

CERTIFIED DENTAL ASSISTANTS CAN NOW JOIN BCDHA

BURNABY—The British Columbia Dental Hygienists' Association (BCDHA) is thrilled to announce that as of today, December 13, 2021, Certified Dental Assistants (CDAs) living in the province are welcome to join BCDHA and receive the supports and benefits of membership in a longstanding, professional Association.

“We could not be happier to be forming this collaborative partnership with CDAs, and supporting their desire to form a strong, new Association that can benefit their profession and their individual practice lives,” said Susan Schmitz, Chair of BCDHA. “This is an opportunity that will benefit the entire oral health team, and we look forward to learning and growing with CDAs as we tackle some of the challenging issues both professions face.”

This change is not unexpected, as many CDAs have identified the challenges facing their own association which has experienced dwindling membership and lack of inclusion at the leadership table. Over the years, many CDAs have asked if they might be included as members of BCDHA, which has a proven track record of providing services and supports to members.

The initial agreement is for a three-year pilot, where a CDA Steering Committee, comprised entirely of CDAs, will work with the Executive Director to advance advocacy, provide programs, listen to members, conduct surveys and ensure all CDA members have an opportunity to connect, share their voice, and make recommendations for the future. During this period, CDAs will be “Support Members” and have access to all the regular programs and services, but will not be eligible to vote or run for BCDHA Board positions. At the end of three years, both parties will mutually review the arrangement and make appropriate arrangements for the future.

“After years of frustration, this process of negotiating an arrangement with BCDHA has been amazing,” said Monica Racz, CDA Steering Committee Chair. “This is an incredible opportunity for CDAs to finally have our voices heard, and to be part of something that can truly move our profession forward. I hope all CDAs will consider joining us and helping to form this new endeavour.”

Membership will be \$100 for CDAs and \$15 for CDA Students. Initial membership is for a 15-month period (to March 1, 2023) and will include access to practice supports, full continuing education opportunities, open positions for CDAs to sit on policy tables that influence all of oral health, wage surveys and job boards, liability insurance, regular “Coffee Chats” (once per month) to hear the latest news and discuss issues, access to an employment lawyer and discount perks and benefits.

For more information or to sign up please visit <https://bcdha.com/cda-alliance/> or drop in to our [CDA Coffee Chat](#) on December 15th at 7pm.

For More Information:

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