

Annual Report
of the

College of Denturists of British Columbia

Established December 7, 1995

Report to March 31, 1996

Chair's Comments

We are pleased to present the first annual report of the College of Denturists of British Columbia, pursuant to Section 17(2) of the Health Professions Act. The College was established on December 7, 1995, and the report is to March 31, 1996.

Since the first Board meeting held on December 15, 1995, committees have been formed and policies and procedures are being developed for their operation. Draft bylaws have been circulated for approval. Registration examination procedures are being reviewed and validation protocols are being implemented.

Although we are one of the smaller health regulatory organizations in British Columbia, with approximately 220 members, this compact size allows a proactive, personal approach which we believe is appreciated by the registrants.

I must commend the public representatives on our Board, and every other health regulatory board, for their dedication and commitment. They not only take a real interest in protecting the public, but they also bring with them a wealth of knowledge and talent that augment our professional representatives and staff. Their contribution is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to achieving goals as they are developed by the Board and the members of the profession, and appreciate the support of our members.

GARY STEWART

Chair of the Board of the College of Denturists of British Columbia

BOARD MEMBERS

Denturists

Nicky Hagel
Kenneth Manson
John Mayr
Gary Stewart
Erna Swan
Fred Trestain

Public Representatives

Frieda Home
K. Douglas Smith
Betty White

REGISTRAR

John Mayr, R.D., F.C.A.D.

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Ethel Inglis, Executive Secretary

REGISTRATION

As of December 7, 1995, there were 202 Denturist registrants, and 196 of these renewed their registration. Of those who did not register as denturists, two retired and four changed from practising to non-practising status.

In the Non-Practising Denturist category, seventeen were registered when the College was established, and on renewal one retired.

Of the twenty-five Students registered in December 1995, three did not re-register and the fourth was not eligible to register.

In the Denturist Assistant categories, eighteen full-time and twelve part-time workers were registered. On renewal, three full-time and five part-time workers did not register.

At the end of 1995, there were five Temporary Registrants, and four did not renew their registration.

Registration Category	Registered to March 31, 1996	Renewed to March 31, 1997
Denturists	202	196
Non-practising Denturists	17	20
Students	25	21
Assistants (full-time)	18	15
Assistants (part-time)	12	7
Temporary Registrants	5	1

Since the College was established, two Temporary Registrant applications have been received. One application was approved but the applicant did not register, and one application is pending.

COMPLAINTS PROCESSED AND DECISIONS

The new College of Denturists inherited a backlog of complaint files from the Dental Technicians and Denturists Board. When the Inquiry Committee was established, these were reviewed and a number of outstanding complaints were resolved.

Ill-fitting dentures were the subject of eleven complaints. In ten cases, refunds were made to the patients and, where applicable, to the insurance carriers. In the other case, the dentures had been discarded by the patient and could not be evaluated, so the complaint was closed with no action.

In one case, an adjustment had been made to a removable partial denture, and the patient was reimbursed for a replacement RPD.

One complaint was of an alleged sexual assault by a denturist. After interviews were conducted by a private investigator, the Committee decided that the evidence was inconclusive. No action was taken.

Two complaints regarding the previous Board's examination procedures and results were received. Complaints were also made to the Ombudsman, who investigated and concluded that there was no discrimination against the candidate.

A complaint regarding possible professional incompetence was filed by a member of the College of Dental Surgeons in 1994. The opinion of a BC Cancer Agency specialist was that there was no evidence of incompetence.

A denturist assistant complained that she had been working while not registered, and that her employer (a denturist) had sexually harassed her. The denturist returned a Consent Order and paid the outstanding registration fees and an assessment. The complainant was advised that the College had no jurisdiction in the area of employer/employee relations, and that she was in contact with groups who had authority to deal with this matter.

A complaint regarding an ill-fitting denture fabricated by a dental technician was referred to the College of Dental Technicians for action, and a formal complaint was filed with them by the College of Denturists.

Information was received that an unlicensed person was offering the services of a denturist. A letter was written to the individual, and there is no evidence that he continues to practise.