

July 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	Licence/ Permit Type	Active Licence/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

WITHIN SCOPE

is the official newsletter of the
**Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental
Hygiene, Dental Technology,
and Denturism**

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Kayla Leary-Pinch Chair

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Lisa Caron Public Member

John MacIsaac Public Member

Beth Mann Public Member

Bruce Walton Public Member

Sonya Bishop Registrant

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Registrar: **Stacy Bryan**

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Rates are subject to change.

Publication of an ad does not necessarily imply that the NSRDHDTD agrees or supports the claims therein.

We welcome your ideas and feedback. Submit to the Editor at communications@oralhealthns.ca.



Kayla Leary-Pinch

NSRDHDTD Board Chair's Message

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great excitement and anticipation that I share with you the newsletter of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism. As we embark on this new chapter together, I am honored to serve as the Chair of this newly established regulatory body, and I look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead, as we continue to shape regulation in our province.

For those who may not know me, I'm a proud mother of three, a variety of fur babies and a bonus son. I've been a Registered Dental Hygienist since 2012, graduating from the diploma program at Oulton College, with a focus on both general dentistry and orthodontics. In addition to my Bachelor of Dental Hygiene from Dalhousie and Master's in Education from Acadia, I've had the privilege of holding leadership roles in a variety of sectors, ranging from fire services and life-saving organizations, to community health, provincially and nationally. Most recently, I was elected as a Municipal Councillor in October 2024 and I have served on the Council of the College of Dental Hygienists since 2021. I've also had the honor of Chairing the CDHNS since 2022, and I am excited to continue our work together in this new regulatory capacity.

As a regulator, we uphold the core values of governance, public protection, and fiscal responsibility in the regulation of dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism. As we move forward, I am eager to collaborate with each of you as oral health professionals and public members, in maintaining and enhancing the high standard of regulation that we continue to provide.

I encourage all of you to consider volunteering on one of the NSRDHDTD Committees listed on pg. 13.

For now, enjoy making summer memories and thank you for your continued commitment to excellence in all that you do.

Best regards,

Kayla Leary-Pinch

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What This Means for the Public

“One regulator. One process. Clearer protection.”

The RHPA and subsequent amalgamation improves accessibility, transparency, and consistency for all Nova Scotians. No matter which oral health professional a member of the public interacts with, the regulatory process is now:

- **Clear and standardized** for registration, licensing, complaints, and investigations.
- Supported by **common committee structures**, terminology, and decisions.
- Grounded in a unified framework under the **RHPA** to ensure accountability and fairness.

What This Means for Registrants

“Aligned. Accountable. Advancing Together.”

For registrants, this is a chance to be part of a more coordinated and efficient regulatory experience. Key changes include:

1. Professional Corporations

All three professions now follow the **same professional corporation** requirements under the RHPA and [NSRDHDTT Bylaws](#) (Section 40). The NSRDHDTT is actively working to ensure that all registrants who operate through a corporation are supported in meeting these requirements and issued a Professional Corporation Permit.

2. Continuing Competency Program (CCP)

Work is underway to develop a **shared CCP** that respects both the unique scopes and shared expectations of the three professions. A representative committee will be formed, and registrants will be invited to participate through surveys and consultations.

Until the new CCP is adopted, the **existing CCPs** from legacy organizations remain in effect. See the [Continuing Competency Page](#) of the website for full details.

3. Unified Processes

Whether you’re applying for licensure, undergoing an audit, or responding to a complaint, the **same policies and framework now apply** across all three professions. This creates a more **predictable, fair, and supportive** regulatory environment.

Celebrating Complementary Roles

Each of the three professions brings a **distinct and essential** contribution to oral health:

- **Dental Hygienists** assess oral and overall health for individuals and communities. They use their knowledge to diagnose decay and gum disease with a focus on preventing oral health problems. They plan, provide, and evaluate treatments and services that help maintain healthy mouths and promote wellness.
- **Denturists** design, create, repair, and fit removable dentures to restore function and comfort. For those who are authorized, this includes providing dentures over implants, in conjunction with the [Dentures over Implants Standards](#).
- **Dental Technologists (DT) and Dental Laboratory Technicians (DLT)** work in labs to create, adjust, and repair custom-made dental prosthetic and appliances—like crowns, dentures, and retainers. DLTs most commonly work in labs under the supervision of DTs but may also work in clinics owned and operated by denturists or dental hygienists, following the [supervision requirements](#) approved by the Board.

Looking Ahead

Over the coming months, you can expect:

- Invitations **to participate in Committees, working groups, and consultations**. Please see the article on pages 13/14 about potential Committee involvement.
- Continued support with **professional corporations, licensing, and practice standards**.
- A strong focus on **transparency, engagement, and excellence**.

To all registrants, thank you. Your adaptability, collaboration, and professionalism made this transition possible. Together, we are building a regulator—and professions—that are future-focused.

