

ANNUAL REPORT

May 1, 2025 to October 31, 2025



Nova Scotia Regulator of
Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology,
and Denturism

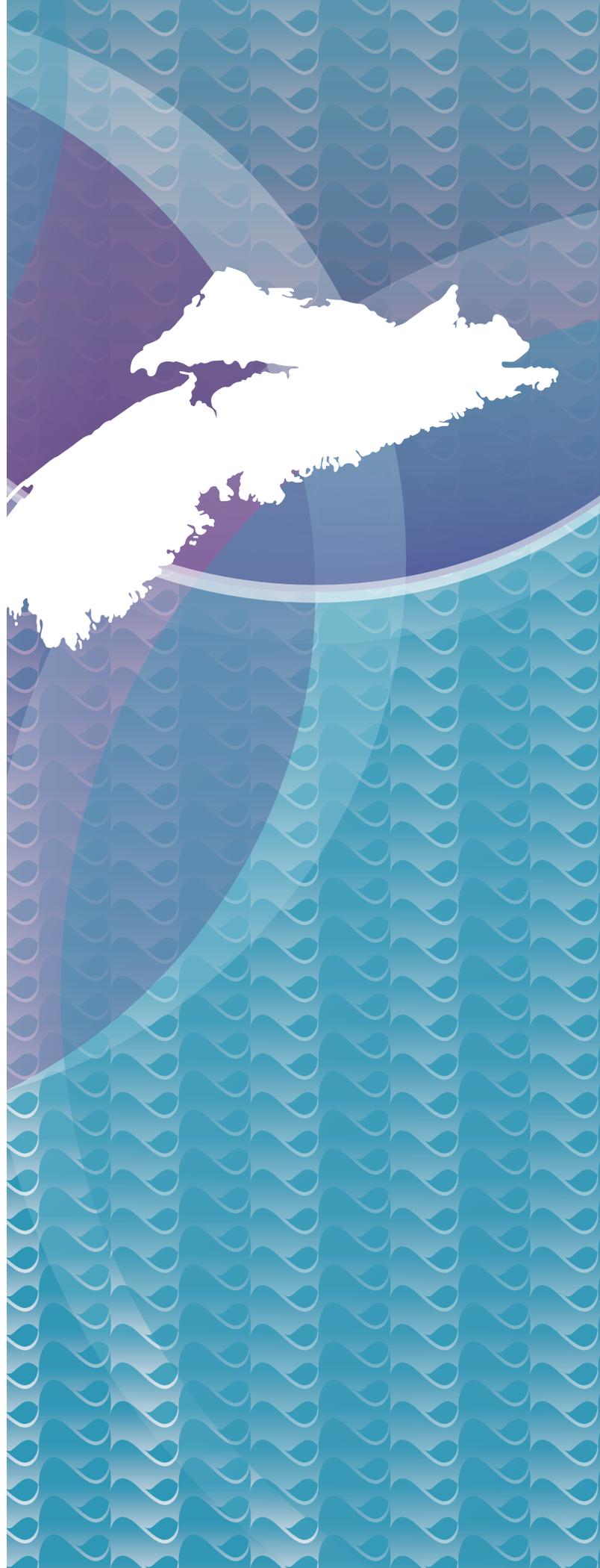
Land Acknowledgment

Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism acknowledges that the land on which we operate, what we call Nova Scotia, is the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq, whose inherent rights were recognized in the Peace and Friendship Treaties that were signed from 1725 to 1779. This series of treaties did not surrender Indigenous land, resources, or sovereignty to the British Empire, but instead established rules for an ongoing relationship between nations. The treaties were later reaffirmed by Canada in Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982, and remain active to this day. The NSRDHDTD joins our communities in the labour of reconciliation, and we are grateful to live and work together as treaty people in Mi'kma'ki. We are committed to working together to continue building strong and positive relationships together.

The NSRDHDTD would also like to acknowledge the existence of people of African descent in Nova Scotia for over 400 years. We honour and offer gratitude to the ancestors who came before us to this land and the commitment to not let our history be lost.

This report covers the responsibilities and actions of the newly formed Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism between May 1, 2025 and Oct 31, 2025

Published March 2026



NSRDHDTD Global End (Mission)

At the cost of effective stewardship of resources, Nova Scotians are aware that NSRDHDTD exists to protect the public as they seek access to competent providers of dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism.

The public, including marginalized communities, have trust and confidence:

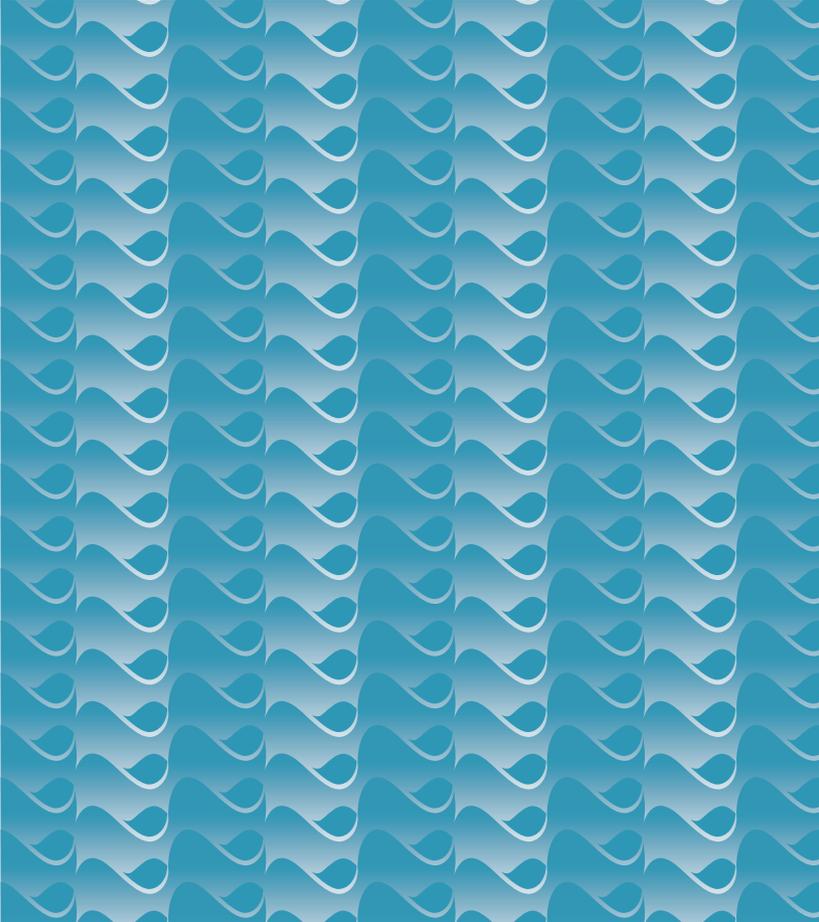
- that registrants meet established competency standards and those for behaviours, ethical care, and communication
- that advice is balanced and services received is in their best interests
- that barriers to reporting concerning behaviors are reduced
- that they will be treated with respect and dignity
- that grievances will be investigated

Vision

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism operates in the best interest of the public, is a self-sustaining regulatory authority whose registrants are recognized by the public as essential health care providers. The Regulator supports an environment of interprofessional collaboration, professional advancement and equitable access to health care for all Nova Scotians.

