

Seamless Transition Into Compliance With Provincial Health Care

Privacy Legislation For Ontario Dentists

Hard work does pay off. There can be no better example of that than the College's efforts on the privacy issue.

As most of you know, the Ontario government's new health-specific privacy legislation comes into force on November 1, 2004. Called the *Personal Health Information Protection Act, 2004* (PHIPA), it governs how personal health information may be collected, used, and disclosed within the health-care system. It also regulates individuals and organizations that receive personal information from health-care professionals.

"The good news is that there will be a seamless transition for dentists as they

incorporate compliance of this new provincial legislation into their office routine, along with the federal privacy legislation," said College Registrar Irwin Fefergrad. "The College was determined to pull out all the stops and make our best effort to ensure the Ontario legislation was responsive to dentists' needs.

"We made our own submission to the government committee reviewing the draft legislation. We took a key role in the development of the submission from the federation of Ontario's health-care



(left to right) Mary Donoghue, Manager Legal Services, RCDSO Registrar Irwin Fefergrad, Ken Anderson, Assistant Commissioner, Privacy

regulatory colleges by chairing two separate working groups. The government committee took the unusual step of asking College staff to assist in the line-by-line review of the proposed legislation. Then, in late September, I met with senior staff from the office of the Ontario Information and Privacy Commission," explained Fefergrad.

"Our efforts paid off," summed up the Registrar.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Dayna Simon

Assistant to the Registrar, Legal
phone: 416-934-5618
toll-free: 1-800-565-4591
e-mail: dsimon@rcdso.org

Irwin Fefergrad

Registrar
phone: 416-934-5625
toll-free: 1-800-565-4591
e-mail: ifefergrad@rcdso.org

MAKING IT EASY TO COMPLY WITH ONTARIO'S PRIVACY LEGISLATION

In this issue of Dispatch, you will find:

- A special pullout insert that zeroes in on what you need to know to be in compliance with the new Ontario privacy legislation and includes a handy poster for your office, reviewed by the Ontario Information and Privacy Commission
- A helpful Q&A profiles some of the most common questions
- An article by Ann Cavoukian, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario