



# NEWSLETTER

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

## A MESSAGE FROM MDAA PRESIDENT

**HEATHER BROWNLEE**

Hello RDAs,

As the cool days of fall come upon us, I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. Where did the summer go?

Please join the MDAA in congratulating Tess, our Executive Director, and her husband Michael on the arrival of their little girl, Claire Rose, in June.

As we transition into the crisp autumn days and watch the trees change, the MDAA is busy planning our annual Fall CE event and collecting data for our wage survey. We hope to have the data compiled and the results posted on our website by the end of November. Thank you to everyone who participated. It is the MDAA's plan to update this survey annually to keep the data as current as possible.



The MDAA will also be launching a Scaling Module Survey very soon. We ask that you all participate so we can collect up-to-date information on this important topic.

The MDAA, along with the MDHA and MDA, recently launched a Blood Drive for the month of October. We encourage all of you who are able to participate and show your support for Canadian Blood Services. Details can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

The MDAA continues to represent our members on many committees with both our national association and the MDA. Please visit our website, where we strive to keep information as current as possible so members can stay informed about what's happening.

We also want to remind all RDAs about the CSPI Members Assistance Program, which was rolled out in late spring for all members of the dental team. Details on how to access the program are available on our website. Please, if you are struggling, reach out — the program is completely confidential.

In closing, we want to assure our members that the MDAA continues to advocate on your behalf through ongoing meetings with the MDA and other stakeholders in the oral health profession. We are currently working on several important initiatives that impact the future of RDAs in Manitoba and will continue to keep you informed through our e-blasts, social media, and website updates.

Finally, we wish you all a wonderful fall season. Please don't hesitate to contact our office at any time with any concerns or issues you'd like us to assist with. As a reminder, we are currently operating on reduced hours until the beginning of the new year, so please allow up to 72 hours for a response.



204-586-7383



mdaa@mdaa.ca



142-99 Scurfield Blvd. Winnipeg, MB

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

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And just like that, another Manitoba summer has come and gone, and fall is officially here! We hope your summer was filled with family, friends, and plenty of good memories.

In our last issue, we touched on advocacy, and if you've been keeping up with our email updates, you know this continues to be a priority for us. Your MDAA Board has been working diligently behind the scenes to support the RDA profession, ensuring your voice is heard and represented in the conversations that matter most.



This season, we're excited to welcome you to our Fall Continuing Education session, featuring two incredible speakers: Martha Szczepulski and Kathy Purves. If you haven't registered yet, be sure to secure your spot. You won't want to miss it!

On a personal note, my husband and I were thrilled to welcome our daughter, Claire, into the world this summer. While I take some time away the MDAA will continue to operate on reduced hours for the remainder of the year. The best way to reach us during this time is by email at [mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca). While response times may be a little slower, we'll do our very best to reply within 72 hours.

We encourage you to keep an eye on your inbox and follow us on social media for the latest updates on events, contests, and initiatives. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to all the exciting things this fall season will bring!



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[mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)



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Manitoba  
Dental  
Association



MDAA  
Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

mdha  
ROOTED IN CARE



Canadian  
Blood  
Services

BLOOD  
PLASMA  
STEM CELLS  
ORGANS  
& TISSUES

# OCTOBER is BLOOD DONATION Challenge Month

Hello Dental Professionals!

The **Manitoba Dental Association (MDA)** is partnering with **Manitoba Dental Assistants Association (MDAA)**, **Manitoba Dental Hygienists Association (MDHA)** and **Canadian Blood Services (CBS)** for a fun opportunity to give back to Manitobans. This October 2025, we are asking you to go the extra mile by participating in a province-wide blood donation challenge.

When your team donates together, the impact goes beyond saving lives:

- You build stronger workplace bonds & foster a culture of purpose & compassion
- You give back to your community in the most meaningful way

More patients need blood products than CBS has seen over the past decade. Only 2% of Canadians donate and their donations supply the ENTIRE country. We can't continue to rely on this small group to support Canada's growing and aging population – that's why we are asking for your help. Every month in Manitoba there are 5,000 appointments that must be filled. Donated blood lasts only 42 days, with the majority used the first 5 days.

Participating in the October Blood Donation Challenge is very easy... and there's a chance to win a pizza party!

Appoint your office's

## TEAM CHAMPION

The team champion will register your team and be the primary contact for any participation requests with CBS.

Register at  
[blood.ca/pfi](https://blood.ca/pfi)

## REGISTER NOW Reserve appointments in October!

Once your team is registered, CBS BD Manager Lisa will connect with your **TEAM CHAMPION** about opportunities near your area.