Legislative Updates for RDHs

Many dental hygienists are aware that for over 5 years, legislative changes were identified in a key number of areas. As of **May 1, 2025**, the following changes apply to all practising dental hygienists in Nova Scotia*:

Self-Initiation

All practising RDHs are now **self-initiating**, unless a specific restriction applies. No additional course is required.

You are now authorized to determine when and how to initiate dental hygiene care—including when to consult or collaborate with other providers.

Local Anaesthetic

RDHs authorized to administer local anaesthetic **no longer need a written order** from a dentist or physician.

This removes a longstanding barrier and supports more responsive care.

Radiography

While radiography is no longer specifically listed in legislation, it remains within scope. New **Radiography Standards** support its safe, competent use by RDHs.

Additional guidance for dental hygienists is available in the following Standards:

- [Standard of Practice: Professions Judgment and Collaboration with Healthcare Professionals](#)
- [NSRDHDTD DH Local Anaesthetic Practice Standards and Requirements for Authorization](#)
- [Radiography Standards for RDHs](#)

* As with all health professionals, each RDH must limit their practice to their own level of competence, and authorization, if required (e.g., Local Anaesthetic administration), regardless of what is included in the profession's scope of practice.

Ongoing DH Standards Development

We are currently working on additional **Standards of Practice** to support and reflect recent legislative changes. Under the RHPA, some scope-related requirements that previously appeared in regulations will now be outlined in **standards** instead. This shift is based on Government direction and will help ensure practice expectations are up-to-date, practical, and easier to interpret. Stay tuned for updates and opportunities to provide input as these standards are developed.

Registrar's Message



Stacy Bryan,
Registrar

It is a privilege to continue in the role of Registrar for our newly amalgamated regulatory body, the NSRDHDTD, now representing dental hygienists, dental technologists, and denturists. Since joining the former College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia in Sept 2017, I have had the honour of working alongside a dedicated team committed to public protection and professional excellence. This team includes staff, Board/Council members, and Committee volunteers. With a background in dental hygiene (University of Alberta, 1989), and a Master of Arts in Leadership (completed in November 2014), I bring both clinical and regulatory experience to this evolving role.

On May 1, 2025, we officially migrated to the RHPA and simultaneously became this new, unified organization—marking a significant step forward in the regulation of oral health professionals in Nova Scotia.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to a new group to our regulatory framework joining us: Dental Laboratory Technicians — over 120 individuals have submitted applications to be permitted effective July 2, 2025. Sincere thanks to the DLTs, and to the dental technologists and denturists who have supported and facilitated this important process.

Another key development has been the alignment of requirements for Professional Corporations. Through the new [Bylaws \(Section 40\)](#) and [Board-Approved Prof Corp Requirements](#), all three regulated professions now follow a consistent process for the issuance and renewal of professional corporation permits. I want to especially thank the dental laboratories that have worked closely with me over the past two months to ensure compliance with these new requirements.

This new chapter strengthens our ability to regulate multiple oral health professions in a consistent and transparent manner—always with a focus on protecting the public and supporting safe, competent care. Together, we are building a strong, collaborative, and modern approach to regulation that reflects the contributions of the dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism professions in Nova Scotia.

Staff Introductions

Emily Preeper

Deputy Registrar

I am honoured to introduce myself as the new Deputy Registrar of the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD) – a position I step into with great enthusiasm and a strong commitment to our shared mandate of serving the public interest.



As you know, we have recently undergone a significant transition that led to the establishment of the NSRDHDTD. Three distinct oral health professions – dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism – were amalgamated under one regulatory body and legislative framework, marking a new chapter for oral health regulation in Nova Scotia. This unique model will allow us to move forward in-step together, ensuring that regulatory processes are fair, transparent, and inclusive; that our professional standards are upheld; and that we can work to advance oral healthcare with a focus on public protection.

I previously served as the Secretary for the Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA) for over 15 years. In this role, my primary responsibilities were to maintain a register of dental technicians, review licensing applications, keep records of Council meetings and decisions, be the first point of contact for the NSDTA, and liaise with external organizations, such as the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators, the Nova Scotia Regulated Health Professions Network, and other oral health regulators in the province.

Throughout my time with the NSDTA, I cultivated positive working relationships with the former College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia and Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia, particularly through our shared efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic, and toward amalgamation and migration to the Regulated Health Professions Act. These collaborative endeavours have laid the foundation for continued success in regulation as part of a now united team.

It has been a privilege to serve the dental technology community, and I am grateful for the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and to support the professions of dental hygiene and denturism, as well.

I look forward to being part of an organization committed to regulating in a way that is responsive to the evolving needs of you – the registrants – as well as the public, other oral health regulators, the government, and other key system partners. Together, we can unify our collective

expertise to achieve excellence in care, and to foster a deeper sense of cooperative partnership in the evolving landscape of oral healthcare.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support as we navigate this exciting new phase, and for your dedication to providing skilled and ethical care in your profession.

I wish you all a safe and joyful summer season!

