our relationship with the MDA. Please don't hesitate to contact the MDAA office if you'd like to share your thoughts with us, and Trina.

In closing, I hope everyone has a beautiful summer. We look forward to seeing you all in the fall at our CE event, planned for October 18, 2025. Save the date and watch for more information coming soon!



204-586-7383



mdaa@mdaa.ca



142-99 Scurfield Blvd. Winnipeg, MB

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Another beautiful Manitoba summer is upon us, and I'm sure we're all looking forward to days spent by the water, cozy bonfire nights, and enjoying everything our great province has to offer!

Recently, our Board of Directors gathered for a strategic planning session, led by Volunteer Manitoba. It was such a valuable opportunity for us to come together, reflect on where we are, and envision where we want to be in the coming years. One of the biggest takeaways from this session was the importance of advocacy.



For us, advocacy means ensuring that the MDAA has a strong, active voice within both the provincial and national dental community. But more importantly, it means advocating for you – the Registered Dental Assistants of Manitoba. Our goal is to be your voice, your support, and your source for the resources you need to feel happy, valued, and fulfilled in your careers. Your work is essential to the delivery of oral health care, and we're here to stand alongside you every step of the way.

This spring, we closed out March with an excellent Continuing Education event featuring Dr. Carlo Sgarbanti, a Periodontic Specialist, and Melanie Lagace, an Infection Control Specialist. A huge thank you to both of them for sharing their expertise, and to all of the RDAs who tuned in to participate – your engagement made the event a great success!

We were also thrilled to host our very first RDA Lounge at this year's Convention. What an incredible turnout! It was so wonderful to meet so many of you, hear your stories, and spend time connecting face-to-face. The convention weekend wrapped up on a high note with the President's Gala, where we had the honour of celebrating Jaida Johnson, this year's RDA of the Year – congratulations, Jaida!

As we look ahead, I wanted to personally share that I will be beginning my maternity leave on June 2, 2025. During this time, the MDAA will be operating on reduced hours. The best way to get in touch will be through email at mdaa@mdaa.ca – please know that while response times may be a little slower, we will do our very best to respond within 72 hours. I encourage you to keep an eye on your inbox and follow us on social media for updates on upcoming events, contests, and initiatives.

Wishing you all a safe, sunny, and joy-filled summer!



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Don't Let Misinformation Cloud Your Judgement

It has come to our attention that a dental software company is spreading misinformation about ABELDent software. While our preference is to remain above such tactics, we respectfully want to set the record straight.



| Dental Software Features | False Claims | ABELDent |
|---|----------------|------------|
| Billing Wizard & Scheduling | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Patient and Family Appointment and Billing Overview | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Built-in Lab Case Management | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Efficient Patient File Retrieval from Reports | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Comprehensive Conditions in Treatment Planning | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Integrated Native Digital Imaging | ❌ Not Included | ✅ Included |
| Clinical Note Templates | ❌ Not Included | ✅ Included |
| Eliminate Write-offs with EOB Auto Adjustment | ❌ Not Included | ✅ Included |
| Automatically Calculate Insurance Deductibles | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |
| Manage Family's Financial & Insurance Claim in One Ledger | ❌ Not Included | ✅ Included |
| Business Analytics Dashboard | ⚠ Limited | ✅ Included |

For over 40 years, ABELDent has been helping thousands of dental practices thrive by successfully guiding them through every major technological transition. As AI and cloud technologies evolve, we're ready, willing and able to keep you ahead of the curve, ensuring your practice benefits from the latest advancements without disruption.

ABELDent 15 provides the same user-friendly experience whether you choose Local Plus or Microsoft Azure-powered Cloud. Experience the security, flexibility, and proven reliability of a system that adapts to your dental software needs—because real innovation stands the test of time.

Let us help you maximize your practice success!

