

2024



2025

odha
Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association



MEMBER VALUE REPORT

Your profession.

Your province.

Your association.



Heather Kleinberg, RDH

Message from the *President*

I am pleased to present the 2024–2025 Member Value Report, highlighting the impactful work ODHA has accomplished this past year and the continued strength of our professional community. As President of ODHA, I am honoured to represent an association that listens to your voice, advocates tirelessly on your behalf, and proudly promotes the dental hygiene profession in Ontario.

This report underscores the many ways ODHA delivers meaningful value to our members — through advocacy, professional development, communications, public awareness, member benefits, and more. We are committed to enriching your experience, ensuring you are supported, informed, and empowered throughout your career.

At ODHA, we know that membership is more than just access to services — it's about connection, empowerment, and being part of something bigger. Together, we are making a difference for the dental hygiene profession and the oral health of all Ontarians.

ODHA's mission is to advance dental hygienists as primary care providers in the interests of both the profession and the public. Over the past year, we've taken action on critical issues, such as quickly correcting misinformation and working closely with key system partners to influence policy and support registered dental hygienists across the province. Through events like our Educators' Forum and resources from audiocasts, salary and practice survey, and FOCUS digital publication, we continue to lead professional development and provide tools helping you grow.

Our campaign theme this year, "Join ODHA – Your Voice in Ontario," reinforces our unwavering dedication to advocacy, protection, and promotion. Together, we ensure the dental hygiene profession continues to thrive and be heard in every corner of Ontario's health-care system.

I encourage you to explore and experience the exceptional value and benefits ODHA offers.

Thank you for your continuous support, dedication, and commitment to the dental hygiene profession. Together, we will continue to make a profound difference for our profession and the people we serve.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'H Kleinberg'.

Heather Kleinberg, RDH
President, ODHA



Discovering the true value of being an ODHA member is easier and more meaningful than ever.

Throughout the 2024 – 2025 membership year, ODHA has remained dedicated to amplifying the voices of Ontario dental hygienists, championing the profession, and delivering meaningful, member-focused support. The value and advocacy our members have received from their provincial professional association this year has been exceptional.

At ODHA, we have steadfastly dedicated ourselves to supporting our members. From 24/7 legal guidance and exclusive savings on home and auto insurance to discounts on wellness services and professional development, we proudly represent our members at both provincial and national tables, collaborate with key system partners, and work tirelessly to elevate and protect the role of dental hygienists in Ontario.

In the following pages, you will find compelling highlights that showcase the incomparable value ODHA membership brings in advocacy, communications and resources, professional development, public awareness, member benefits and services, as well as a glimpse of what's coming next.

As you read this report, we hope you feel proud of what we've accomplished together. Whether you're renewing your membership or joining for the first time, we thank you for being part of this vibrant and growing community.

Together, we'll continue to lead, support, and make a lasting impact on oral health and professional growth.

ODHA - Your Voice in Ontario!

ADVOCACY



ADVOCACY

ODHA advocates on your behalf on issues specific to regulations and dental hygiene scope of practice in Ontario.

August - November 2024

- Actively engaged in the Canadian Dental Care Plan's (CDCP) Fees Methodology Working Group to advocate for a greater focus on prevention in the services covered under the CDCP and for fee parity.

October 2024

- Received approval from Health Canada to move forward with development of a full submission to the Oral Health Access Fund to establish a comprehensive oral health care program in long-term care led by registered dental hygienists (RDHs).
- Met with Federal Health Minister Mark Holland to discuss the CDCP and parity for the dental hygiene fee grid.

Fall 2024 - Winter 2025

- Actively engaged in the consultation held by the Ministry of Colleges, Universities, Research, Excellence and Security on the dental cluster program standards for dental hygiene and dental assisting, including responding to the pre-consultation survey, engaging in meetings with Ministry staff and providing input into the draft revised dental hygiene program standards.

November 2024

- Presentation to Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology (CAAT) Heads of Oral Health.

December 2024

- Completed full submission to Oral Health Fund.

January 2025

- Meeting with staff in the Ontario Minister of Health's office regarding the essential role of registered dental hygienists in improving access to care.
- Submission for the government's pre-budget consultation recommending the government implement targeted initiatives to improve access to oral care in the province.



ADVOCACY

February 2025

- Met with Dental Hygiene Practitioners of Ontario executive members and ODHA Board to discuss concerns in the practice environment and how the two associations can work together to address these concerns.
- Participated in an interview as part of Ontario Dental Association's (ODA) Benchmarking consultation to provide input on ODA's future strategic plan development.

