



NEWSLETTER

Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

A MESSAGE FROM MDAA PRESIDENT

HEATHER BROWNLEE

It's hard to believe another winter is almost over and we have the long hot summer days of Manitoba to look forward to!

The MDAA has been busy over the winter months. On November 29, 2024, Tess Peter, MDAA Executive Director, and I had the privilege of presenting the MDAA Professionalism Awards to the CDI Graduating Class. Congratulations to all the winners!

In my last report, I highlighted our advocacy efforts, which include; establishing a direct-entry pathway for RDAs into the University of Manitoba's School of Dental Hygiene, implementing a concurrent scaling module for graduates of accredited Dental Assisting Programs in Manitoba, expanding the Scope of Practice to allow RDAs to provide oral health care for vulnerable populations in Personal Care Homes and collaborating with the Manitoba Dental Association to address concerns regarding online and in-office training programs.

We have submitted letters to the Manitoba Dental Association (MDA) and Professor Mary Bertone, Director of the School of Dental Hygiene, advocating for these initiatives. We have received responses from both and will continue to work on these important issues. These letters, along with the replies, will be posted under the "Documents" tab on our new website, which will be launching in the coming months. I encourage you to review them, especially if you are facing challenges related to in-office training in your workplace.

February also marks the first anniversary of our Executive Director, Tess Peter. Tess has been such a positive addition to our office, and we are so grateful to have her continuous support and guidance running our association. Tess and her husband Mike have announced that they will be welcoming a new addition to their family in June and we are so happy for them. Please watch for notification to the modifications to office hours during her leave.

Additionally, we'd like to congratulate Trina Bourgeois on her election to the MDA Board of Directors. Trina is a passionate advocate for RDAs in Manitoba, and we look forward to her contributions.

Looking ahead, on March 29, 2025, the MDAA will be hosting a virtual Spring Continuing Education session featuring two great speakers: Dr. Sunil Mutalik and Dr. Carlo Sgarbanti.

Also in March, the MDAA Board will also participate in our first Strategic Planning Educational Workshop, presented by Volunteer Manitoba.

As always, the MDAA remains dedicated to advocating for RDAs and enhancing patient care. I encourage you to keep an eye on your emails and visit our social media pages for the most up to date information while we update our website. We will be sure to send out an e-blast once it goes live. We greatly appreciate the support of our members and welcome any questions or concerns—please don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

As we welcome spring to Manitoba, the longer days and brighter sunshine bring a renewed energy to our work at the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association.

It's hard to believe that I have now been in my role as Executive Director for a year—time has flown by! Over the past year, I have had the privilege of meeting and working with so many incredible individuals within the dental assisting community. I am truly grateful for this role and the opportunity to advocate for and support Registered Dental Assistants across the province.



Behind the scenes, we have been making strategic improvements to strengthen the MDAA as an organization. Externally, we have been actively advocating for initiatives that will benefit RDAs. We have submitted letters to the Manitoba Dental Association and Professor Mary Bertone, Director of the School of Dental Hygiene, advocating for key initiatives such as establishing a direct-entry pathway for RDAs into the University of Manitoba's School of Dental Hygiene, implementing a concurrent scaling module for graduates of accredited Dental Assisting Programs in Manitoba, expanding the Scope of Practice to allow RDAs to provide oral health care for vulnerable populations in Personal Care Homes, and collaborating with the Manitoba Dental Association to address concerns regarding online and in-office training programs. We have received responses from both and will continue to work on these important issues. We have recently launched a new website, where we will be sharing updates on letters and correspondence that affect RDAs.

Continuing our efforts to advance and strengthen the MDAA, our board will be engaging in a Strategic Planning Session at the end of March with Volunteer Manitoba. We are excited to discuss our future plans and will be sure to share more information as we move forward.

Looking ahead, we have our Virtual Spring CE on March 29th, as well as our AGM on April 10th, which we are excited to offer as a hybrid event. If you haven't registered yet, we encourage you to do so soon.

It has been a pleasure working with the MDAA this past year, and I am excited to see where the future takes us. Please keep an eye on your emails and our social media for the latest updates on events, contests, and initiatives. In the meantime, don't hesitate to reach out by phone or email—I look forward to continuing this journey with all of you.

CELEBRATING DENTAL ASSISTANT RECOGNITION WEEK 2025!

From March 2–8, 2025, we celebrated Dental Assistant Recognition Week, and it was incredible to see the enthusiasm and appreciation shared across the province—and the country!