Every participating office  
with a

## MINIMUM OF 15 DONATIONS

will be entered into a draw for a pizza party provided by CBS. Additional prizes will also be announced as the competition begins!

## SMALL OFFICE? No worries!

- Make a partner team
- Ask friends, family, patients to join your team and donate
- Incorporate stem swabbing (ages 17-35)

## REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Lisa can help you reserve appointments for October.

Please contact **Lisa** at **306-251-0986**  
or [lisa.beechinor@blood.ca](mailto:lisa.beechinor@blood.ca).

*\*No donation required. Participants need not be donors themselves. Details explained in the FAQ at the back.*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## I can't donate blood. How do I participate?

Our eligibility is changing all the time!

I would suggest double-checking your eligibility by completing our Eligibility Quiz at

<https://myaccount.blood.ca/en/eligibility-quiz>

If you've confirmed you aren't eligible, ask a family or friend to donate on your behalf. If they have joined the team, they will count towards your team goal – just let your Team Champion know the name of the person subbing in for when the final tallies are complete.

## Our office isn't in Winnipeg – how can we get involved?

Our team is out several times a week with mobile clinics all over Manitoba! Check your postal code at [blood.ca](http://blood.ca) to see if an upcoming mobile is near you. Otherwise, you're always welcome to book an appointment the next time you are in the city or any one of the communities we visit.

You also have the option to ask someone to substitute in for you who happens to be in Winnipeg or another community we visit. Just let your Team Champion know the name of the person subbing in for when the final tallies are complete.

Finally, our Stem Cell Swab kits are portable! Just send an email to [lisa.beechinor@blood.ca](mailto:lisa.beechinor@blood.ca) and we'll bring or send the kits to you for completion.

## We have a big office – could you come to us?

Our mobile clinics are planned approximately two years in advance and require an extensive amount of logistical review and support, so we do not have the capacity to provide private blood donation clinics to individual businesses. However, we have a shuttle bus that fits up to 14 people on it and are happy to arrange a pickup from your location to ours for a team donation. To arrange a shuttle bus appointment, email me at [lisa.beechinor@blood.ca](mailto:lisa.beechinor@blood.ca) with your preferred date and time and we'll make the arrangements!

## How do I book /reserve group appointments?

I can help with that! Please email [lisa.beechinor@blood.ca](mailto:lisa.beechinor@blood.ca)

to inquire about reserving appointments and transportation.

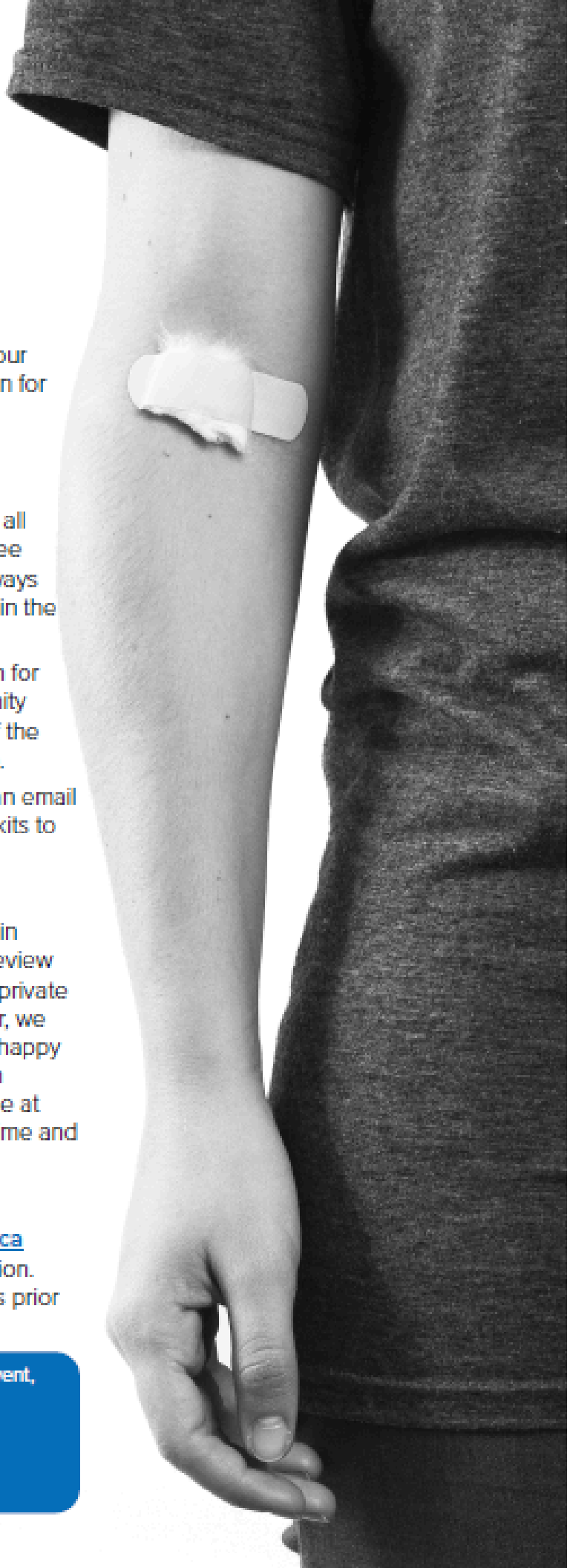
Our system will release any unfilled appointments 7 days prior to donation date so you don't need to monitor .