April 2025

- Submission of a letter to Dr. Karima Velji (Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief of Nursing and Professional Practice with the Ontario government) and Mr. Irwin Glasberg (Ontario Fairness Commissioner) about the petition to allow internationally trained dentists (ITDs) to deliver preventive oral health care under the supervision of a dentist. Our letter has been shared with other provincial dental hygiene associations for their information.

May 2025

- Met with ODA's Executive and CEO to discuss:
 - the petition regarding internationally trained dentists and the narrative of a "perceived shortage of RDHs";
 - workplace challenges experienced by RDHs including issues related to pre-medication requests and lack of extended health-care benefits; and
 - troublesome language in the ODA's Long-Term Care Fee Guide that does not recognize the status of RDHs as independent oral health-care professionals.
- Wrote a public social media post titled "[Clarifying the narrative around the "shortage" of registered dental hygienists in Ontario](#)."
- Presentation to CAAT Heads of Oral Health.
- Met with other provincial dental hygiene associations and Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) to share ODHA's response to the ITD petition and to provide an update on our advocacy efforts to address comments about a "perceived" shortage of RDHs in Ontario.

June 2025

- Interview with journalist from INsauga publication regarding "perceived" dental hygiene shortage and need for proper oral health human resource planning.

July 2025

- Wrote a letter of support to the Dental Hygienists Association of Alberta regarding their efforts to raise concerns about the College of Dental Surgeons of Alberta's creation of a supportive pathway for ITDs.

COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES



COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

5

Issues of FOCUS digital publication

Since the new version of FOCUS was launched in November 2022, 14 issues have been released. The new version is shorter in length and published five times per year. We also introduced a mobile version, making it easier to read on the phone. [Five issues](#) have been released from August 2024 to July 2025.

During the 2025-2026 membership campaign from July to October, the [July issue](#) of FOCUS was accessible to non-members, giving everyone an opportunity to see the valuable resources ODHA provides to its members.

360+

Total email communications

Ongoing communications to keep members informed and updated on the profession, new professional development opportunities, research articles, advocacy efforts, member benefits and services, and more.

1030+

Social media posts

Educating members and the public through information and research shared with daily posts on Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram.

33+

Presentations to dental hygiene students

ODHA provides engaging presentations for both first-year and graduating students on a variety of topics. Presentations are tailored to meet students' needs as they journey through dental hygiene academics from novice to graduate.

48

Oral health information sheets

ODHA offers seven [dental hygiene resource sheets](#) specifically developed for dental hygienists and 39 [oral health fact sheets](#) for the public. Dental hygienists can download and print these information sheets to use chairside as educational tools with clients.

All oral health information sheets are reviewed periodically, and new ones are developed as needed.



COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

Virtual meetings with members and beyond

March 2025 – Virtual Townhall

In response to member feedback highlighting employment-related concerns, ODHA took action to provide meaningful support to members. Following a well-received 2024 virtual Townhall on client-focused care, post-event survey results identified employment law and workplace standards as key areas of interest.

To address these priorities, ODHA hosted an exclusive live virtual Townhall on March 31, 2025, featuring employment lawyer Brooke Auld of Piccolo Heath LLP. The session covered key workplace topics related to scheduling, safety, and harassment, followed by a live Q&A where members had the opportunity to receive answers to their employment-related questions. This meeting was recorded, and can be found on the ODHA website under [Member Benefits -> Employment Topics](#). Keep an eye out for further resources related to employment law, coming this year.

June 2025 – Educators' Forum

ODHA hosted its annual Educators' Forum virtually on June 2, 2025, bringing together over 90 dental hygiene educators from 18 colleges offering dental hygiene programs across Ontario. The event featured presentations on topics which are timely and relevant to dental hygiene educators, and included: An update on AI and best practices in the classroom, highlights from a pilot project at Fanshawe College on a functional assessment tool for persons living with disabilities, palliative dental hygiene care in the long-term care setting and placement opportunities for students, leadership in dental hygiene education, information on international outreach programs, and the latest activities at the CDHO.

Evaluation results showed strong engagement and satisfaction, with 100% of respondents in support of holding this Forum annually.



COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

New resources

Educator resource page

ODHA recently added an [Educator Resources](#) webpage to the website. This resource page is designed to support dental hygiene educators and includes information on scheduling ODHA student presentations specific to first-year or graduating students, advocacy, or developing a business plan for a dental hygiene practice, as well as research articles and professional development opportunities. These educator resources are available to ODHA members and can be accessed [here](#).

Member benefits

New in 2024: Andau Medical and ODHA have partnered to provide special pricing just for you. Andau Medical has created a line of ergonomic loupes which enable you to be in a neutral position while you work, alleviating strain on the eyes, neck, back and shoulders. Andau Medical offers special pricing on loupes and loupes + lights combos to ODHA members.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ODHA is proud to provide first-class professional development (PD) as a member benefit. ODHA delivers this commitment year after year providing value added online and in-person learning which can be used to meet your quality assurance learning goals.



