

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 15, 2020

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**LOCAL RESIDENT ELECTED PRESIDENT,  
ONTARIO DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION**

**Burlington, ON:** Carrie Vondrau, RRDH, of Cambridge has been elected President of the Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association (ODHA), a not-for-profit organization with over 8,000 members. Her term of office is for 20 months, effective September 10, 2020.

A registered dental hygienist for 22 years, Carrie brings a wide range of clinical experience and knowledge to the position. Carrie started her career upon completion of the dental hygiene program at Niagara College. In addition, Carrie earned her diploma in restorative dental hygiene from George Brown College in 2005. Carrie was initially elected to the ODHA Board of Directors in 2015 representing Region E – Hamilton and District, Niagara Region and Waterloo-Wellington.

During her term as president, Carrie is looking forward to working alongside the Board of Directors, a team of professionals whose main objective is to advance the profession of dental hygiene, educate the public about the importance of good oral health for overall health, and to advocate for access to oral health care for all Ontarians.

As essential members of the health-care team, dental hygienists have a distinct role in the prevention of oral disease and in the promotion of oral health. This positions dental hygiene as an integral part of Ontario's primary health-care system.

Dental hygienists work in a variety of public and private health-care settings. With more than 300 independent dental hygiene clinics and mobile practices located across the province, the public has increased access to affordable dental hygiene services.

Those who benefit most are low-income families, the uninsured and those who are physically unable to get to a dental office such as the sick or the homebound, residents in long-term care homes and those living in remote areas.

Established in 1963, the ODHA advocates for the profession. Dental hygiene is one of the largest regulated health-care professions in the province. In Ontario, all dental hygienists are registered with the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario, which regulates the profession to ensure the public receives safe and comprehensive oral health care.

**Photo Caption:** Carrie Vondrau, 2020-2021 ODHA President