

# Articulator

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## Election Results and More!

The College is pleased to welcome aboard three of our newest members.

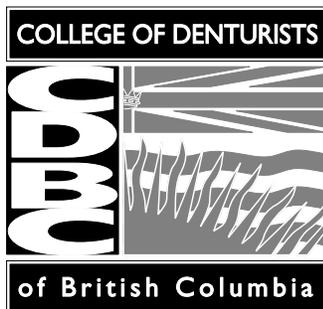
Mr. Ed Edwards  
 Ms. Tracey Merkley  
 Mr. Tyler Perrault

This year the College received two nominations during our annual nomination period; Mr. Tyler Perrault of Vernon and Mr. Ed Edwards of White Rock. As there were two vacant offices and two nominees, these Registrants are deemed to be elected by acclamation. Congratulations Tyler and Ed!

As well, on February 6, 2008, the Board of the College received and accepted the resignation of Mr. Rod Hughes. After 5 years with the College, Rod has resigned to pursue other adventures in his spare time.

Therefore, on February 11, 2008, the College Board, in accordance with section 8 of the Bylaws, appointed by a 2/3 vote, Ms. Tracey Merkley of Victoria, to finish the remaining one year term of Mr. Hughes' office.

Ms. Merkley had indicated to the Nominations Committee that she was interested in serving on the College Board, however was reluctant to serve a three year term. Her appointment allows the College to fill a vacancy for a term that is suitable to Ms. Merkley. Tracey brings a wealth of experience and knowledge having been active with the Board of Examiners in Alberta.



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The College has also been advised that Ms. Deborah Harden will be appointed to the College as a public member effective May 2, 2008. Ms. Harden has a wealth of experience in health care and law. Prior to being called to the Bar, she practiced as a registered nurse. Deborah's appointment is to coincide with Geri Hinton completing her term. As with each of the past public members, Ms. Hinton brought a valuable dimension and extra-ordinary experience to the organization. The College will honour the dedication and commitment of Ms. Hinton and the past elected members at the College meeting in Victoria.

The College looks forward to working with these dedicated individuals!

## Elections ... continued

Here are a few words from our newly elected members !

Hello fellow Denturists! For those of you who don't know me, I am the owner of Vernon Denture Clinic Ltd. and have lived in Vernon for the past eight years. I am 33 years old, married, and active in many sports, such as snowboarding, cross country skiing, ultimate, disc golf, and mountain biking. I'm also interested in arts, music, and environmentally sustainable issues.

This past September, I attended the College meeting in Vancouver and was inspired to put my name forward for Board nomination. It's no secret that the College is facing big changes that will dramatically affect our profession. I'm confident that with a responsive and proactive Board, these changes can benefit us all.

I'm a positive person, listen well, and have good communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills. I will work energetically alongside my fellow Board members to provide strong leadership and contribute to the progress and development of our College.

Mr. Tyler Perrault

## THANK YOU!

Mr. Gary Stewart will not be returning to the Board of the College this year. Mr. Stewart has served on the College Board since its inception in 1996. He had dedicated countless hours as Chair of both the Registration and Discipline Committees. Gary, your time and hard work is most appreciated and we are truly grateful for your contributions.

Mr. Peter Barker will also not be returning to the Board of the College. Peter has served on the Board for 3 years. He has been a great asset to the Board and we are sad to see him leave. Peter, please know your valuable opinions and insight will truly be missed around the table. Thank you for everything!

As previously mentioned, Mr. Rod Hughes has resigned from his second term with the Board of the College. He has served on the College Board for 5 years. As Chair of the Inquiry Committee, Rod was extremely fair and compassionate with his recommendations. Rod, thank you for your hard work.

We wish you all much success in your future ahead! Each of you will truly be missed :)

Dear Colleagues,

I am a graduate of the Denturist program at George Brown College in Toronto. Since becoming licensed in 1980, I have worked in private practice as well as an associate in numerous multi-disciplined dental centers across the Greater Toronto area.

We relocated our family to White Rock, BC in 2006 to enjoy family ties and to sail the beautiful coastline of BC.

My practice now consists of mobile denture services to patients across the Lower Mainland.

In 2007 I served as a provincial licensing examiner for the College of Denturists of BC. I have also had the opportunity as an interim instructor for the Denturist program at Vancouver Community College.

We, as trusted dental health care providers, must continue to supply the public with the highest standards of care. I believe our credibility as dental health professionals depends on our unified willingness to uphold strong standards that protect the public at large. We hold the keys to successful self government.