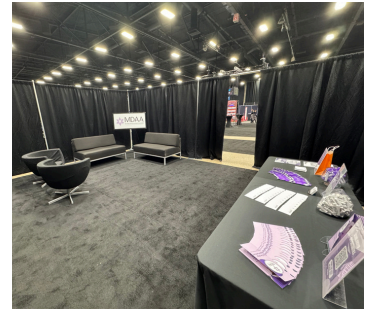
Visit www.abeldent.com/mdaa
or call 1-800-267-ABEL (2235), Press 1



WHAT A WEEKEND AT THE MDA CONVENTION!

The MDAA was thrilled to host our very first RDA Lounge at this year's Manitoba Dental Association Convention — and what a fantastic turnout we had! A huge thank you to everyone who stopped by to say hello. We loved connecting with so many of you!

Our lounge featured brand new MDAA merch giveaways, a sweet candy bar, and helpful information about scholarships, initiatives, and upcoming opportunities within our association. It was also a great spot to relax, catch up, and mingle with your fellow RDAs. We received so much positive feedback and are already excitedly planning how to make next year's space even better!



The convention weekend wrapped up on a high note with the President's Gala, where we proudly honoured this year's RDA of the Year — Jaida Johnson! Jaida was nominated by several of her peers, and it was such a joy to celebrate her dedication, achievements, and outstanding contribution to the dental assisting profession. Congratulations again, Jaida — you inspire us all!



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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES: INVEST IN YOUR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

Are you looking to advance your dental assisting career? The Manitoba Dental Assistants Association is proud to offer scholarship opportunities to support the continued education and professional development of our members and their kids!

Whether you're pursuing specialized training, attending workshops or conferences, or enrolling in a course to expand your skills, the MDAA is here to help you reach your goals. These scholarships are designed to reduce financial barriers and empower dental assistants to grow within the profession. Applications are now open. Take the next step in your career and apply today! For more information and to access the application form, visit our website.



CELEBRATING THE FUTURE OF DENTAL ASSISTING



Heather Brownlee and Tess Peter had the honor of attending the Red River College Polytech Dental Assisting graduation ceremony on May 26th, 2025.

We were proud to present awards to two exceptionally deserving students: Faith Minsky and Thi Thuy Nga Le. Each of these graduates was recognized for their outstanding professional conduct and the exemplary qualities that define a true dental professional.

Congratulations to the entire Dental Assistant Graduating Class of 2025! Your hard work, dedication, and commitment to excellence are truly inspiring. Welcome to the profession; we're so excited to see what your future holds!



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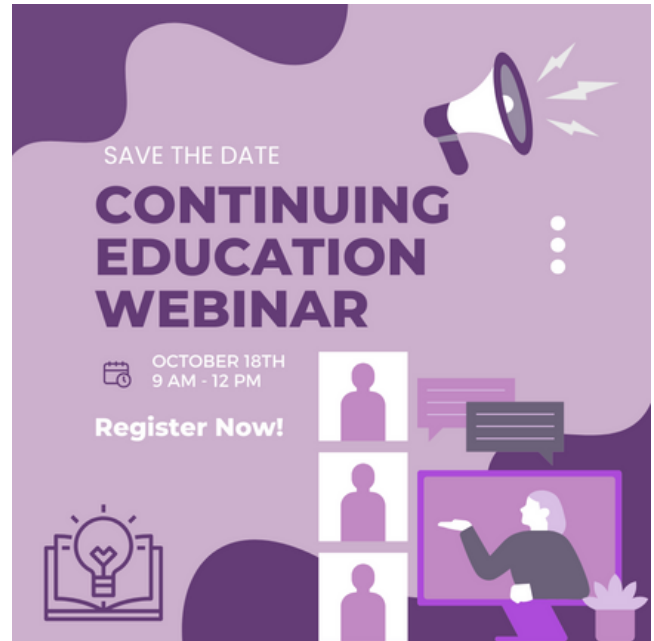


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CONTINUING EDUCATION UPDATE

We wrapped up March with a fantastic Continuing Education event featuring Dr. Carlo Sgarbanti, Periodontic Specialist, and Melanie Lagace, Infection Control Specialist. A big thank you to both of them for sharing their knowledge and expertise, and to all the RDAs who joined us — your participation made this event a huge success!