Conversations with Dr. Glogauer and Kim Ivan

24
EPISODES

There were [24 audiocast episodes](#) presented by Dr. Michael Glogauer, DDS, PhD, Dip. Perio, and Kim Ivan, RDH, BIS (Hon), released this past membership year. A total of over **16 hours** of professional development.

For additional layered learning, there were **24** keynote and **716** additional resources included for quality assurance and personal growth. Plus, **154** client resources to share in practice.

16+ HOURS

24 KEYNOTES

716 ADDITIONAL
RESOURCES

154 CLIENT
RESOURCES

48
ARTICLES
ODHA NEWS

dhnewswire.odha.on.ca

Dental Hygiene Newswire

Forty-eight research articles and ODHA news, were posted from August 1, 2024, to July 31, 2025 on [Dental Hygiene Newswire](#). Research articles can be used toward achieving quality assurance learning goals. New research and content are added regularly. ODHA news keeps you updated and involved with the association.

In-Person Professional Development Seminars

Date	PD Seminar	Speakers	In Partnership With
28-Mar-25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">What's CURVES have to do with it?Choosing Your Path: Navigating the CDHO Quality Assurance ProgramBalancing Act: The Oral Microbiome, Inflammation, and Your Client's Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Dani Botbyl, RDHKathleen Bokrossy, RDHBeth Parkes, RDH, BSc	Dentsply Sirona Curion rdhu

Year in Review

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In addition to continuously giving members free access to all the [legal courses](#), ODHA released three new online courses for professional development.

Temporomandibular Disorders (TMD)

Presented by Dr. Sid Lisser, Dr. Brittany Kucharski, Dr. Amelia Edmonds.

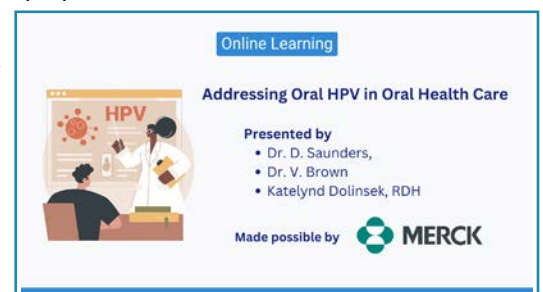
[This course](#) is designed to equip dental hygienists with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand, assess, and manage musculoskeletal orofacial pain in clinical practice. Musculoskeletal orofacial pain encompasses a range of conditions that can significantly impact a client's oral health, quality of life, and overall well-being. This course will explore the underlying causes, assessment techniques, and evidence-based management strategies for clients experiencing orofacial pain of a musculoskeletal origin.



Addressing Oral HPV in Oral Health Care

Presented by Dr. D. Saunders, Dr. V. Brown, and Katelynd Dolinsek, RDH. Made possible by [Merck Canada Inc.](#)

[This presentation](#) offers a comprehensive overview of human papillomavirus (HPV), including its transmission and risk factors for oral HPV infection. It explores the link between HPV and HPV-associated cancers, particularly oropharyngeal cancer. The session also covers HPV vaccines, current data on vaccine effectiveness, and recommended usage guidelines. Oral health professionals will gain the knowledge and confidence to advocate for HPV vaccination, including understanding vaccine types, dose schedules, and effective communication strategies when discussing vaccination with clients.



Year in Review

Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) Review

Presented by Linda McLarty.

Infection prevention and control (IPAC) is essential in oral health-care settings to protect both clients and staff. This course will help you stay informed on the latest best practices, compliance requirements, and resources to ensure safe and effective care.

With 32 years of experience as an IPAC educator and medical device reprocessing specialist, Linda McLarty provides an in-depth review of critical topics, including medical device processing, dental water quality and biofilm control, IPAC training and audits.



Zero Cavity Future: Building a Smile Defense Plan for Kids

Presented by Dr. Mariana Leon, RDH, DDS. Sponsored by [Colgate](#).

Dental caries is the most common chronic disease among children. Despite being preventable, 1 in 5 children under the age of 5 in Canada have already experienced dental caries. [This course](#) explores how oral health professionals can use the three pillars of effective caries management to build a proactive smile defense plan for pediatric clients. Participants will learn to understand the current pediatric caries rates in Canada, conduct quick and effective caries risk assessments, recommend and apply evidence-based treatments, and communicate treatment rationale to increase client acceptance.