Table of Contents

Chair's Message	1
Organizational Structure	2
Governance	3
Statutory Committees	4
Standing Committees	5
Publication of Notices	6
Registration and Licensing	7
Competency Program	9
CC Audits Conducted and Outcomes	9
Professional Conduct	11
Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network.....	12
Contact Information	13
Auditor's Report	14



Chair's Message



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my privilege to share this annual message as Chair of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD). As we reflect on the past year, I am proud of the meaningful progress we have made together in strengthening a unified, modern regulatory framework that supports our professions and, most importantly, protects the public.

Over the past year, the NSRDHDTD has continued to build on its strong foundation as a multi-profession regulator. A significant focus of our work has been the harmonization of core regulatory functions across dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism. We have also continued to align our policies, standards, and governance practices with the requirements under the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). As part of this work, we have advanced the alignment of registration, quality assurance, and complaints processes, ensuring they are consistent, fair, and responsive. These actions support greater clarity for registrants and reinforce public confidence in our regulatory approach.

The strength of this organization lies in its people. I would be remiss not to acknowledge the dedication of our Board members, both registrant and public, whose thoughtful leadership and commitment to good governance have been instrumental in guiding our work. Their contributions ensure that our decisions remain focused on our mandate of public protection while supporting the ongoing evolution of a unified regulatory model and adherence to the RHPA.

I also continue to extend my sincere appreciation to our staff. Their expertise, professionalism, and adaptability have been essential in managing the day-to-day operations of the regulator while supporting the integration of four professions and compliance with RHPA requirements. Their work behind the scenes ensures that our systems function effectively and that our regulatory responsibilities are carried out with consistency and care.

As we look ahead, the Board remains committed to strong policy governance practices, advancing regulatory consistency, and ensuring accountability in all aspects of our mandate. Through continued oversight, policy development, and alignment with legislative requirements, we will continue to support a regulatory framework that upholds public protection and maintains confidence in the professions we regulate.

Thank you for the professional expertise and dedication you bring to your work each day, contributing to the oral health and overall well-being of Nova Scotians. I hope the season ahead brings opportunities for rest, connection, and meaningful moments with family, friends, and community.

Kayla Leary-Pinch

Best regards,

Kayla Leary-Pinch

NSRDHDTD Board Chair

Organizational Structure

Introduction

Background

On May 1, 2025, the existing regulatory bodies of the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS), the Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia (DLBNS), and the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA) migrated to the *Regulated Health Professions Act, SNS 2023, c. 15* (RHPA). The CDHNS, DLBNS, and NSDTA concurrently amalgamated to form the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD).

This historic milestone completed a transformation that began when the CDHNS and DLBNS received a mandate from the provincial government to amalgamate in July 2023, and the subsequent enactment of the RHPA in November 2023. In January 2024, the legacy regulators received notice of the further inclusion of the NSDTA.

The result of the migration to the RHPA and simultaneous amalgamation into a single, modern regulator represents more than a structural change — it reflects a new culture of collaboration among complementary oral health professions. The transition enables:

- regulation that is coordinated and consistent across professions.
- public protection that is strengthened through clear, accessible processes.
- professionals who are supported by aligned expectations and fair oversight.

The Role of the Regulator

The NSRDHDTD is the governing body that regulates the practice of dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism in Nova Scotia. The objects of the regulator, as set out in the RHPA, are to:

- (a) protect the public from harm;
- (b) serve and promote the public interest;
- (c) subject to the public interest, preserve the integrity of its profession; and
- (d) maintain public confidence in the ability of the regulatory body to regulate its profession.

The NSRDHDTD exists to serve and protect the public interest and to regulate these professions through registration, licensing, permitting, and discipline processes. The NSRDHDTD:

- determines who is qualified to practice dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism;
- ensures that dental hygienists, dental technologists, denturists, and dental laboratory technicians have the competencies needed to practice and that they maintain adherence to the established standards for safe and ethical care; and
- manages and investigates complaints related to the practice of dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism, in accordance with relevant legislation and policies.

The NSRDHDTD promotes and supports equitable access to quality oral healthcare for all Nova Scotians.

Governance

Board

The Initial Board of the NSRDHDTD is composed of nine registrants (including no fewer than two from each profession it regulates) and six members of the public appointed by the Governor in Council. The Initial Board comprises all the public members from each of the Boards/Councils of the legacy organizations, with registrant members of the legacy Boards/Councils being selected using a composition matrix.

The NSRDHDTD Board appoints the Registrar, as well as members of all statutory committees listed in the Regulated Health Professions Act.