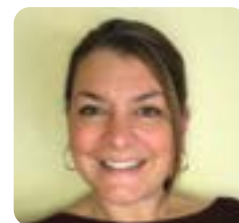
Best Regards,

Emily Preeper, *Deputy Registrar*

Kelly Hurlburt

NSRDHDTD Communications Coordinator

Kelly is a registered dental hygienist. She previously worked in general practice for 26 years before beginning her position with the legacy organization, CDHNS, in 2018. She works remotely, in a part-time position (three days a week) from her home, in Yarmouth. Kelly's focus is on things such as CC events, registrant meetings, newsletters, resource centre, etc.



Jasleen Kaur

NSRDHDTD Administrative Assistant

Jasleen started work with the legacy organization, in April of 2021. She works full-time, in office. Jasleen's focus is on applications (registration, licensing and transfers), annual renewals (payments, invoices, troubleshooting), web postings, registrant portal issues, etc.



Thank you to **Danielle Graham** and **Thomas Kowalczyk** for their invaluable administrative support to both the CDHNS and now the NSRDHDTD during this time of transition. Their contributions have helped facilitate the migration of key regulatory functions, including registration and licensure processes, as well as broader operational responsibilities. For example, Danielle led the development and updates to the new website, and we are pleased that she will continue to support us for the foreseeable future with website updates and support for registration, licensure, and renewal. Thomas provided essential assistance with database revisions and updates, including integrating required information for denturists and their professional corporations. As Thomas prepares to move on to new opportunities, we extend our sincere thanks and best wishes. To both of you, your work has made a meaningful difference—thank you.

Welcome to New Public Board Members

The NSRDHDTD and Board would like to extend a very warm welcome to Lisa Caron, John MacIsaac, and Bruce Walton as the recent government appointed public members to the NSRDHDTD Board. Lisa was appointed on May 1, 2025 (term ending April 30, 2026). John was appointed on May 1, 2025 (term ending April 30, 2026). Bruce was appointed in June 6, 2025 (term ending May 31, 2026).

Lisa Caron is a seasoned strategist and operations-focused leader with a deep belief in the power of strong relationships. She has built a career guiding health and regulatory organizations through complex challenges, helping turn research and vision into tangible outcomes.

Her expertise in strategic planning has shaped the future of organizations such as Dalhousie University, the Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, and the Nova Scotia College of Respiratory Therapists. Focused on operational efficiency, stakeholder engagement, and long-term planning, she ensures organizations meet current demands while preparing for a sustainable future.

Lisa is also committed to community health and serves on the Board of Directors at the North End Community Health Centre, supporting its mission of providing accessible, high-quality care to underserved populations.

She is a strategic planner with OnePagePlans and holds a B.A. in Psychology and an M.B.A. from Saint Mary's University.

John MacIsaac is the Manager of Emergency Preparedness at Nova Scotia Health in Sydney, and Director of the Professional Development Committee for the International Association of Emergency Managers (Canada Council). He brings extensive health care and governance experience to the NSRDHDTD Board.

Prior to his current role, John worked as an Advanced Care Paramedic for 28 years, collaborating closely with nurses and other regulated professionals. He contributed to drafting Nova Scotia's first Paramedic Act and remains registered in paramedicine. John also sits on the Complaints Committee for the NS Regulator of Paramedicine.

John's experiences in the paramedic profession has reinforced his belief in the value of regulatory bodies who both protect the public interest, and support registrants in meeting and understanding their professional standards.

Bruce Walton is recently retired after 32 years as a chiropractor in Guelph, Ontario. In addition to running a busy family practice, Bruce spent 20 years working in a variety of roles in chiropractic regulation, beginning as a Peer and Practice Assessor and billing adjudicator, then spending his last several years as the Director of Professional Practice for the College of Chiropractors of Ontario. In this role he supported Council and, in particular, the Quality Assurance Committee, in their work updating and creating practice standards, policies and guidelines. He was also responsible for developing and implementing a variety of quality assurance and continuing education initiatives for the chiropractic profession in Ontario and several other chiropractic regulatory authorities across the country. Bruce has long been committed to helping professional members appreciate practice from the perspective of protecting the public interest and the important role each member plays in self-regulation.

Having recently relocated to Nova Scotia to be closer to their children and three (soon to be four) grandchildren, Bruce and his wife, Jennifer, are grateful to have the opportunity to spend lots of time playing with the grandkids, who all live within walking distance! Bruce also enjoys time creating things in his wood shop, making photographs exploring this province he now calls home and making music in his community.

"I appreciate the opportunity to contribute in this role and look forward to working with all Board members, and staff, as they continue to navigate amalgamation."

Did you know?

The NSRDHDTD's Quality Assurance Committee (which will include representatives from all three professions) will be working to align all three Continuing Competency Programs into one cohesive program that still reflects the differences between scopes of practice.

You will be given advance notice before this is implemented.

