



Royal College of  
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

*Ensuring Continued Trust*

# BULLETIN

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

January 11, 2005

## COLLEGE RESPONSE TO TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORTS IN ASIA

The College responded quickly to make its services available to both the provincial and federal governments. We pledged co-operation, communications support, and compassion in this most tragic situation. As you may know, two members of our Council – Dr. Frank Stechey and Dr. Stan Kogon – are forensic experts.

The College also immediately posted the Ministry of Health's province-wide call for volunteers on our Web site.

We have received two calls to date inquiring about the release of dental records for identification purposes, and we quickly facilitated appropriate responses.

With the Ontario privacy legislation, we can exercise discretion. While the *Regulated Health Professions Act* and the regulations do address confidentiality of records and a strict protocol for the release of records in the appropriate circumstance, the College is certainly prepared to be flexible in these extreme circumstances.

However, at the time of writing, we have not yet had a response to our inquiries from the federal privacy commissioner.

Please contact the College if you have received any request for release of dental records related to the tsunami disaster. We will look at situation on a case by case basis.

If you have any questions, please call:

**Irwin Fefergrad**

*Registrar*

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