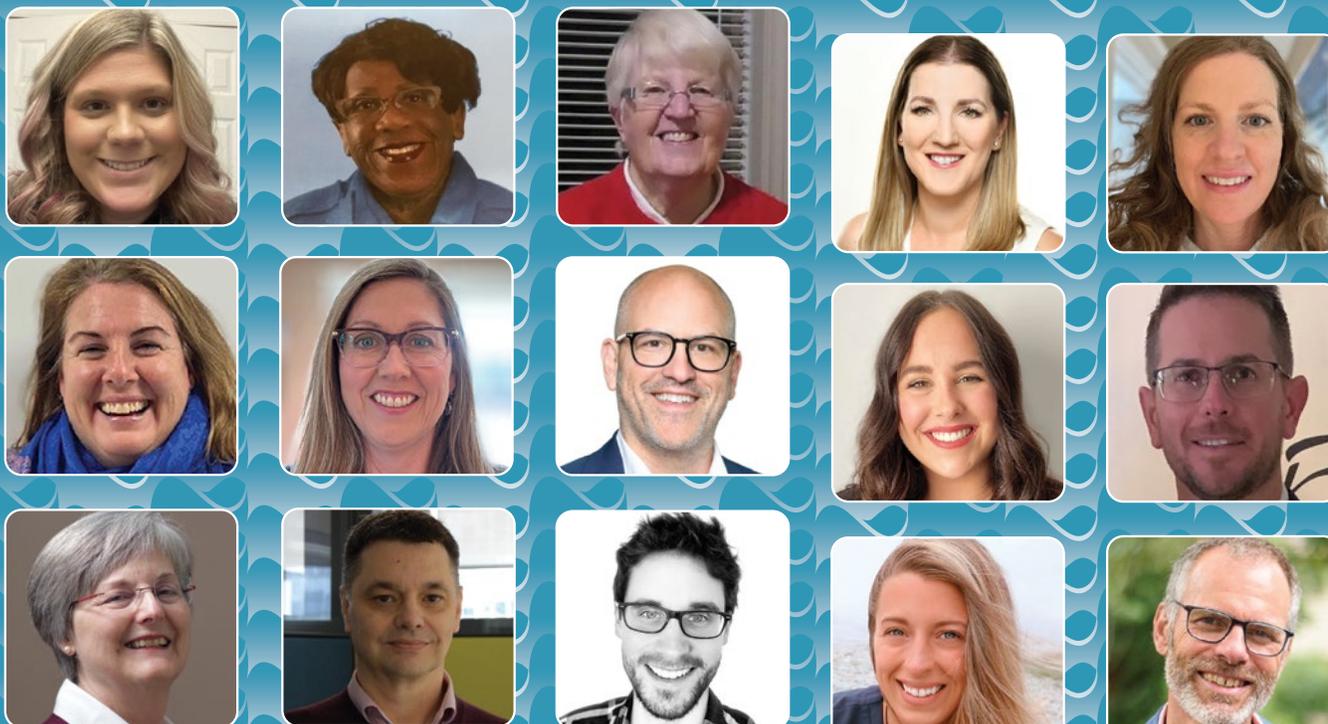
Board's Role

Between May 1, 2025, and October 31, 2025 the Initial Board of the NSRDHDTD met on two occasions to fulfill the responsibility of managing and conducting the business of the Regulator.

Please note: The Initial Board's regularly scheduled Fall 2025 meeting was postponed from October to November, due to extenuating circumstances.

Registrar

The Registrar performs all duties designated to that position by the legislation and any other duties delegated by the Board.



NSRDHDTD Board as of October 31, 2025: Kayla Leary-Pinch (Chair) DH Registrant, Betty Thomas (Vice Chair) Public Member, Paulette Anderson-Public Member, Lisa Caron-Public Member, Sonya Bishop-DH Registrant, Karen Fletcher-DH Registrant, Natasha Gillis-DH Registrant, Christian Hall-DT Registrant, Larissa Leblanc-DH Registrant, John Lilly-DD Registrant, Elizabeth (Beth) Mann-Public Member, John MacIsaac-Public Member, Benjamin Mueller-DT Registrant, Sydney Nelson-DH Registrant, Bruce Walton-Public Member.

NSRDHDTD Management and Staff

A small but committed staff team supports the NSRDHDTD and its Board in fulfilling the duties set out in the RHPA. Staff provide essential administrative, operational, and governance support that enables the organization to carry out its regulatory responsibilities and uphold its public protection mandate.

Stacy Bryan, Registrar

Emily Preeper, Deputy Registrar

Kelly Hurlburt, Communications Coordinator

Danielle Graham, Administrative Assistant

Jasleen Kaur, Administrative Assistant

Statutory Committees

Registration and Licensing Committee

This committee reviews applications that have been referred by the Registrar to determine whether the applicant meets the criteria for registration, licensing, or renewal of a licence, and/or whether conditions or restrictions should be imposed.

Nancy Hayes, Chair, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to October 23, 2027

Helene MacDonald, Vice-Chair, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to October 3, 2026

Carol Gordon, Public Member,
Aug 15, 2025 to August 14, 2027

Della Sangster, Registrant Member,
Aug 1, 2025 to July 31, 2027

Rebekah Skeete, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to November 6, 2027

Kaleigh Wagner, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to April 14, 2026

Registration and Licensing Review Committee (New)

This committee provides an impartial, adjudicative review of decisions made by a Registration and Licensing decision-maker, when a formal review is requested by an applicant.

Richard Dyke, Public Member,
August 15, 2025 to August 14, 2027

Complaints Committee

This committee reviews complaints and directs investigations of alleged instances of misconduct, conduct unbecoming the profession, incompetence, or incapacity (when not managed through the fitness to practice process). This committee may dismiss the complaint, impose conditions or restrictions, suspend a licence, or refer the matter to the Professional Conduct or Fitness-to-Practice Committees.

Nancy Berkshire, Chair, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to May 6, 2027

David Devan, Vice-Chair, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to December 6, 2026

Karen Alcoe-Guest, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026

Sonya Bishop, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2028

Mallory Brent, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026

Michelle Charlton, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to April 30, 2028

Carol Gordon, Public Member,
August 15, 2025 to August 14, 2028

Bill Lloy, Registrant Member,
September 12, 2025 to September 11, 2028

Please note: While some statutory committees were congruent (though differently titled) with those listed in the previous legislation of the legacy regulatory bodies that amalgamated to form the NSRDHDTD, others were new. The NSRDHDTD prioritized populating the committees it anticipated may see the most matters before them. Since the end date of this Annual Report period, more committee appointments have been made, and the NSRDHDTD continues to seek further applicants to populate those with the fewest members.

Professional Conduct Committee

This committee conducts formal hearings to determine whether allegations referred by the Complaints Committee are substantiated. If one or more of the allegations are proven, the Committee determines appropriate sanctions or remedial actions.

Susan (Sue E) Walker, Chair, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to Jan 22, 2029

Heather Bell, Vice-Chair, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to June 22, 2026

Michele Brennan, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to Jan 3, 2028

Jocelyn Burke, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to Dec 12, 2027

Michael Gillis, Public Member,
Aug 15, 2025 to Aug 14, 2030

Loretta Manning, Public Member,
May 1, 2025 to Aug 14, 2025

Ruth McConkey, Registrant Member,
May 1, 2025 to Jan 2, 2029

Reinstatement Committee (New)

This committee reviews applications for reinstatement of registration or licence following a revocation or resignation. This committee may also decide whether publication of the reinstatement is in the interest of the public.

Isabelle Ouellet, Public Member,
Aug 15, 2025 to Aug 14, 2027

Fitness To Practice Committee (New)

This committee assesses capacity-related concerns, where the Registrar deems the registrant is eligible and the registrant agrees to participate in the fitness to practice process.

Isabelle Ouellet, Public Member,
Aug 15, 2025 to Aug 14, 2027

A current list of statutory committee appointments, as well as the Terms of Reference for each committee, can be found here: <https://oralhealthns.ca/about/structure>

Standing Committees

DH Quality Assurance Committee (QAC)

The Quality Assurance Committee was established under the legacy regulator, the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia, and oversees the quality assurance of dental hygienists only, including their Continuing Competency Program. It consists of no less than five members. Under the direction of the Registrar, the QAC conducts the Continuing Competency audit of dental hygienists and reviews other matters concerning the mandatory Continuing Competency Program referred to it by administrative staff.