If you have any questions or need assistance regarding this event, please reach out to:

**LISA BEECHINOR**

CBS Business Development Manager

**306-251-0986 • [lisa.beechinor@blood.ca](mailto:lisa.beechinor@blood.ca).**



# 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 dependents!

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. The new seasons deadline is September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026!



## 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.



204-586-7383

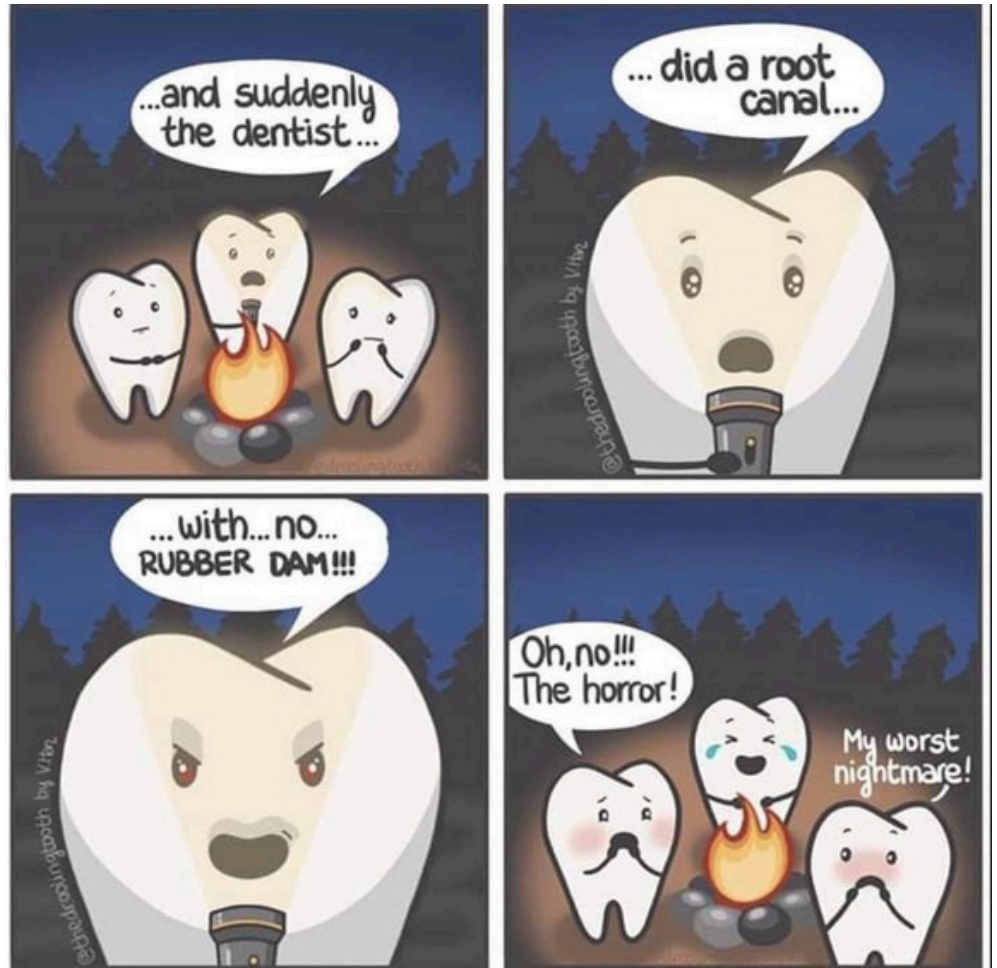


[mdaa@mdaa.ca](mailto:mdaa@mdaa.ca)



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# GIGGLE & GRIN!



From all of us at the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association



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