

**2025**  
—  
**2026**

**MEMBER  
VALUE  
REPORT**





Amy Currie, RRDH

## Message from the

*President*

It is my pleasure to present the 2025–2026 Member Value Report, showcasing the many ways ODHA has supported our members, strengthened the profession, and advanced dental hygiene over the past year.

As President, I am honoured to represent our strong community of ODHA members, and to work alongside a dedicated board, staff, volunteers, and partners who are committed to strengthening our profession. Together, we continue to advocate for registered dental hygienists (RDHs), deliver meaningful member benefits, and create opportunities helping our members succeed throughout their careers.

This year marked an important milestone in advocacy when the government accepted our proposed scope enhancements. While there is still work ahead, this achievement reflects years of ODHA advocacy on your behalf and reinforces ODHA's commitment to advancing the profession.

Beyond advocacy, ODHA continues to provide exceptional value through professional development, timely communications, legal resources, exclusive member benefits, and public awareness initiatives. Every program and service is designed to support members professionally while strengthening the collective voice of dental hygienists across Ontario.

As we celebrate these accomplishments, we also look ahead. Together, we will continue building on the progress we've made, advocating for positive change, and creating new opportunities for our profession. Your membership is more than a benefit - it is an investment in the future of dental hygiene. Every member strengthens our collective voice and helps move the profession forward.

This report highlights what we have accomplished collaboratively throughout the past year and demonstrates the impact of your membership. Whether you are renewing your membership or considering joining ODHA for the first time, I invite you to join ODHA and continue the momentum. Together, we can advocate, innovate, and invest in a stronger future for our profession and the communities we serve.

Thank you for your trust, engagement, and commitment to ODHA.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Amy Currie". The script is fluid and cursive.

Amy Currie, RRDH  
President, ODHA



## The value of ODHA membership has never been greater

Throughout the 2025 – 2026 membership year, ODHA continued to advocate for registered dental hygienists across Ontario, while delivering valuable resources, professional development opportunities, and member-exclusive benefits. Every initiative, resource, and program was designed with one goal in mind - to strengthen the profession and help our members succeed.

This year marked an important milestone in our advocacy efforts as proposed enhancements to the dental hygiene scope of practice advanced to government review. While there is still work ahead, this achievement reflects years of collaboration and reinforces ODHA's commitment to advancing the profession on behalf of our members.

ODHA remains dedicated to helping members thrive at every stage of their professional journey. Beyond advocacy, ODHA continued to provide meaningful support to our members through legal guidance, professional liability insurance, professional development, communications, exclusive savings, wellness resources, and career support.

ODHA also strengthened connections across the profession by delivering timely communications, expanding educational resources, promoting oral health awareness, and creating opportunities for members to learn, engage, and stay informed.

This report highlights how ODHA delivered value through the year. We hope you feel proud of what we have accomplished together. Whether you are renewing your membership or joining for the first time, we thank you for being part of this vibrant and growing community.

Together, we will continue to shape the future of the profession while advancing oral health for all Ontarians.

**ADVOCACY**



# ADVOCACY

ODHA advocates on your behalf on issues related to regulations, dental hygiene scope of practice in Ontario, oral health, and access to health care.

## Scope of Practice

- In September 2025, the Ontario government announced a consultation on scope changes for RDHs and several other regulated health professions.

ODHA has been working to advance the scope of practice to enable RDHs to:

- prescribe radiographs;
- be a Radiation Protection Officer; and
- prescribe and administer local anesthesia by injection in the orofacial complex

This announcement resulted from a combined initiative between the ODHA and the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario (CDHO).

On September 25, 2025, ODHA shared proposed responses with its members to help them prepare their own submissions. In addition to ODHA's submission on dental hygiene scope, ODHA also supported the denturists' request for an expanded scope.

In January 2026, ODHA submitted our response to the government's pre-budget consultation. In our response, we focused on the research demonstrating the safety of local anesthesia administration by RDHs.

In May 2026, the Minister of Health Sylvia Jones directed CDHO to begin the necessary work to move forward with scope of practice changes for RDHs. These future changes will increase the public's access to comprehensive oral health care.

## Canadian Dental Care Plan

- In August 2025, Marg Harrington, ODHA CEO, was invited to meet with staff of the Office of the Auditor General (OAG) to provide feedback on the scope of its upcoming audit of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). The federal auditors later met with the ODHA Board on September 5, 2025. During these meetings, ODHA identified several improvements we would like to see to the CDCP, including increasing the number of scaling units for all clients to 12 units per year, removing the administrative burden associated with preauthorization requests, placing greater focus on prevention, and enhancing communication to CDCP recipients to provide clarity about what is and is not covered.