Introduction of New NSRDHDTD Board

Betty Thomas - Vice-Chair NSRDHDTD Board



Betty Thomas is a highly skilled public representative in the area of Board Management serving as a key decision-maker, bringing strategic direction and oversight for programs and initiatives, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements while exercising due diligence and providing understanding of statutory, fiduciary and ethical responsibilities.

As Board Vice-Chair, Betty possesses a wealth of experience in leading Boards to consensus, and a proven ability to conduct Board meetings, collaborate with other Board members to set goals and objectives, develop Board policies, procedures and practices.

Betty is also an experienced Adjudicator with a demonstrated ability to interpret and apply legislation, policies and directives as they relate to making decisions on sensitive and complex issues.

Betty's experience includes Chairing a Federal Government Adjudicative Board and being a member of a Federal Government Adjudicative Board. Betty's experience also includes being a member of two Provincial Government Non-Adjudicative Boards.

Betty's past Board experience includes Chairing, Vice-Chairing and being a member of several non-profit Boards, and Provincial Government Agencies, Boards and Commissions.

Betty has also provided leadership by sharing her skills on numerous Board committees for public and private Boards. Betty is adept at providing a proven record of collaborating with committee members, to develop and present recommendations to Boards for specific governance tasks.

Currently, Betty is a member of the Nova Scotia College of Dispensing Opticians (NSCDO) and the Provincial Government Screening Committee for Appointments to Provincial Government Boards and Commissions (ABC's) (Excluding Department of Health and Wellness). Betty's experience in this area stems from her several years of service as an Advisory Committee member for appointments to Provincial Government Boards and Commissions (ABC's) for several Departments. (Excluding Department of Health and Wellness).

With Betty's knowledge and experience as a Public Representative Board's member participation in the extensive decision-making process to initiate, develop and implement plans for the creation of One Nursing Regulator in Nova Scotia; Betty was excited in July 2023 to hear that she would be participating in a similar amalgamation process for three oral health professions.

Betty Co-Chaired the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS), Denturist Licensing Board of Nova Scotia (DLBNS), and Nova Scotia Dental Technician Association (NSDTA) Transition Committee.

The Transition Committee through astute collaboration navigated a process that led to the Creation of the Amalgamated Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism (NSRDHDTD).

Betty is a sincere, dedicated volunteer who continues to use volunteerism as a pathway to connect, understand and contribute meaningfully to the community.

Betty's motto is *"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart. And it is with this heart that I proudly serve."*

Did you know?

The Non-Practising Licence for Dental Hygienists is Ending

Government has determined that the **non-practising licence for dental hygienists will only continue until October 31, 2025.**

If you renewed as non-practising on or after **November 1, 2024**, you should have already received this update.

Before October 31, 2025, you'll need to choose one of the following:

- **Transfer to a practising licence**, or
- **Allow your licence to expire**, while choosing to **remain on the Register** (non-licence status).

More details will be shared in the Notice of Expiry coming in late August 2025.

Introduction of New NSRDHDTD Board *continued*

Board Members:



Kayla Leary-Pinch
Registrant NSRDHDTD
Board Chair (RDH)



Betty Thomas Public
Member NSRDHDTD
Board Vice-Chair



Paulette Anderson
Public Member



Lisa Caron
Public Member



John MacIsaac
Public Member



Beth Mann
Public Member



Bruce Walton
Public Member



Sonya Bishop
Registrant (RDH)



Karen Fletcher
Registrant (RDH)



Natasha Gillis
Registrant (Denturist)



Christian Hall
Registrant (RDT)



Larissa LeBlanc
Registrant (RDH)



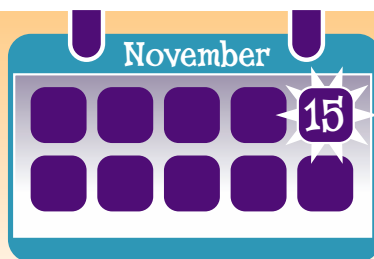
John Lilly
Registrant (Denturist)



Benjamin Mueller
Registrant (RDT)



Sydney Nelson
Registrant (RDH)



Save the Date!!

The NSRDHDTD, in conjunction with the Denturists Society of Nova Scotia will be offering a virtual, full day continuing competency event on Saturday, November 15, 2025.

More details to follow at a later date.

Learning More About the Three Professions That Make Up the NSRDHDTD



Dental Hygiene Profession

Scope of Practice

In Nova Scotia, a dental hygienist may act as a researcher, clinician, consultant, administrator, manager, educator, or health promoter. In Nova Scotia, dental hygienists implement the dental hygiene process of care, often called by the acronym ADPIE, which includes conducting an initial dental hygiene assessment, dental hygiene diagnosis (professional conclusion), planning treatment, implementing the treatment (or care) plan, and evaluating the outcomes.

