



# COLLEGE OF DENTURISTS OF ONTARIO

## **Council Highlights**

*From the 74<sup>th</sup> Meeting held Friday, December 13, 2013*

### **New Qualifying Examination Development**

Council is excited to report that it has embarked on the development of the objective, structured, clinical examination also known as "OSCE" stations for the new qualifying examination to be offered in the summer of 2014. Going forward, candidates eligible to sit the qualifying examination will be attempting one examination that will consist of a written (MCQ-multiple choice) and a clinical/practical OSCE part. This qualifying examination, while consisting of these two distinct parts, will be taken together as one examination over the course of the same week. Council has approved this new format whereby the written part will be taken one day, followed by a day of rest and then up to two days for the OSCE. Candidates who were unsuccessful in one of the parts of the summer 2014 examination will only be required to re-take the part(s) they were unsuccessful in subject to College policy and protocol. The main focus of the qualifying examination is to assess candidates on a broader spectrum of competencies required as set out in the National Competency Profile for Denturists with a greater emphasis on sound judgment and communication skills. Under this new model, it is anticipated that the fee charged to the candidates to attempt the qualifying examination will be significantly less than what is currently charged.

### **Insufficient and/or Incomplete Documentation Policy**

The Ontario Fairness Commission has reiterated a number of times to the regulatory bodies the importance of ensuring that they are not setting unnecessary barriers for international applicants to be able to meet the non-exemptible registration requirements. In accordance with this direction, the College has introduced a new policy which would allow an applicant who is unable to provide original documents or a notarized copy of the original documents due to extenuating circumstances (e.g. war, natural disaster, or personal persecution), to provide alternative or other persuasive evidentiary documents to support their application for the Registration Committee's consideration.

### **CDHO Independent Review Oral Health Services**

The College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO) has commissioned an Independent Review of Oral Health Services in Ontario and has invited the College to participate in a one-hour confidential interview as one of the key oral health stakeholders. The President, Vice-President and the Registrar will be participating on behalf of the College. This Independent Review of Oral Health Services in Ontario intends to focus, amongst other things, on access to care for the less serviced sectors in Ontario's population, as well as the link between oral health and overall health.

### **Legal Update – Bills 70 & 117**

Bill 70 – Under the RHPA, regulated health care professionals would be in breach of the sexual abuse provisions if they treat their spouses. The Bill amends the Code to provide for an exception where the patient is the member's spouse and the conduct, behaviour, or remark does not occur while the member is engaged in the practice of the profession. **The exception is only available to a member of a particular health profession if the member's College makes a regulation that adopts the exception.**

The Registrar will look into the creation of such a regulation for denturists to be able to treat their spouses and not be in violation of the RHPA's sexual abuse provisions.

Bill 117 – Although, this bill relates primarily to pharmacies including the inspection of hospital pharmacies, there are some significant changes proposed to the RHPA including expanding the grounds by which Colleges may disclose confidential information to other health care entities, permitting the Registrar to dismiss some complaints where it is not reasonable to believe that the complaint would constitute professional misconduct, incompetence or incapacity on the part of the member (i.e. outside the jurisdiction of the College) without referring them to the Committee, expanding the mandatory reporting requirement where a practitioner's privileges are restricted, and removing the requirement for a Council to disregard the Minister's direction before a supervisor can be appointed.

### **Recognition of Public Member**

The President, on behalf of Council, bid farewell to Mr. Jafar Amini, a public member of Council appointed in 2005 and thanked him for his time and efforts towards protecting the public interest during his term. Mr. Amini's term is up in January 2014.