

ODHA OBJECTIVES AND ISSUES

MISSION:

To advance dental hygiene practice and primary health–care promotion in the interest of the profession and the public of Ontario.

VISION:

To be embraced by all health-care professions, stakeholders and the public as a key partner in the delivery of primary health care and wellness promotion as well as the essential source for expert input to all dental hygiene and related health issues.

VALUES:

- Visionary Leadership, in health care and health promotion
- Accountability, Transparency, and Effective Communication throughout the organization
- Life-Long Learning and Research, for all our members
- Ethical Behaviour, Empathy and Inclusiveness, by our Board and staff

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

- To capitalize on a strong foundation to ensure a vibrant and representative organization that leverages resources and technology in providing member services.
- To continue to be the key organization representing, advocating and giving voice to dental hygienists and related health issues in Ontario.
- To enhance public awareness of dental hygiene and its connection to overall health while advocating for access, choice and affordability.

Current Issues Facing ODHA

1. Expanding scope of practice to enable dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia by injection.
Current status: Dental hygienists are able to provide topical anesthetic. ODHA is lobbying the government to allow dental hygienists to administer local anesthesia by injection.
2. Amending the *Healing Arts Radiation Protection (HARP) Act* that would allow dental hygienists to prescribe radiographs within their scope of practice and be recognized as radiation protection officers.
Current status: Dental hygienists require an order from a dentist in order to take x-rays. ODHA is involved in the stakeholder consultations to have the Act amended.
3. Under the *Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)*, health-care professionals are not permitted to treat their spouses/partners. It is considered sexual abuse and the penalty includes automatic revocation of registration for a minimum of five years.
Current status: Recent legislation now leaves it up to the individual health-care regulatory colleges to decide whether or not to develop a regulation that would allow their registrants to treat their spouses. To date, the College of Dental Hygienists of Ontario has not developed a regulation. ODHA is advocating for dental hygienists to be able to treat their spouse/partner.