# ADVOCACY

## Addressing the Narrative Perceived Shortage of RDHs

- In March 2026, Marg Harrington was interviewed by the Cornwall Standard-Freeholder regarding a labour plan survey by the Eastern Ontario Training Board that specifically mentioned an incoming and current labour shortage of RDHs. [The article can be accessed here.](#)

## Expand Access to Infection Prevention and Control Supplies

- ODHA has been actively engaging with Supply Ontario (an agency of the Government of Ontario) to expand access to IPAC products available to dental hygiene practice owners.

## Support for Degree Completion Program

- In May 2026, ODHA responded to Durham College's survey on its proposed Honours Bachelor of Science Degree Completion in Dental Hygiene. In June 2026, ODHA provided a letter of support for the program for government submission. The proposed program would be offered fully online and open to graduates of Ontario-accredited dental hygiene programs, including publicly funded and private colleges.

## Ontario Special Olympics

- As part of our ongoing relationship with Special Olympics, ODHA advertised volunteer opportunities for the Special Smiles program at the Special Olympics Ontario School Championships games in London, Ontario, in May 2026.

# **COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES**



# COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

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## Issues of FOCUS digital publication

[FOCUS](#), published quarterly, is an exclusive publication for ODHA members. It provides valuable updates on the Association's activities, evidence-informed articles relevant to the dental hygiene profession, professional development opportunities, and resources for both RDHs and dental hygiene students. Since October 2025, FOCUS has also featured a new Legal Column by Julia Martin, providing practical insights into legal and regulatory issues affecting RDHs. Recent articles include:

- [How Laws and Regulations Are Amended in Ontario](#) - July Issue
- ["As of Right" Legislation in Ontario: Better in Principle than in Practice](#) - April Issue
- [Professionalism Required When Using Social Media](#) - January Issue

368+

## 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.

1050+

## 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.

52

## Oral health information sheets

ODHA offers eight [dental hygiene resource sheets](#) specifically developed for RDHs and 41 [oral health fact sheets](#) for the public. RDHs 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

### October 2025 – Education Pathways Townhall

The townhall meeting on education pathways for RDHs familiarized members with a range of educational and career options available to those seeking to expand their skill sets and qualifications. The event showcased the education and career pathways of five RDHs who returned to school and advanced into roles in education, research, and restorative dental hygiene.

ODHA member feedback:

"I wish this information was presented in this manner 25 years ago. So many opportunities for expanding career opportunities."

"Loved all the presenters! Never knew there were so many opportunities as an RDH."

"I am strongly considering taking my education to a higher level."

This townhall can be viewed [here](#).

### November 2025 – Long-Term Care (LTC) Townhall

The townhall meeting, Long-Term Care (LTC) – Getting to Know the LTC Client, gave members a clear overview of the role of LTC homes within Ontario's health-care system. It also explored common misconceptions about the typical LTC client, highlighted the frailty of residents, and provided useful context for RDHs interested in dental hygiene practice in LTC settings.

Member feedback:

"The speakers and atmosphere of collaboration were excellent."

"Excellent well informed speakers. Engagement with viewers and answered great questions."

"Presenters provided excellent information on the oral health-hygiene status of residents in long term care centres. The explanations on funding, staffing etc. were also very valuable."



# COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

## January 2026 – Temporomandibular Disorders Q&A

In April 2025, ODHA launched a free course for members on temporomandibular disorders. This comprehensive three-part course, presented by Dr. Sidney Lisser, lead clinician at the Jaw & Facial Pain Centre in Toronto, as well as Dr. Amelia Edmonds and Dr. Brittany Kucharski, was designed to equip RDHs with the knowledge and skills to understand, assess, and manage musculoskeletal orofacial pain in clinical settings.

To further support member learning on this topic, ODHA held a live Q&A session with the course presenters in January 2026. The Q&A session was recorded and can be viewed [here](#).

## March 2026 – Dementia Friendly Communities

Presented by the Alzheimer Society Southwest Partners, this Dementia Friendly Communities webinar offered practical, person-centred strategies to help RDHs feel more confident and prepared when caring for people living with dementia. During this session, attendees learned how to:

- Recognize common signs and symptoms of dementia.
- Understand how dementia affects communication, behaviour, and the oral health care experience.
- Create more supportive, dementia friendly practice environments.
- Explore ways to take action individually and collectively.

Member feedback:

“Our team works almost exclusively with dementia clients living in long-term care homes. It was refreshing to hear a webinar discussing dementia awareness and individualized needs in a community dental setting.”

“Great information and resources I can use in both my family and professional life.”

“The information given was a great reminder to anyone serving the public in a health-care setting that people with dementia need special care. Not everyone has had experience dealing with or knowing the signs of potential cognitive decline.”

The recording can be viewed [here](#).



# COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

## June 2026 – Educators’ Forum

ODHA hosted its annual Educators’ Forum on June 4, bringing together over 80 dental hygiene educators from 18 institutions across Ontario. The event featured a range of timely and relevant presentations for dental hygiene educators, including enhancing learning outcomes through live video-supported clinical evaluation, an update on recent CDHO activities, dental hygiene through the sociological lens, leadership in dental hygiene, partnering with Special Olympics, and best practices for supporting student engagement.

Attendee feedback:

“Thank you for supporting educators learning! I was able to take away a new fact, idea or motivation from each presentation so, that in my books is a fantastic educational forum!!”

“I appreciate all the effort to put these presentations together for educators. Thank you so much!!!! Amazing!”

The recording can be viewed [here](#).

## New resources

### Study Tips from Dental Hygiene Students

This new resource, Study Tips from Dental Hygiene Students, was compiled in consultation with ODHA’s student ambassadors - dental hygiene students who are familiar with the demands of education and have figured out some best practices for mastering workloads.

Everyone learns differently, and this study tips resource includes approaches for different types of learners. Whether you prefer to study in a group or on your own, or whether you learn best by visualizing the content, gamifying it, or teaching it to someone else, you’ll find something in this resource for you. Plus, learn some best practices for organizing [your time](#).

### Dental Hygiene Resource Sheet: Tobacco Cessation

A new Tobacco Cessation resource sheet is now available to ODHA members. This evidence-based resource provides practical guidance to support RDHs in helping clients who use tobacco. Read it [here](#).



# COMMUNICATIONS & RESOURCES

## [Member benefits](#) - New in 2025:

**SoftMoc corporate rewards program:** In 2025, ODHA was pleased to announce the return of SoftMoc to our member benefits roster with new and improved offerings exclusive to ODHA members! With the new SoftMoc corporate rewards program, you can accrue points and redeem credits. Plus, you'll **save 15% on regular priced merchandise** and **10% on sale items** (some exclusions may apply).

**Relief Buddy:** ODHA was proud to announce a new partnership with Relief Buddy, a digital staffing platform, which connects RDHs with reliable temporary shifts and job opportunities across Ontario. This collaboration is designed to empower our members with greater control over their careers by providing direct access to flexible work opportunities. As an ODHA member, you'll gain access to a network of employers actively seeking RDHs. Relief Buddy simplifies the process with in-app communication, complete transparency, automated features, competitive rates, and more.

**Finecraft® Design:** A new and exciting offer where ODHA members receive UP TO 70% OFF. Finecraft® Design is a proudly Canadian manufacturer and distributor of window fashion products and designer rugs. These window fashions are not only made in Canada, but are also sourced in Canada. Explore Finecraft's offerings for a full line of interior décor products at factory-direct prices.

# 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.

**24**  
EPISODES



## *Conversations with Dr. Glogauer and Kim Ivan*

During the past membership year, [24 audiocast episodes](#) were released, presented by Dr. Michael Glogauer, DDS, PhD, Dip. Perio, and Kim Ivan, RDH, BIS (Hon). The series also included **24** keynotes, **575** resources for further learning, and **85** client resources for use in practice..

Listening to the audiocasts, along with reading the keynotes and research articles, provides more than 48 hours of professional development to contribute to your quality assurance goals.

**48** HOURS

**24** KEYNOTES

**575** ADDITIONAL  
RESOURCES

**85** CLIENT  
RESOURCES

**51**  
ARTICLES  
ODHA NEWS

[dhnewswire.odha.on.ca](http://dhnewswire.odha.on.ca)

## Dental Hygiene Newswire

Fifty-one research articles and ODHA news, were posted from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026 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 Seminar

| Date      | PD Seminar                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Speakers                                                                                                                      | In Partnership With                      |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| 24-Apr-26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Speed Dating with Ultrasonic Technology</li><li>The Sharpening Lab: Techniques for precision &amp; longevity</li><li>Interim Stabilization Therapy: Practical application for registered dental hygienists</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Dani Botbyl, RDH</li><li>Kathleen Bokrossy, RDH</li><li>Kim Lawrence, RDH, BA</li></ul> | Dentsply Sirona<br>Curion<br>rdhu<br>SDI |

# Year in Review

To continue to support our members professional development, ODHA released [two new online courses](#).

## **It's NOT All in Your Head: Oral Health and Mental Health**

Presented by Jo-Anne Jones, RDH, FIADFE. Sponsored by [Philips](#).

This thought-provoking course provides RDHs with an understanding of the scope of mental health conditions within Canada. It also explores the various ways periodontitis and chronic inflammation may contribute to mental health conditions and identifies the role of RDHs in knowledgeably supporting clients with mental health conditions.

This course is part II in the series. Part I, entitled It's ALL In Your Head: Oral Health and Brain Health, explored the connection between Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and oral health.



## **Managing Medically Comprised Patients**

Presented by Dr. Sanjukta Mahonta, BSc, DDS. Sponsored by [LISTERINE®](#).