The NSRDHDTD is working to establish a modernized and aligned Continuing Competency Program that applies to all regulated individuals. For more information, please see the Continuing Competency Program Overview section.

Caroline Bell, Chair,
May 1, 2025 to Apr 30, 2027

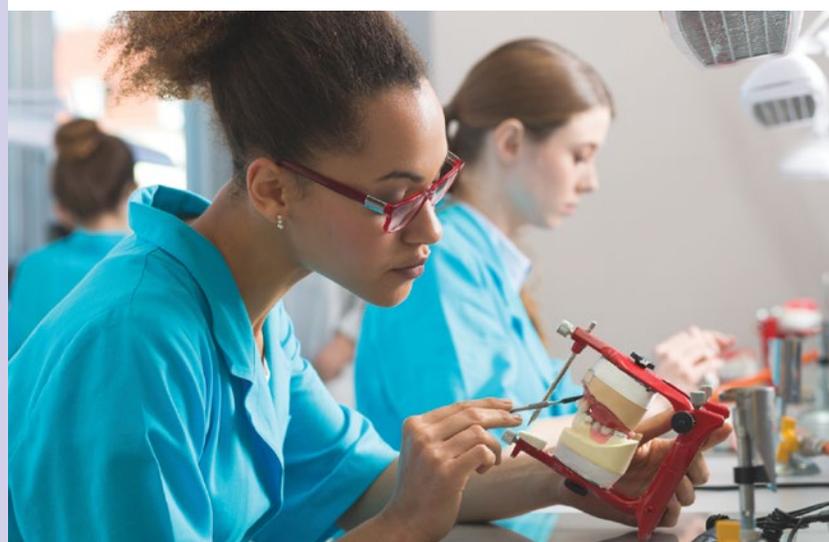
Jennifer Steele, Vice-Chair,
May 1, 2025 to Apr 30, 2027

Sarah Grant,
May 1, 2025 to March 15, 2026

Robyn Killen-Maillet,
to May 1, 2025 to Apr 30, 2027

Britney Merry,
May 1, 2025 to March 15, 2026

Ann Saint,
May 1, 2025 to March 18, 2026



Publication of Notices

The NSRDHDTD publishes notices pertaining to proposed bylaws and bylaw amendments on its public website: oralhealthns.ca. Any active consultations can be found on the home page under the "Information & Announcements" section. Notices are also sent directly to all regulated individuals, impacted or interested system partners, and provincial government departments, as applicable.

Notices published during the reporting year:
[Proposed NSRDHDTD By-Law change regarding section 40.3\(f\)\(ii\)](#)

What Constitutes Dental Hygiene Practice in Nova Scotia

Section 8 of the Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism Regulations outlines the scope of practice for dental hygiene in Nova Scotia. It includes the performance of any or all of the following activities:

- a. assessing oral and general health status;
- b. applying dental hygiene knowledge to make a dental hygiene diagnosis;
- c. planning and implementing dental hygiene interventions and services;
- d. evaluating the progress and results of dental hygiene interventions and services;
- e. performing any other services, roles, functions and activities included in the scope of practice of the designations and licensing categories set out in the bylaws

What Constitutes Dental Technology Practice in Nova Scotia

Section 9 of the Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism Regulations outlines the scope of practice for dental technology in Nova Scotia. It includes the performance of any or all of the following activities:

- a. designing, fabricating, altering, repairing and supplying a fixed or removable prosthetic or appliance to be used in, upon or in connection with or to treat any condition of a human tooth, jaw or associated structure or tissue;
- b. confirming the function, contour and shade of a prosthetic or appliance, including by performing the necessary intra-oral procedures;
- c. performing any other services, roles, functions and activities included in the scope of practice of the designations and licensing categories set out in the bylaws

What Constitutes Denturism Practice in Nova Scotia

Section 10 of the Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism Regulations outlines the scope of practice for denturism in Nova Scotia. It includes the performance of any or all of the following activities:

- a. assessing dental arches missing some or all teeth;
- b. designing, constructing, repairing, altering, ordering and fitting removable dentures;
- c. performing any other services, roles, functions and activities included in the scope of practice of the designations and licensing categories set out in the bylaws

The scopes of practice of dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism also include health promotion, research, education, inter-professional collaboration, consultation, management, administration, advocacy, regulation or system development that is related to the activities and application of specialized, evidence-based and profession-specific knowledge, skills and judgment. Dental hygienists, dental technologists, and denturists are not only clinicians or laboratory practitioners.

Practising dental hygiene, dental technology, or denturism in Nova Scotia without the appropriate and valid licence or permit is a violation under Section 146 (1) of the *Regulated Health Professions Act, SNS 2023, c. 15* for which penalties can, and will, be imposed.

Registration, Licensing, and Permitting

The Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism Regulations set out the registration and licensing categories of the NSRDHDTD. Practising and conditional licenses are available to dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism registrants. Additionally, the Regulations established that, for dental hygiene registrants who were registered with the CDHNS as "non-practising" at the time of migration under the RHPA, their licenses continued under the new regulator. However, these non-practising licenses could not be renewed after their expiration, and no new non-practising licenses are granted.

Further, the Regulations grant the NSRDHDTD bylaw-making authority pursuant to articles 12(2)(d) and (j) of the RHPA, which allowed the regulator to develop bylaws that set forth a **permitting process** for individuals who engage in dental technology, but who are not registered and licensed as dental technologists. These individuals can apply for a Dental Laboratory Technician (DLT) permit, that allows them to work within the scope of practice of dental technology under the supervision of a qualified registrant. The DLT permit process was implemented on July 2, 2025.

There are five tables for Registration, Licensing, and Permitting. One Table provides the total number of regulated individuals in each profession at the end of Oct 31, 2025 (effective Nov 1, 2025). The other tables show the number of new applications received from Nov 1, 2024, and the application status at the end of the fiscal year.

NSRDHDTD Licence/Permit Holders, as of Oct 31, 2025

Category of Licence	Total Number
Dental Hygienists (Practising)	841
Dental Hygienists (Non-Practising)*	0
Dental Technologists	26
Denturists	28
Conditional – all professions	0
Permitted Dental Laboratory Technicians	127

*Until Oct 31, 2025, there was a 'Non-Practising' class of registrants for dental hygiene.