Some of the key roles and services that dental hygienists are authorized to perform in Nova Scotia include:

1. Periodontal therapy: (e.g., periodontal debridement, often called scaling and rootplaning)
2. Dental Radiographs: Dental hygienists can order, take, and diagnose dental radiographs (e.g., x-ray imaging) for dental hygiene care, in accordance with [Radiography Practice Standards](#).
3. Oral Health Education for individual clients and communities.
4. Preventive/Therapeutic Treatments: This includes fluoride applications and dental sealants.
5. Teeth Whitening
6. DA Supervision: While dental assistants are regulated by the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dentistry and Dental Assisting (the “NSRDDA”), they often work closely with dental hygienists, dental technologists, and denturists.

The recent NSRDDA legislation (also in effect May 1, 2025) identifies dental hygienists as potential supervisors for dental assistants. The [DH Standards](#) were approved by the NSRDHDTD Board on May 1, 2025, following consultation.

A dental hygienist who supervises a dental assistant must ensure the supervision complies with legislation, the Standards, and is within their own scope of practice, competence, and any required authorizations.

7. Dental Hygiene Practices (mobile and store-front clinics): Dental hygienists may own and operate dental hygiene clinics. At this time, there are [13 dental hygiene practices](#).
8. Additional Practice Competencies (requiring Registrar authorization): Dental hygienists who meet the requirements set out by the NSRDHDTD can apply for authorization to perform the following procedures:
 - a. [Local anesthesia administration](#)
 - b. [Perform permanent restorative procedures in collaboration with a dentist](#)
 - c. [Perform orthodontic procedures in collaboration with a dentist](#)
 - d. Prescribe the drugs set out in the Practice Standard: Prescribing for Dental Hygienists (document will be available after May 1, 2025).

Licensure Requirements

To become a dental hygienist in Nova Scotia, individuals must meet specific requirements. These include:

1. **Education:** Completion of a Board-approved dental hygiene diploma or degree program (or equivalent) is required.
 - a. Applicants who obtained their dental hygiene education from a non-approved dental hygiene program must meet the additional requirements, as required by legislation.
 - b. Currently, there are 35 educational institutions (Colleges and Universities) that offer dental hygiene programs across Canada.
 - c. In Nova Scotia, dental hygiene education is offered at Dalhousie University’s [Faculty of Dentistry](#). There are two options offered at Dalhousie – a three-year Bachelor of Dental Hygiene degree (includes the pre-professional year) and a Bachelor of Dental Hygiene with Honours Program, which offers an additional year where students take a series of courses which build upon the knowledge base of the degree program.
2. **Licensure:** To practice legally in the province, individuals must be issued a practising licence from the NSRDHDTD.

3. **Professional Designations:** Individuals who hold a practising licence with the NSRDHDTD are entitled to call themselves “registered dental hygienists” or “dental hygienists” or use the initials “D.H.” or “R.D.H.”.

4. National Dental Hygiene Certification

Examination: In Canada, dental hygienists must pass the [National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination](#) (NDHCE) (offered through the [Federation of Dental Hygiene Regulators of Canada](#)) to demonstrate their competency in dental hygiene.

5. **Continuing Education:** Dental hygienists are required to engage in the [NSRDHDTD Dental Hygiene Continuing Competency Program](#) and complete ongoing professional development and continuing education activities to maintain their licensure. Dental hygienists are expected to engage in activities that address and promote continuing competence, inter-professional collaboration, changes in practice environments, standards of practice, and the latest advancements in the field.

6. **Practice Hours:** Dental hygienists are required to complete 600 practice hours within the three-year period immediately preceding an application, including renewals.



Dental Technology Profession

Scope of Practice

Dental technology consists of the design, fabrication, alteration, repair, and supply of fixed and removable dental prosthetics or appliances to be used in, upon, or in connection with any human tooth, jaw, or associated structure or tissue. The scope of practice for dental technology is outlined in the Profession Specific Regulations. Those practising dental technology receive a prescription from another health professional like a dentist or denturist, from which they make these prosthetics or appliances. Dental technology also includes the performing of necessary intraoral procedures to confirm the function, contour, or shade of the prosthetics or appliances, including occasionally

seeing individuals at dental laboratories for shade-taking and matching appointments.

Within dental technology, there are licensed Dental Technologists, which are often referred to as “RDTs” (Registered Dental Technologists). As well, there are permitted Dental Laboratory Technicians (DLTs), who are supervised by a licensed registrant of the NSRDHDTD – often a Dental Technologist. RDTs and DLTs may work in one or more of the following disciplines:

1. **Crown and bridge:** these individuals often work with wax to mock up and idealize an intraoral situation. They would then use metal alloys or other materials to fabricate and finish crowns, bridge frameworks, inlays or onlays, post and cores, and other fixed restorations.
2. **Ceramics:** individuals who are ceramists use porcelain-like materials layered onto a substrate to make a variety of fixed prostheses that mimic natural teeth in colour, shape and texture such as crowns, bridges, and veneers.
3. **Removable Partial Dentures:** these individuals design and fabricate partial dentures that combines a rigid framework with artificial teeth for individuals who are missing some, but not all natural teeth.
4. **Complete Dentures:** these individuals design and fabricate removable prosthetics, typically in a type of acrylic, for individuals who are missing all of their teeth on one or more arches.
5. **Orthodontics:** individuals who practice orthodontics fabricate a multitude of fixed and removable appliances meant to treat irregularities of the teeth or jaw. They often use a variety of materials and techniques to make things such as retainers, space maintainers, biteplanes, and palatal expanders.