As we look ahead to our fall session, scheduled for October 18th, 2025; we'd love to hear from you! If you have ideas for speakers, topics, or content you'd like to see, send us an email at mdaa@mdaa.ca. Your feedback helps us build meaningful, relevant continuing education opportunities for RDAs across Manitoba.



HAVE YOU COMPLETED OUR WAGE SURVEY YET?



We want to hear from you! The MDAA is currently collecting wage and workplace data from dental assistants across Manitoba — and your participation is incredibly valuable.

Why is this important? By completing the wage survey, you're contributing to a province-wide snapshot of what dental assistants are earning and experiencing in their roles. This data is not just numbers — it represents your voice, your career, and your future.

Your responses will be used to help the MDAA advocate for fair and equitable wages for dental assistants throughout Manitoba. It will also help us identify trends, highlight disparities, and better understand the needs of our members, so we can continue working toward meaningful, positive change in our profession.

Your input matters. The more responses we receive, the stronger our case will be when speaking up for dental assistants like you.



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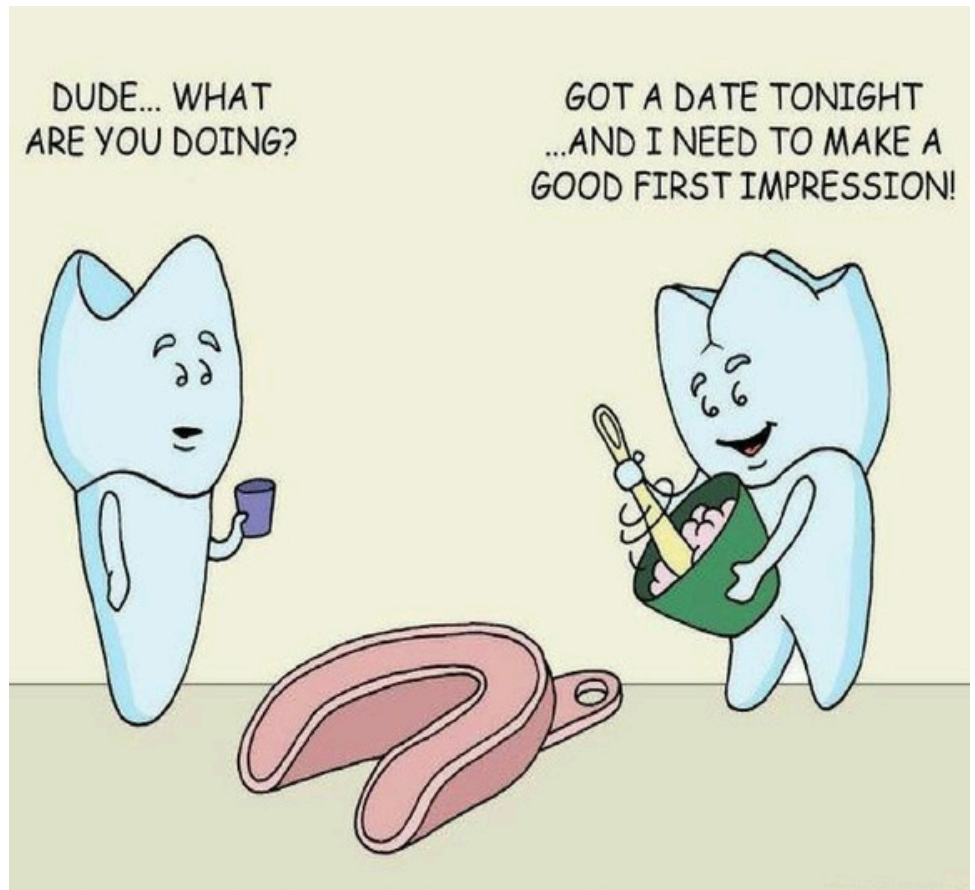


mdaa@mdaa.ca



142-99 Scurfield Blvd. Winnipeg, MB

GIGGLE & GRIN!



From all of us at the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association



204-586-7383



mday@mday.ca



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