Number of Licence Applications Received – Dental Hygienists (Nov 1, 2024 to Oct 31, 2025)

Applications Received	47
Approved	45
Denied	0
Withdrawn	1
In-progress	1

Number of Licence Applications Received – Dental Technologists (Nov 1, 2024 to Oct 31, 2025)

Applications Received	4
Approved	4
Denied	0
Withdrawn	0
In-progress	0

Number of Licence Applications Received – Denturists (Nov 1, 2024 to Oct 31, 2025)

Applications Received	3
Approved	3
Denied	0
Withdrawn	0
In-progress	0

Number of Permit Applications Received – Dental Laboratory Technicians (Nov 1, 2024 to Oct 31, 2025)

Applications Received	135
Approved	135
Denied	0
Withdrawn	0
In-progress	0

Additional Practice Competencies

There are some specific competencies that are within the scope of the practice of dental hygiene or denturism*, but have been identified by the Board as necessitating additional education, training or other requirements beyond those identified in practice standards. These “additional practice competencies” require approval of the Registrar before a registrant may engage in the advanced practice.

These additional practice competencies are published on the Public Register on the NSRDHDTD website, here: <https://oralhealthns.ca/public/find-a-registrant>

**Please note that there are no additional practice competencies for dental technology at this time.*

NSRDHDTD Registrants with Additional Practice Competency Authorizations, as of October 31, 2025

Authorization	Total Number
Authorized to Administer Local Anaesthetic (DH)	479
Authorized to Perform Orthodontic Procedures (DH)	99
Authorized to Perform Restorative Procedures (DH)	6
Authorized to Perform Dentures over Implants (DD)	15

Professional Corporations

The NSRDHDTD was granted bylaw-making authority in the Regulations, pursuant to articles 12(2)(b)(c) (e) and (g) enabling the regulation of professional corporations. Section 40 of the NSRDHDTD By-Laws sets out the requirements for registrants who practice dental hygiene, dental technology, or denturism through a corporate entity, including the requirement to obtain a Professional Corporation Permit.

Note that not all independent practice of dental hygiene, dental technology, or denturism is through a professional corporation. Registrants may also practice their profession independently through other types of business structures (such as sole proprietorships or partnerships).

Professional corporations or other independent practice settings can include stand-alone clinics or dental laboratories, mobile services, provision of services in long-term care facilities, and collaborative practice settings.

NSRDHDTD Professional Corporations, as of October 31, 2025

Category of Licence	Total Number
Dental Hygiene	6
Dental Technologists	9
Denturists	13



Competency Program

Continuing Competency Program Overview

The NSRDHDTD publishes information about the Continuing Competency Program on its website at: <https://oralhealthns.ca/registrants/continuing-competency>

The NSRDHDTD is working to establish a modernized quality assurance program for all the oral health professionals it regulates. This is a key initiative and is expected to be a multi-year project. The Continuing Competency Programs developed by the legacy regulators that amalgamated to form the NSRDHDTD **will remain in force until a new, aligned quality assurance program is developed, insofar as they are consistent with the RHPA.**

Dental Hygiene: The dental hygiene Quality Assurance Committee, established under the CDHNS, remains in place to continue its oversight of the dental hygiene quality assurance program, including the continuing competency requirements and audits to ensure compliance. The dental hygiene continuing competence program operates on a fixed three-year cycle, with a random audit of 20% of dental hygienists conducted annually for those whose cycle recently concluded. Individuals are randomly selected by a third party.

Cycle	Credits	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
3 years	45	Minimum 15	Maximum 30 No Minimum	Minimum 5 Maximum 15

DH CC Audits Conducted and Outcomes

If a dental hygiene registrant fails to meet the CCP requirements, the registrant is required to submit a written plan detailing how they will meet the requirements within the specified timeframe. If a registrant does not

DH Continuing Competency Audit Results	Total Performed	Total Complete (at initial review)	Extension granted	Total Incomplete	
				Pending (more info required);	Did not meet requirements
For cycle ending Dec 31, 2024 (Audit performed in Feb/ Mar, 2025)	46	31	2*	9**	6**

*Extensions granted are included in the other totals for met, not met, or pending.
** All registrants met the requirements by their set deadlines.

Denturism: The NSRDHDTD continues to work closely with the Denturist Society of Nova Scotia to track and monitor denturist compliance with their continuing education policy, established by the DLBNS. All learning activities must be relevant to the practice of denturism. Because the denturist's program operates on a rolling cycle, compliance is confirmed for all licensed denturists each year.

Cycle	Total	Minimum per year	Patient (Client) Care-Related Credits	Non-Patient (Client) Care Credits
3 years (rolling)	36 hrs	6 hrs	24 minimum	12 maximum

Online Activity Limit: Maximum of 6 credit hours per year from online activities (unless exceptions are communicated to registrants)

Dental Technology: Both dental technologists and dental lab technicians are required to obtain 45 credit hours of learning activities in a three-year cycle. For those who renewed or obtained new licences or permits during the 2025 year, their first three-year continuing competency cycle began on Jan 1, 2026. Full details are found on the NSRDHDTD website [here](#).

For all professions, article 22.3 of the NSRDHDTD By-Laws outlines the requirement for the maintenance of records related to continuing competency program activities for at least the immediately previous 6 years (as applicable) for all registrants.

submit documents as requested, the NSRDHDTD may take one or both of the following actions—a complaint may be initiated and/or the Registrar may suspend their licence in accordance with section 15(1)(a)(iv) of the Regulations until such time as all documents are submitted and their CC requirements have been met.

JOINT CCP PROJECT GROUP

Caroline Bell (DH)
Natasha Gillis (DD)
Sarah Grant (DH)
Robyn Killen-Maillet (DH)
Britney Merry (DH)
Mallory Potter (Administrator, Denturist Society of NS)
Ann Saint (DH)
Jennifer Steele (DH)
Stacy Bryan (DH) Registrar
Emily Preeper (DLT) Deputy Registrar

Facilitating Continuing Competency

The NSRDHDTD is committed to facilitating opportunities for quality, evidence-based, and relevant continuing education for registrants.

Registrant Meeting Highlights: The first inaugural NSRDHDTD Registrant Meeting was held virtually, on May 10, 2025 with 305 NSRDHDTD registrants and members of the public registered for this event. Kayla Leary-Pinch, Board Chair, welcomed everyone and Betty Thomas, Board Vice-Chair, introduced the initial Board members to all in attendance. Stacy Bryan, Registrar, brought greetings and introduced NSRDHDTD staff. The meeting included two continuing competency sessions focusing on water fluoridation by Dr. Cristin Muecke and the new regulatory framework for the NSRDHDTD by lawyer Ryan Baxter.