Additionally, many Dental Technologists and DLTs, in both fixed and removable disciplines, work to restore dental implants and are employing CAD/CAM technology more and more.

Licensure Requirements

1. **Education:** Completion of a [Board-approved dental technology program \(or equivalent\)](#) is required for Dental Technologists. DLTs do not require any formal dental technology education, but must work under the supervision of a licensed registrant.
 - a. There are 5 colleges across Canada that offer dental technology as a 2- or 3-year program.
 - b. There is currently no program for dental technology in NS.

- c. The national federation of dental technology regulators – the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR) – of which the NSRDHDTD is a member, is working toward implementing a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition program for those with practical experiential knowledge or gaps in formal education.

2. Licensure & Permitting:

(1) For those who meet the qualifications of a Dental Technologist, they must be on the Dental Technologist Register and hold a current practising licence.

(2) For individuals who do not qualify for licensure as a dental technologist, they must obtain a Dental Laboratory Technician permit from the NSRDHDTD and may then work under the supervision of a licensed NSRDHDTD registrant.

3. **Protected Titles/Designations:** In Nova Scotia, only those who hold a licence and are current NSRDHDTD registrants can call themselves a **Dental Technologist, Registered Dental Technologist**, or use the initials “RDT” after their name as a professional designation.

Permitted individuals may call themselves a **Dental Laboratory Technician**, or a **DLT**.

4. **Qualifying Examination:** In NS anyone wishing to become an RDT must participate in the credentialing and competency assessments provided by the CADTR, which includes knowledge-based and practice-based examinations.
5. **Continuing Education:** Dental Technologists and DLTs are both required to engage in a Continuing Competency Program. They are outlined in the Continuing Competency Program for RDTs and section 5 of the Requirements to Obtain a DLT Permit. RDTs and DLTs must complete ongoing professional development and continuing education to maintain their licence or permit. They are expected to engage in activities that address and promote continuing competence, interprofessional collaboration, changes in practice environments, standards of practice, and the latest advancements in the field.
6. **Practice Hours:** Dental Technologists are required to complete 600 practice hours within the three-year period immediately preceding an application, including renewals. DLTs have no requirement to meet a practice hour threshold.



Denturist Profession

Scope of Practice

In Nova Scotia, a denturist may act as a researcher, clinician, consultant, administrator, manager, educator, or health promoter. The scope of practice of denturism includes assessing dental arches missing some or all teeth; and designing, constructing, repairing, altering, ordering and fitting removable dentures.

1. **Denture Fabrication:** Denturists are trained to design, create, and construct complete and partial dentures for individuals who have lost some or all of their natural teeth.
2. **Denture Repairs and Adjustments:** Denturists can repair, reline, and adjust dentures to ensure they continue to fit comfortably and function effectively.
3. **Consultation and Patient Education**
4. **Denture Maintenance**
5. **Denture Clinics:** All denturists own and operate private denture clinics. Denturists can visit private and long-term care homes. There is a total of 29 clinics operating throughout Nova Scotia.
6. **Additional Practice Competencies** (requiring Registrar authorization): Dentures over implants – Denturists in Nova Scotia, who meet the criteria set out by the NSRDHDTD, are authorized to do dentures over implants.

Licensure requirements

To become a denturist in Nova Scotia, individuals must meet specific requirements. These include:

- 1. **Education:** Completion of a [Board-approved denturism program \(or equivalent\)](#). Currently, there are five denturism programs in Canada that offer diplomas in denturism.
 - a. They are 2.5 to 3 years in length.
- 2. **Licensure:** To practice legally in the province, individuals must be issued a licence from the Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD).
- 3. **Protected Titles/Designations:** Those who hold a practising licence from the NSRDHDTD are entitled to call themselves a “Denturist”.
- 4. **Denturist Qualifying Examination:** Denturists must also pass the Qualifying Examination to demonstrate their competence in denturism. The Qualifying Examination (MCQ and OSCE) is delivered either by the College of Denturists of Ontario (CDO) or the College of Alberta Denturists (CAD), or both components of the Canadian Denturist Multi Jurisdictional Registration Examination (CDMRE).
- 5. **Continuing Education:** Denturists are required to engage in the [Continuing Education Program](#) and complete ongoing professional development and continuing education to maintain their licensure. Denturists are expected to engage in activities that address and promote continuing competence, interprofessional collaboration, changes in practice environments, standards of practice, and the latest advancements in the field.
- 6. **Practice Hours:** Denturists are required to complete 600 practice hours within the three-year period immediately preceding an application, including renewals.