At the MDAA, we marked the occasion with our Photo Contest, inviting RDAs to share what being a dental assistant means to them. We received so many fantastic entries, and we're thrilled to announce this year's winner: Jaehee Jin, who has won her 2025 registration fees!

Congratulations, Jaehee! And a huge thank you to everyone who participated and helped make this celebration so special.



JOIN US FOR THE 2025 MDAA ANNUAL MEETING!

We are pleased to announce that the 2025 MDAA Annual Meeting will be a hybrid event this year. The meeting will take place on April 10, 2025, at 6:30 PM, with an in-person option at the RBC Convention Centre and a virtual option for those unable to attend in person. We encourage all members to participate, as this is a valuable opportunity to engage with your association, stay informed, and ensure your voice is heard. We would love to see as many members as possible join us in person. Registration is now open and will close on April 6, 2025.



SPRING CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENT!

We are excited to announce the speakers for our March 29th Virtual CE Event! Join us for an engaging morning with Dr. Carlo Sgarbanti, a Periodontic Specialist, and Melanie Lagace, an Infection Control Specialist. This session will provide valuable insights into periodontics and infection prevention while offering attendees the opportunity to earn up to 3 CE points. Don't miss this chance to learn from leading experts in the field—all from the comfort of your home! Register now to secure your spot.



THE MDAA HAS A NEW WEBSITE!



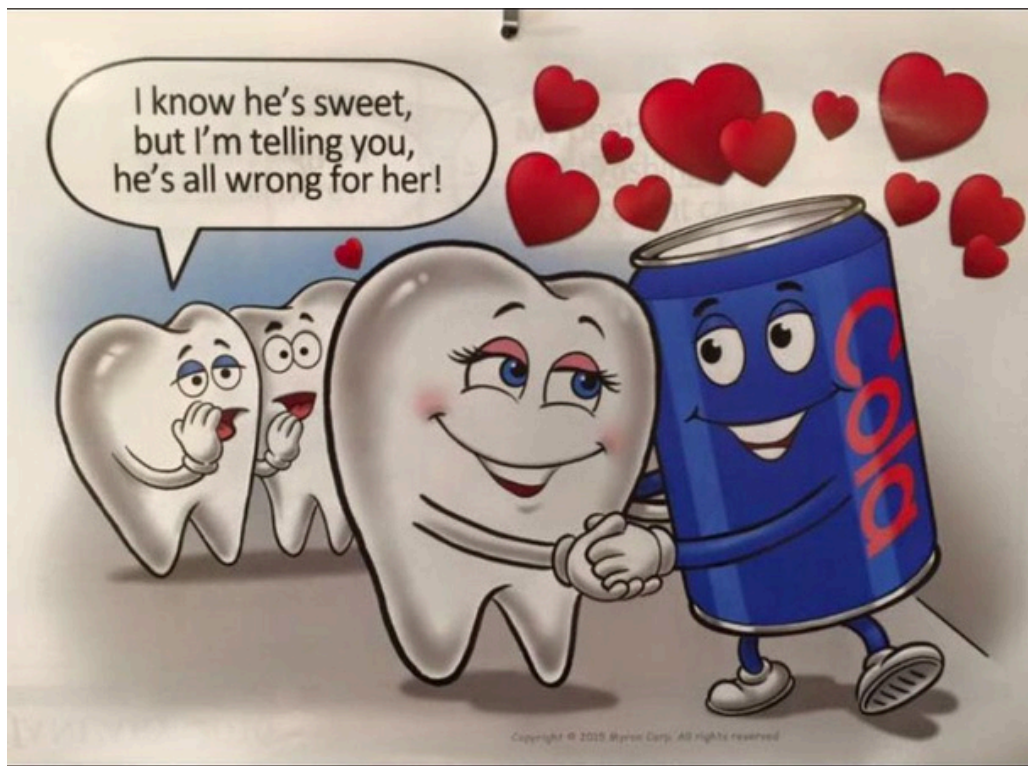
We're thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new MDAA website! This updated platform is designed to keep you informed with the latest news, events, member benefits, and more. While we're still in the process of adding historical documents and correspondence, the website will be continuously updated with fresh content moving forward.

Take a look and let us know what you think—we'd love your feedback!



WWW.MDAA.CA

GIGGLE & GRIN!



From all of us at the Manitoba Dental Assistants Association

Hello
Spring