NSRDHDTD Continuing Competency Event: The NSRDHDTD holds an annual full-day virtual event, typically in November of each year. *Please note that the 2025 Continuing Competency Event was held in November, outside the May 1 to Oct 31, 2025 reporting period.*

NSRDHDTD Within Scope Newsletter

The Within Scope newsletter is the official newsletter of the NSRDHDTD and is circulated to all NSRDHDTD regulated individuals. It is a valuable resource for all dental hygienists, dental technologists, denturists, and dental laboratory technicians in the province, and includes information such as legislative updates, NSRDHDTD Practice Standard and policy updates, "Frequently Asked Questions" about scopes of practice, and continuing competency education opportunities.

December 2025

Nova Scotia Regulator of
Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology,
and Denturism

WITHIN SCOPE

Foundations: Connecting Regulation, Practice, and the Public Trust

Stronger Together: Three Oral Health Professions Under One Regulator

On **May 1, 2025**, Nova Scotia became the **first jurisdiction in Canada** to integrate dental hygienists, denturists, and dental technologists under a single regulatory body. This historic milestone completes a transformation that began in 2023—and positions our province as a national leader in integrated oral health regulation.

What started with a government mandate in **July 2023** to bring together dental hygiene and denturism expanded in **January 2024** to include dental technology. The result of our migration to the [Regulated Health Professions Act \(RHPA\)](#), and simultaneous amalgamation is a single, modern regulator: the **Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD)**.

A Shared Vision for Oral Health Care

This transition represents more than a structural change—it reflects a **new culture of collaboration** among complementary oral health professions. It enables a future where:

- Regulation is **coordinated and consistent** across professions.
- **Public protection is strengthened** through clear, accessible processes.
- **Professionals are supported** by aligned expectations and fair oversight.

We are building a model where working together makes care better—for everyone.

Who We Regulate/Permit

The Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism Regulations identify the scopes of practice for all three professions, the practising licence categories, and the restricted titles.

Profession	License/Permit Type	Active License/Permit Holders
Dental Hygienist	Licence	836 Practising/ 39 Non-Practising
Dental Technologist	Licence	25
Denturist	Licence	31
Dental Laboratory Technician	Permit (effective July 2)	As of June 30th, 2025, over 120 DLT permit applications have been received for permits effective July 2, 2025.

These professionals bring unique expertise to oral health care—and now benefit from unified regulation that recognizes their distinct roles and shared commitment to client-centred care.

Continued on page 3

Community Education Resource Centre (CERC)

The CERC fills requests from all registrants for supplies and resources to support educational activities in communities, provincewide.

Professional Conduct

Overview of Complaints and Investigations Process

The NSRDHDTD publishes information about how to make a complaint and the complaint process on its website at: <https://oralhealthns.ca/public/make-a-complaint>.

The NSRDHDTD manages complaints, investigations, and hearing processes in accordance with the RHPA and other applicable legislation and policies. Formal, signed complaints may be initiated by the Registrar, a committee of the regulatory body, or any other person in accordance with section 70 of the RHPA. The Registrar receives, processes, and/or refers complaints to the appropriate statutory committee in accordance with the authority outlined in the RHPA.

Formal complaints can be submitted in a variety of ways, and must include the name of the regulated individual, the nature of the issue/concern, the contact information of the person filing the complaint, authorization from the client/patient if a third-party is filing on their behalf, and a signature.

A complaint involving the possible incapacity of a registrant may be referred to the *Fitness to Practice Committee* if it is believed to be in the best interest of the public and if the registrant meets the eligibility criteria and consents to the process.

Table 1: Unresolved Complaints

Total # of unresolved complaints as of May 1, 2025	
Types of Unresolved Complaints	# of Complaints
Professional misconduct	2
Incompetence	0
Incapacity	0
Conduct Unbecoming	0
Status of Unresolved Complaints at end of fiscal year Oct 31, 2025)	# of Complaints
Pending Investigation	0
Under Investigation	2
Awaiting Hearing	0
Resolved	0
Outcomes of Resolved Complaints	# of Complaints
<i>Note that a resolved complaint may have multiple outcomes. Therefore, the total number of outcomes may be greater than the total number of complaints.</i>	
Authorize resignation	0
Caution	0
Conditions imposed (includes forms of remediation)	0
Consent reprimand or reprimand	0
Dismissed (with or without written advice)	0
Fine	0
Informal resolution	0
License surrendered	0
Referral to Fitness-to-Practice Committee	0
Referral of matter to another form of dispute resolution	0
Restrictions imposed	0
Revocation of registration or license	0
Settlement agreement	0
Suspension	0
Written advice	0

Table 2: Received Complaints

Total number of complaints received from May 1, 2025 to Oct 31, 2025	
Types of Unresolved Complaints	# of Complaints
Professional misconduct	4
Incompetence	0
Incapacity	0
Conduct Unbecoming	0
Outcomes of Resolved Complaints	
<i>Note that a resolved complaint may have multiple outcomes. Therefore, the total number of outcomes may be greater than the total number of complaints.</i>	
Outcome	
No complaints were resolved during this six-month period.	
Total # of unresolved complaints at the end of October 31, 2025. This number will include unresolved complaints from the beginning of the fiscal year outlined in Table 1 that remain unresolved.	
Status of Unresolved Complaints at end of fiscal year (Oct 31, 2025)	# of Complaints
Pending Investigation	0
Under Investigation	6
Awaiting Hearing	0