PUBLIC AWARENESS



PUBLIC AWARENESS

ODHA ran a multimedia public awareness campaign from October 1 – 31, 2024, promoting the profession and oral health in combination with the 2024 Ontario Dental Hygiene Week.

4,447,308

Total campaign impressions



Radio ads contracted across Ontario



Strategic social media posts



Promotion of lovemyteeth.ca website

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES



MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

As a member of the ODHA, it's reassuring to know your provincial professional association consistently helps members save time and money on services which can make work and life easier. In addition, we provide superior learning opportunities, practice resources, peer recognition, and the ability to connect with others.

Professional Malpractice Insurance

An active membership includes malpractice (liability) insurance – \$5 million aggregate coverage and \$2 million per claim. It also includes \$75,000 per year for disciplinary legal fees, \$150,000 per year for criminal defence and \$750 per day for loss of earnings. All for no additional costs.

Additionally, receive group rate savings on home, auto, extended health, life, disability, commercial liability, critical illness, and cyber insurance.

Protecting your career and life

PROLINK and ODHA have partnered to develop a professional liability malpractice insurance program tailored to your needs and is included with an active membership. This policy meets all requirements of the CDHO and will help defend you from claims for professional negligence, omission of information, injuries, or other errors within your scope of practice as a dental hygienist.



Personal life, health, and disability benefits program

PROLINK also offers members affordable group rates and comprehensive health care coverage for you and family members. Plans offered are extended health, dental, disability, critical illness, and life insurance providing long-term protection. They also provide educational articles on insurance scams, moving to a new home, and tips for buying a used car.

Read article: [How to protect yourself from malpractice claims as a dental hygienist](#)

ODHA MEMBERS SAVE 20% ON HOME & AUTO INSURANCE

MEMBER BENEFITS AND SERVICES

ODHA's purchasing power can save members hundreds of dollars on numerous services and benefits. The following [benefits and services](#) are included or discounted with membership:

Home & Lifestyle

- Advent Mortgage Service
- Real estate referral service
- Car and moving truck rentals
- Phone mobility plans
- Legal advice – ODHA's Legal-Line

Entertainment & Attractions

- Canada's Wonderland
- Canadian National Exhibition
- Falls Avenue Resort
- Marineland
- Movie tickets

Health & Wellness

- Agio compression hosiery and sport socks
- Fitness clubs
- Orasoptic loupes
- Andau Medical

Digital & Tech

- Endless Savings and More (ESM) – Mobile discount app
- Perkopolis – 5,000+ exclusive perks
- Digital publications and resources

Professional Support

- Professional development – Online and in-person
- Professional liability (malpractice) insurance
- QA Coach by rdhu
- ProvinciaLINK – Association updates
- ODHA Awards and Honours
- Moneris Solutions



... plus so much more!



www.odha.on.ca
1.800.315.6342

WHAT'S COMING



What's coming

FREE gifts with 2025–2026 membership

Join ODHA or renew your membership by October 31st and receive two new and free professional development online learning courses added to your account as our thank you gift to you! Also, [join or renew](#) early for more chances to win [fabulous prizes](#).

4 ProvinciaLINK Updates

ODHA [ProvinciaLINK Update](#) video, featuring important news and highlights about your provincial association, is released four times a year - in March, June, September, and December.

5 issues of FOCUS digital publication

[FOCUS](#) is published five times a year – in January, March, July, September, and November. It serves as a vital communication channel for all ODHA members. It provides valuable updates on the association's activities, insightful articles on the latest research relevant to the dental hygiene profession, and professional development resources exclusively curated for our members. It also includes noteworthy information for dental hygiene students.

24 new and free audiocasts

Conversations with Dr. Glogauer and Kim Ivan is a [free audiocast](#) for ODHA members only, which includes evidence-based information covering a wide-range of important topics applicable to oral health professionals. There are 24 new audiocast episodes each year, representing over 14 hours of professional development to support your quality assurance learning goals.



What's coming

50+ research articles & ODHA news on DHN website

Over fifty research articles with links and ODHA news will be posted over the next year on the [Dental Hygiene Newswire \(DHN\)](#) website.

In-person professional development events

We will provide in-person professional development seminars for our members in 2025-2026. Please watch your emails and ODHA social media posts.

New resource for students:

Study Tips from Dental Hygiene Students

Looking for practical ways to stay on top of your coursework and succeed in your dental hygiene program? ODHA's new student resource, Study Tips from Dental Hygiene Students, brings together proven strategies from peers who've been in your shoes. Covering everything from time management and lecture preparation to effective study tools and peer support, this guide is designed to help you thrive academically while maintaining balance. Whether you're just starting out or navigating a tough semester, these tips offer real-world advice to support your learning journey — because you're not alone, and ODHA is here every step of the way.