



Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Ensuring Continued Trust

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

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TO: ALL RCDSO MEMBERS

Council Meeting of April 4 & 5, 2002

This publication is mailed within four working days of each Council meeting to all College members and key stakeholders. At the same time it is posted on our Web site at www.rcdso.org. We welcome your feedback. If you have questions about any of these items, please contact RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad by phone at 416-934-5625, toll free at 1-800-565-4591, or by e-mail at ifefergrad@rcdso.org.

- The College is moving ahead as quickly as possible with the draft by-laws necessary to allow for incorporation and the issuing of Certificates of Authorization. The target date to allow members to apply for Certificates is September 2002. Council agreed to adjust its June meeting schedule and to add one new special Council meeting in August. See the April/May issue of *Dispatch* to be mailed towards the end of this month for complete details.
- The College's Code of Ethics is currently under revision by a sub-committee of the Quality Assurance Committee. World-renowned ethicist and lawyer Dr. Bernard M. Dickens of the University of Toronto, a member of the sub-committee, made a detailed presentation to Council on the draft revised Code. As of April 26, members are invited to join the consultation process by viewing the draft of the revised Code of Ethics on our Web site and sending in their comments. See the April/May issue of *Dispatch* to be mailed towards the end of this month for more details. A future issue of *Dispatch* will contain Dr. Dickens' presentation.
- While the College awaits the government's passing of the regulation that would make participation in the quality assurance program mandatory, the College is again calling for volunteers for the dental practice review program. Participants will be eligible for six mandatory continuing education credit points.
- The audited financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2001 were approved. This is the first time that the audited financial statements have been available so early in the year.
- Several new Committee appointments were confirmed: Dr. George Grayson to the Finance, Property & Administration Committee, and Dr. Tom McKean to the Legal & Legislation Committee. A new public member, Robert Marr of Mississauga, was appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council to the RCDSO Council on February 6, 2002.
- Council approved the fees for the mediation program pilot project that will assist in settling disputes between dentists. With a cap of \$10,000 for the project, the College will pay the initial fee up to maximum of \$500 with the balance paid by the participating members. The mediator is not a member of College staff, but a retired judge. Results of this pilot project will be reported to Council for evaluation in the fall of 2002. The College has invited the Ontario Dental Association to participate in the project.

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- Council reviewed the College submission on the provincial government's proposed privacy legislation, and our response to the proposal by dental hygienists and denturists to prescribe radiographs.
- Dr. Lou London, chair of the Discipline Committee, reported to Council that three pre-hearing conferences had been held since the last report to Council. He explained that the pre-hearing conferences continue to be extremely effective in identifying issues, saving time and reducing costs.
- At the suggestion of the Discipline Committee, the College is producing a training video for the Committee on how pre-hearing conferences work. Filming takes place on April 11 at the RCDSO office. This new video will supplement the discipline hearing training video produced in 1998.
- The Discipline Committee will meet shortly via teleconference to discuss the possibility of recommending to Council that a reprimand be done in an open forum. The current practice is for reprimands to be delivered without a court reporter present. Nor is the meeting open to the public. The Committee believes that it is timely to consider this move given the trend to openness and transparency in the operations of regulatory authorities.
- The College continues to strive for a commission on accreditation separate from the control and supervision of the Canadian Dental Association. RCDSO is represented by Registrar Irwin Fefergrad on a committee to recommend a governance model for the new body, and the College's Director of Finance and Administration Paul Harrison is in the process of completing its business plan.
- A joint working group with RCDSO and the Ontario Dental Association has been struck to make a joint submission to the provincial government on issues related to access to dental care. The College is represented by staff member Dr. Don McFarlane and President Dr. Eric Luks.
- Council approved some changes in the Conflict of Interest by-law to ensure that it is reflective of the common law requirements that would be imposed on Council and committee members by a court. Also, an additional safeguard was included so that Council will not be entitled to take any action against a councillor or committee member as a result of an alleged breach of this by-law except by a two-thirds majority vote.
- A new practice advisory from the Quality Assurance Committee called "Emerging Issues in Infection Control: Latex Allergies and Potent Disinfectants" was approved by Council. It will be distributed with the July/August issue of *Dispatch*.

April 2002