This dynamic course prepares registered dental hygienists to confidently manage clients who are medically compromised. Learning outcomes include understanding when to proceed, modify, or postpone treatment for clients with common medical conditions such as hypertension, heart attack, stroke, diabetes, defibrillators, cancer, and clients taking medications such as bisphosphonates and blood thinners. Best evidence-based oral hygiene products which decrease oral and systemic disease are also discussed.



# Year in Review

## Preventing Work-Related Musculoskeletal Disorders in Dental Hygiene Practice

Registered dental hygienists are at increased risk of developing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) due to repetitive movements, prolonged static postures, and the physical demands of clinical practice. Protecting your health is essential to sustaining a long and rewarding career.

As part of the ODHA membership benefits, we developed a three-part ergonomics video series in collaboration with the Ontario Chiropractic Association. Video 1: Neck & Shoulders was released in June, 2026. Video 2: Lower Back and Video 3: Hands & Wrists will be released in August and September individually.

### Video 1: Neck & Shoulders

In this video, you will learn about:

- The importance of spinal hygiene and prevention before pain develops.
- Ergonomic strategies to support neck and shoulder health.
- Chairside muscle activation exercises to help reduce strain and improve posture.
- Practical “movement snacks” which can be incorporated throughout the workday.
- Lifestyle habits supporting musculoskeletal health, recovery, and career longevity.



Visit ODHA website [Professional Development/ Ergonomics](#) to watch the video.

Professional development related to ergonomics may contribute to your quality assurance goals.

# **PUBLIC AWARENESS**



# PUBLIC AWARENESS

ODHA ran a multimedia public awareness campaign from October 1 – 31, 2025, promoting the profession and oral health in combination with the 2025 Ontario Dental Hygiene Week.

# 5,005,010

Total campaign impressions



Radio ads contracted across Ontario



Strategic social media posts



Promotion of [lovemyteeth.ca](https://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 that can make work and life easier. In addition, ODHA provides 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 registered dental hygienist.



## Personal life, health, and disability benefits program

PROLINK also offers members affordable group rates and comprehensive healthcare 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 informative articles in ODHA [FOCUS](#) publication.

Read the article in FOCUS October 2025 issue: [Why Are My Auto Insurance Rates Going Up? What You Need to Know](#)

**ODHA MEMBERS SAVE UP TO 23% 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

- All-Purpose Realty Services
- Finecraft® Design
- 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
- LEGOLAND
- Movie tickets

## Health & Wellness

- Agio compression hosiery and sport socks
- Fitness clubs
- Orascopic loupes
- Andau Medical
- Lenscan 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*
- ProvincialLINK – Association updates
- ODHA Awards and Honours
- Moneris Solutions
- Salary and Practice Study

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Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association

www.odha.on.ca  
1.800.315.6342

**WHAT'S COMING**



# What's coming

## FREE gifts with 2026–2027 membership

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

### Oral Health and Mental Illness: Strategies for Comprehensive Care

Presented by Dr. David Clark, DDS, MSc (Oral Pathology), FAAOP, FRCD(C). Sponsored by [LISTERINE®](#)

## 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.

## 4 issues of FOCUS publication

[FOCUS](#) is published four times a year – in January, April, July, 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 48 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 and ODHA news will be posted over the next year on the [Dental Hygiene Newswire \(DHN\)](#) website.

## In-person professional development events

### Early Career Summit

This in-person event is designed specifically for RDHs currently in their first 10 years of practice. It is currently open to ODHA members only and limited to 100 attendees. Visit [ODHA website](#) for detailed information.

- **Date:** Friday, October 23, 2026
- **Time:** 7:30 am - 4:30 pm
- **Location:** Mississauga Convention Centre, 75 Derry Road West
- **Format:** Morning lectures for all attendees, followed by your choice of five round-table sessions that provide brief overviews on various topics related to your life and career as newer RDHs, with an opportunity for Q&A with the presenters.

**Early bird pricing:** \$149.00 + HST.

- Includes: breakfast, lunch, networking opportunities, prizes, and more.
- Early bird pricing ends on August 31, 2026 - register early to save \$20 and to secure a spot!
- **Regular pricing September 1st onwards:** \$169.00 + HST. Register [here](#).

## Ergonomics and musculoskeletal disorder videos

ODHA, in collaboration with the Ontario Chiropractic Association, has produced a series of educational videos focusing on ergonomics and chairside muscle activation to help prevent and manage work-related MSDs in dental hygiene practice. [Video 1: Neck & Shoulders](#) was released in June 2026 ([see page 16](#)). Video 2: Lower Back and Video 3: Hands & Wrists will be released in August and September of 2026 individually.

For more in-person and online professional development seminars in 2026-2027, please watch your emails and ODHA social media posts.

**Your** profession.

**Your** province.

**Your** association.