NSRDHDTD Virtual Registrant Meeting

The NSRDHDTD held its first annual Registrant Meeting (previously AGM) on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Overall, it was very successful, with 305 NSRDHDTD registrants, and several public members, attending. Kayla Leary-Pinch, Board Chair, welcomed everyone. Betty Thomas, Board Vice-Chair brought greetings and introduced the new NSRDHDTD Board members. Stacy Bryan, NSRDHDTD Registrar, brought greetings and introduced herself, staff members and explained the logistics of the meeting. Dr. Cristin Muecke presented a 30-minute educational session titled, *Community Water Fluoridation: An Ounce Of Protection*. Ryan Baxter also presented a 30-minutes presentation titled *The New Regulatory Framework for the NSRDHDTD*. Following these sessions, recognition of previous Board/Council members was given, then the meeting concluded. *We thank you for your participation.*

- 26 participants completed the post-event survey.
- 54% of respondents were rural; 38% were urban; 8% were both
- 96% rated the Registrant Meeting good to excellent.

Event Agenda

NSRDHDTD Board Chair’s Address and Welcome-including land acknowledgement

Greetings from Betty Thomas, NSRDHDTD Board Vice-Chair

Greetings from Stacy Bryan, NSRDHDTD Registrar

Presentation by Dr. Cristin Muecke, Regional Medical Officer of Health for Northern Zone: *Community Water Fluoridation: An Ounce of Prevention*

Presentation by Ryan Baxter, Legal Counsel from McInnes Cooper Law Firm: *The New Regulatory Framework for the NSRDHDTD*

Recognition

Call for Applications for Statutory Committees of the NSRDHDTD

Introduction

The Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism (NSRDHDTD) is inviting registrants to apply for positions on statutory committees. These committees play an essential role in upholding the regulatory body's public protection mandate under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*.

The NSRDHDTD regulates three distinct professions – dental hygiene, dental technology, and denturism. It is important that some of the statutory committees include representation from each profession to support balanced, informed decision-making.

Background

Under the previous regulatory frameworks, one of the legacy organizations, the College of Dental Hygienists of Nova Scotia (CDHNS), had several comparable standing/statutory committees composed of dental hygienists and public representatives. In most cases, these individuals were transitioned to equivalent statutory committees now that the NSRDHDTD has migrated under the RHPA. Notably, the former CDHNS Credentials Committee's roles have been divided into two distinct committees:

- Registration & Licensing Committee – now populated by former CDHNS Credentials Committee members
- Registration and Licensing Review Committee – newly established and requires registrant and public members

Other transitions include:

- Investigation Committee - now the Complaints Committee
- Hearing Committee - now the Professional Conduct Committee

Three new statutory committees are also introduced under the new legislation:

- Fitness to Practice Committee
- Reinstatement Committee
- Practice Review Committee

Who Should Apply

The NSRDHDTD welcomes applications from practising licence holders in all three professions. We are especially seeking dental technologists and denturists for committees where dental hygienists are already represented. This is an opportunity to help shape the regulatory landscape through your active involvement.

When considering applying, please keep in mind the regulatory body's core responsibilities ('objects') under the [RHPA](#):

- (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.

Available Opportunities

The NSRDHDTD is seeking to fill registrant representative positions on the following statutory committees:

- **Registration and Licensing Committee** (dental technologists and denturists especially encouraged to apply)
- **Registration and Licensing Review Committee** (all three professions encouraged to apply)
- **Complaints Committee** (dental technologists and denturists especially encouraged to apply)
- **Professional Conduct Committee** (dental technologists and denturists especially encouraged to apply)
- **Fitness to Practice Committee** (all three professions encouraged to apply)
- **Reinstatement Committee** (all three professions encouraged to apply)

Roles and Responsibilities

Registration and Licensing Committee (Non-Adjudicative)

– 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.

Registration and Licensing Review Committee

(Adjudicative) – Provides an impartial, adjudicative review of decisions made by a Registration and Licensing decision-maker, when a formal review is requested by an applicant.

Complaints Committee (Non-Adjudicative) – 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). May dismiss the complaint, impose conditions or restrictions, suspend a licence, or refer the matter to the Professional Conduct or Fitness-to-Practice Committees.

Professional Conduct Committee (Adjudicative) – 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.

Fitness to Practice Committee (Adjudicative) – Assesses capacity-related concerns, where the Registrar deems the registrant is eligible and the registrant agrees to participate in the fitness to practice process.

Reinstatement Committee (Adjudicative) – Reviews applications for reinstatement of registration or licence following a revocation or resignation. May also decide whether publication of the reinstatement is in the interest of the public.

Application Criteria

It is important that committee members represent the public interest in their role on statutory committees. For this reason, individuals applying to sit on the committees should make themselves familiar with relevant legislation including:

- The [Regulated Health Professions Act](#)
- The [General Regulations of the RHPA](#)
- The [Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology, and Denturism Regulations](#)
- The [By-Laws of the NSRDHDTD](#)
- The relevant Codes of Ethics and Standards of Practice

Pursuant to the RHPA, applicants for positions on adjudicative statutory committees cannot be current NSRDHDTD Board members and cannot have been members of the board of a professional association within the past two years. Further, individuals cannot sit on both the Registration and Licensing AND Registration and Licensing Review Committees, or both the Complaints AND Professional Conduct Committees.