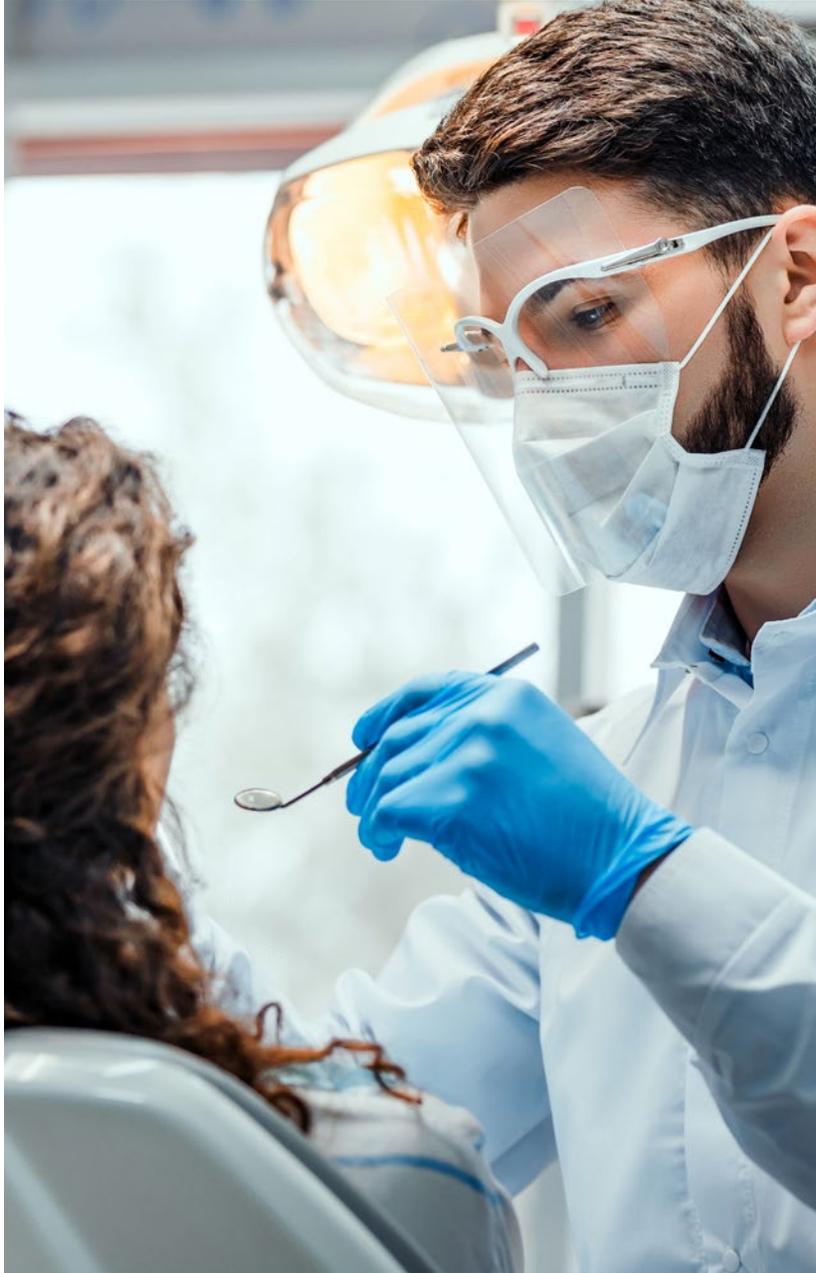
Licensing Sanctions

The NSRDHDTD publishes decisions respecting licensing sanctions on its website at: <https://oralhealthns.ca/public/discipline>.

To date, there have been no sanctions.

Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network

The NSRDHDTD is a member of the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network (the Network), recognized under the Regulated Health Professions Network Act, (2012). The Network facilitates collaboration among regulated health professions to protect the public interest through enhanced regulation. The Network’s membership includes 20 regulated health professions in Nova Scotia. NSRDHDTD Registrar, Stacy Bryan, is the current Network Chair. Recent Network initiatives can be viewed [HERE](#).





CONTACT INFORMATION

NSRDHDTD Physical Location (and Mailing Address)

202-1597 Bedford Hwy
Bedford, Nova Scotia B4A 1E7
Telephone: (902) 444-7241

Jasleen Kaur

Administrative Assistant
Email: info@oralhealthns.ca

Stacy Bryan, RDH, DipDH, MALeaf Registrar

Email: registrar@oralhealthns.ca

Emily Preeper, DLT

Deputy Registrar
Email: deputyregistrar@oralhealthns.ca

Kelly Hurlburt, RDH, DipDH, BA Eng

Communications Coordinator
Email: communications@oralhealthns.ca

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Regulated Members of Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism (the Regulator), which comprise the statement of financial position as at October 31, 2025, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Regulator as at October 31, 2025, and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Regulator in accordance with ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Matter

As described in Note 4 to these financial statements, the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia was continued as a regulatory body under the name Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism, effective May 1, 2025. The financial statements of the Regulator include the assets, liabilities, and net assets of the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association ("NSDTA") and the Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia ("DLBNS") which amalgamated with the Regulator effective May 1, 2025. The financial information relating to the NSDTA and the DLBNS for the period prior to the amalgamation was not audited by us or any other auditor. Our audit, therefore, did not extend to the financial information of that entity prior to the amalgamation date. The opening balances and comparative information presented in these financial statements include amounts derived from the unaudited financial records of the NSDTA and the DLBNS.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Regulator's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Regulator or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Regulator's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Regulator's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Regulator's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Regulator to cease to continue as a going concern.

- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Halifax, Nova Scotia
January 31, 2026

Belliveau Virolette Inc.
Chartered Professional Accountants

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE, DENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND DENTURISM

Statement of Financial Position – October 31, 2025

ASSETS

Current

	Total 2025	Total 2024 <i>Restated</i>
Cash	1,193,316	\$ 1,073,835
Interest receivable	3,129	4,803
Prepaid expenses	5,061	2,970
Due from restricted fund	–	5,520
	<u>1,201,506</u>	1,087,128
Cash, internally restricted - Amalgamation (Note 5)	–	77,005
Cash and investments, internally restricted (Note 5)	<u>539,538</u>	<u>508,865</u>
	<u>\$ 1,741,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,672,998</u>

LIABILITIES

Current

Accounts payable	\$ 40,246	\$ 62,791
Employee deductions payable	–	6,003
Due to restricted fund	435	–
Deferred revenue (Note 7)	<u>558,784</u>	<u>531,230</u>
	<u>599,465</u>	<u>600,024</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	602,041	542,105
Internally restricted (Note 6)	<u>539,538</u>	<u>530,869</u>
	<u>1,141,579</u>	<u>1,072,974</u>
	<u>\$ 1,741,044</u>	<u>\$ 1,672,998</u>

Commitments (note 8)

ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD

Kayla Leary-Pink
Board Member

Greg Thomas
Board Member

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE, DENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND DENTURISM

Statement of Operations - Year Ended October 31, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Revenue		
Licensing and permitting fees		
Dental Hygienists	\$ 505,260	\$ 495,864
Denturists	20,007	-
Dental Technologists/Dental Lab Technicians	23,360	-
	<u>548,627</u>	<u>495,864</u>
Investment income	47,212	64,902
AGM and CCE events	19,255	19,749
Other income	8,348	6,506
Province of Nova Scotia - Amalgamation funding	55,000	55,000
	<u>678,442</u>	<u>642,021</u>
Expenditures		
AGM and CCE events	12,168	7,319
Advertising and promotion	6,820	8,190
Amalgamation expenses	92,920	133,119
Committee and council meetings	11,739	14,690
Communications	1,439	7,118
Consulting fees	22,122	5,467
IT computer purchases and support	59,826	46,925
Insurance	9,263	9,166
Interest and bank charges	2,745	2,818
Investigations	4,030	4,175
Office	26,001	18,919
Professional development	679	1,053
Professional fees	35,324	18,530
Quality assurance and special projects	11,204	6,908
Regulatory fees	16,314	11,103
Rent	25,266	34,602
Travel	2,859	2,192
Wages and benefits	280,079	236,814
	<u>620,798</u>	<u>569,108</u>
Excess of revenues over expenditures	\$ 57,644	\$ 72,913