Individuals applying to sit on a statutory committee will be required to:

- Complete an application. They are encouraged to self-identify as a member of any equity-deserving groups to which they belong. This information will be carefully compared to an established competency matrix and used to fill in any gaps in equity, diversity, inclusion, or skills areas of the committee that were previously identified as needing representation to most effectively operate in the public interest.
- Provide a brief cover letter outlining the reasons they are looking to serve on the applicable committee(s) they have applied for.
- Disclose any perceived or potential conflicts of interest that exist or may arise as a result of participating in their committee work.
- Attend an interview (virtual, telephone, or in-person) with the Registrar, Chair of the applicable committee, Board Executive member, or any combination of these.

Terms of Appointment

Applicants applying to serve on a committee are expected to complete an orientation process, and to attend all committee meetings.

Meeting frequency will vary depending on which committee and how many matters may be referred to it, but every committee will meet at least once annually. The term of appointment will depend on the specific committee.

Reimbursement of expenses will be consistent with the Board's expense reimbursement and per-diem policies for committees.

To Apply:

Please fill out the [application](#) including conflict of interest attestation to:

- **Stacy Bryan, Registrar**
- Email: registrar@oralhealthns.ca
- 202-1597 Bedford Hwy., Bedford, NS B4A 1E7

If you wish to be considered for the first round of committee appointments under the new legislation which we recently migrated to, **please submit your application by July 18, 2025**. However, we are open to accepting applications for any committee position at any time, so that when a vacancy arises, it can be filled in a timely way.

CPR Requirements

Heart and Stroke Foundation

Based on the current course offerings and levels, the accepted course from the Heart and Stroke Foundation is Basic Life Support (BLS).

CPR Offerings: There are a variety of organizations and providers across the province who provide CPR courses that meet the requirements for NSRDHDTD renewal and initial licences in the practising class. As a courtesy to NSRDHDTD registrants, a [CPR section](#) of the website indicates providers who have notified the NSRDHDTD that they will offer courses for registrants based on the licensing requirements.

Lifesaving Society

Based on current course offerings and levels, the accepted course from NS's Lifesaving Society is CPR Healthcare Provider/AED.

Red Cross CPR

Based on the current course offerings and levels, the accepted course from the Red Cross would be BLS for Healthcare (HCP).

St. John Ambulance

Based on the current course offerings and levels, the accepted course from St. John Ambulance would be Health Care Provider (HCP) CPR.

NSRDHDTD registrants must obtain and provide evidence of current CPR certification, at the appropriate level, so that you can proceed with renewal of, or transfer to, the practising licence class. Prior to enrolling in a CPR course, check with the provider to confirm how you will receive your certification and how long it will take to receive it. A temporary certificate is NOT acceptable.

How can you expect to get your CPR certification/card?

Heart and Stroke Foundation

After successful completion of the BLS course, you must log in to the Heart and Stroke Foundation website to access and print your certification card.

Lifesaving Society

After successful completion of your course, the Lifesaving Society will issue a printed copy of your card. Processing times generally are less than two weeks. If you require your card sooner, arrangements can be made through the course provider.

Red Cross CPR

Red Cross will provide you with a 30-day temporary certificate after successful completion of the course and require you to log in to their website to download official certification later. The 30-day temporary certificate is NOT acceptable for licensure. It is your responsibility to provide appropriate certification prior to the renewal deadline.

St. John Ambulance

If you take the course at a St. John Facility, you should receive your CPR Certification immediately after successful completion of the course. If you take this program through a contractor, you should also receive your certification immediately following successful completion of the course but it is your responsibility to confirm this at enrollment.

We Need Your Input!

Since merging the three health professions into the new Nova Scotia Regulator of Dental Hygiene, Dental Technology and Denturism (NSRDHDTD), we are exploring the idea of communicating with registrants a bit differently, moving forward.

Our goal is to use a strategy that most effectively communicates with registrants, and the public. We would like your input to decide what is the most effective way of delivering important information.

- Do you enjoy this newsletter format, previously delivered three times a year?
- Would you like to have information sent only via email, as important items arise?
- Maybe you have an alternate idea of keeping everyone informed?

Any feedback/suggestions are welcome and can be sent to communications@oralhealthns.ca

July 2025



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

WITHIN SCOPE

Foundations: Connecting Regulation, Practice, and the Public Trust

Important dates to remember

End of August: Notice of Expiry sent out to all NSRDHDTD Registrants

September 1, 2025: Licence and Permit Renewal Begins

October 6, 2025: Deadline for Renewal by the Board-set Deadline

November 15, 2025: NSRDHDTD Full Day CC Event

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

202-1597 Bedford Hwy
Bedford, N.S. B4A 1E7

www.oralhealthns.ca