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE, DENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND DENTURISM

Statement of Changes in Net Assets – Year Ended October 31, 2025

	Unrestricted Funds	Internally Restricted Unrestricted	Total 2025	Total 2024 <i>Restated</i>
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 542,105	530,869	1,072,974	1,000,061
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	78,792	(21,148)	57,644	72,913
Net assets assumed on amalgamation	10,961	–	10,961	–
Transfer from unrestricted net assets	(29,817)	29,817	–	–
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 602,041	539,538	1,141,579	1,072,974

NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF DENTAL HYGIENE, DENTAL TECHNOLOGY AND DENTURISM

Statement of Cash Flows – Year Ended October 31, 2025

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Operating Activities		
Excess of revenue over expenditures	\$ 57,644	72,913
Changes in non-cash working capital:		
Interest receivable	1,674	426
Accounts payable	(22,544)	21,952
Prepaid expenses	(2,091)	365
Employee deductions payable	(6,003)	1,443
Deferred revenue	27,554	58,155
	<u>(1,410)</u>	<u>82,341</u>
OTHER CASH FLOW ITEMS		
Net cash assumed on amalgamation	10,961	–
INCREASE IN CASH FLOW	\$ 67,195	155,254
Cash and cash equivalents - beginning of year	1,665,224	1,509,970
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - END OF YEAR	\$ 1,732,419	1,665,224
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS CONSIST OF:		
Cash	\$ 1,193,316	\$ 1,073,835
Cash, internally restricted	198,540	187,445
Cash, internally restricted - Amalgamation	–	77,005
Investments, internally restricted	340,563	326,939
	\$ 1,732,419	1,665,224

1. Purpose of the Regulator

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (“Regulator”) was established on May 1, 2025, following the amalgamation of the regulatory bodies for dental hygienists, dental technologists, and denturists in Nova Scotia. The Regulator is a not-for-profit organization constituted under provincial legislation and operates in the public interest. The primary purpose of the Regulator is to serve and protect the public by regulating four oral health professions: dental hygienists, dental technologists, denturists, and dental laboratory technicians.

The Regulator is responsible for registration and licensing of dental hygienists, dental technologists, and denturists, and for the permitting of dental laboratory technicians; and establishing standards of practice and conduct, and administering complaints, discipline, and fitness-to-practice processes to ensure safe, competent, and ethical care for Nova Scotians.

2. Basis Of Presentation

The financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations (ASNFPO).

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consists of cash on hand and balances with banks. The regulator considers securities with original maturities of one year or less as meeting the definition of convertible to known amounts of cash.

Fund accounting

The Regulator has established internally restricted funds to fund future contingencies as outlined in note 6. The unrestricted fund reports the revenues and expenditures relating to the normal operations of the regulator.

Transfers between funds are determined by the board, based upon the results of the prior year and the budgeted requirements for each fund.

Financial instruments

The regulator initially measures its financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value, adjusted by the amount of transaction costs directly attributable to the instrument. The regulator subsequently measures all of its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost. Transaction costs are amortized on the straight line basis over the term of the instrument. Interfund balances are noninterest bearing with no set terms of repayment.

Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. The regulator capitalizes assets with a value greater than \$2,000 and a useful life greater than one year. Those assets are amortized over their estimated useful life using the declining balance method. Amortization is calculated at one-half of the annual rate in the year of acquisition; no amortization is recorded in the year of disposal.

Contributed services

The operations of the regulator depend on the contribution of time by volunteers. While their services benefit the regulator considerably, a reasonable estimate of the fair value of donated services cannot be determined and are therefore not recognized in these financial statements.

3. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)Accounting estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amount of assets and liabilities, disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the period. Such estimates are periodically reviewed and any adjustments necessary are reported in earnings in the period in which they become known. Actual results could differ from these estimates.

Revenue recognition

The regulator follows the deferral method of accounting. Unrestricted revenues are recognized as revenue when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred.

Licensing fees are recognized as revenue over the period of time to which they relate. Annual licensing fees are due October 31 each year. Investment income is recorded when received.

4. Amalgamation

In January 2024, the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness (DHW) mandated that the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia amalgamate with the Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia and the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association as they migrate to the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA). This was part of DHW's priority to modernize regulation in the healthcare field. The RHPA supports the amalgamation of health profession regulators where there is a public interest in ensuring the appropriate financial, human, and professional service resources are in place to meet legislated mandates. The migration of these three regulatory bodies was complete on May 1, 2025, at which time they became the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism.

The balances assumed on amalgamation are as follows:

Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia

Cash	\$	21,652
Deferred revenue		13,000
Net assets		8,652

Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association

Cash	\$	2,309
Net assets		2,309

5. Cash and Investments, Internally Restricted

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u> <i>Restated</i>
CIBC GIC for Visa Collateral	\$ 10,000	10,108
CIBC Imperial Investment Account	330,563	319,114
CIBC Operating Account - Internally restricted	198,540	185,162
CIBC Operating Account - Amalgamation fund	–	77,005
	<u>539,103</u>	<u>591,389</u>
Due from (to) unrestricted fund	435	(5,520)
	<u>\$ 539,538</u>	<u>585,869</u>

6. Internally Restricted Funds

These funds have been established to fund future contingencies as follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u> <i>Restated</i>
Disciplinary matters	\$ 346,500	330,334
Rent/office	50,831	49,600
Computer IT	66,885	72,682
Registrar succession	57,986	53,833
Visa collateral	10,000	10,856
Quality assurance and special projects	7,336	8,333
Amalgamation	–	60,231
Subtotal	<u>539,538</u>	<u>585,869</u>
Deferred revenue - Amalgamation	–	(55,000)
	<u>\$ 539,538</u>	<u>530,869</u>

7. Deferred revenue

Deferred revenue represents licensing fees and continuing education (CE) course fees received by the Regulator in the current year that relate to the subsequent year. Changes in the deferred revenue balance are as follows:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 531,230	\$ 473,075
Less: Licensing and permitting fees recognized as revenue in the year	(467,120)	(458,260)
Less: CE course fees recognized as revenue in the year	(9,110)	(14,815)
Less: Amalgamation funding recognized as revenue	(55,000)	(55,000)
Add: Licensing and permitting fees received relating to the subsequent year	543,939	467,120
Add: CE course fees received relating to the subsequent year	14,845	9,110
Add: Amalgamation funding received	–	110,000
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ 558,784</u>	<u>531,230</u>

8. Commitments

	2026	\$ 14,173
	2027	14,778
	2028	13,710
The Regulator has entered into operating leases and commitments for its premises and office equipment as follows:	2029	<u>10,283</u>
		<u>\$ 52,944</u>

9. Comparative Figures

Some of the comparative figures have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