As a teen, I witnessed the birth of denturism in Ontario. Ben Sweet, Peter Barker and my father, Eddie Edwards, were part of the fledging "Denturist Society". I saw the value of each member's input and their resolve to affect legislative change. They worked together to build a future profession that we presently enjoy. It's a heritage of tenacity and commitment I'm proud to be a part of!

Mr. Ed Edwards

With sincere appreciation,  
The Board and staff of the College

## 2008 College Board Meetings

Friday April 11, 2008 – College Office, New Westminster, BC  
 Saturday June 7, 2008 – Bear Mountain Resort, Victoria, BC  
 Saturday September 20, 2008 – Annual General Meeting, TBA, Lower Mainland, BC  
 Friday December 12, 2008 – College Office, New Westminster, BC

\*\*Please note that the only College Board meeting being held on Vancouver Island in 2008 will take place in conjunction with the Denturist Association's Annual Convention. The College's AGM will be held in the Lower Mainland again this year.

**These meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend! Come and meet our new board members, see what we are doing ... you never know what you might learn!**

## Are you Inactive?

If you currently hold an inactive license with the College of Denturists of BC, please use this opportunity to review the following information regarding your registration.

Section 42(a) of the College Bylaws state,

An inactive registrant who has not practised in another jurisdiction during the three years immediately preceding the deadline for renewing inactive registration shall successfully complete the registration examinations before being registered on the active register.

To be clear, this section requires Registrants who have been inactive for a period of more than three years, to complete both of the College's licensure examinations before returning to active practice.

Please take this moment to review your inactive license. It may be time for you to consider other options. Do not hesitate to contact the College office, should you have any questions or seek clarification.

## Call for Examiners

This year, the College expects about 12 students to challenge the Clinical Examinations. The Registration Committee requires Registrants in the Active Full class to act as examiners for these examinations. A number of opportunities exist:

**Exam Coordinator** (No. of positions – 1) – coordinates and oversees the operation of the complete denture portion of the clinical exams. This position and compensation are based on a contract position. There are minor time commitments prior to and after the exam. The major time commitment is attending the examination site for three or four days during the exam. Preference will be given to Registrants who have experience with the current examination process.

**Examiners** (No. of Positions – 3 or more) – participates as a member of the exam team, scoring in accordance with the examination criteria. There is a minimum three day time commitment. Clinical examiners are compensated in accordance with the exam per diem rate of \$400 per day and receive direct continuing education credits.

**OSCE Station Developers** – The Registration Committee seeks Active Full Registrants to develop OSCE stations. Compensation based on performance.

**OSCE Examiners** (No. of Positions – 10) – participates in scoring the OSCE. This is a ¾ day time commitment and examiners are compensated at \$250 and will receive direct continuing education credits.

If you are interested in any of the above opportunities, please contact the College office!



## Theory Examination

The next opportunity to challenge the College's theory examination will be held on Friday July 4, 2008 at 9:00am.

All candidates must be approved by the Registration Committee before they are eligible to write this examination. Depending on individual circumstances, approval may take 6-8 months. It is each applicant's responsibility to read, understand and comply with the application requirements.

**We're on the web!**  
**www.cd.bc.ca**

# A Reflection . . .

By Alex Hupka

In 1939, M.D.K. Bremner, the writer of the book *The Story of Dentistry*, predicted that, "Once having been granted the privilege of a state license, it may not be long before (dental) technicians will be able to convince our legislators that an impression of an edentulous mouth is no different from an impression of a foot made by a shoemaker for the correction of broken arches. Licensed mechanics may then acquire the rights to make mechanical restorations directly for the patient"<sup>1</sup>. Though simplistic in thought, nevertheless insightful regarding the evolution of a complicated art and science that we practice today.

Early pioneers in the profession were referred to as bootleggers or accused of bootleg dentistry<sup>3</sup>. In 1917, in Canada, dental laboratories were charging \$3.00 for a CUD or CLD. \$1.00 for relines, \$1.00 for repairs and .90 cents for a gold inlay. Dentists on the other hand were charging \$45.00 for a denture<sup>4</sup>. It is not hard to understand why our predecessors chose to risk being caught and fined by the authorities for practicing dentistry without a license. Fines usually, in this era, were around \$50.00, but generally, after being caught, most bootleggers went right back to producing dentures for the public. As related to me by some of the old timers I have met in my life, it was the cost of doing business. Quite often, after being caught, the name of the offender was published in the local papers and as a result, business would increase exponentially. Some old timers had it down to an art. They had informants that would tell them when a raid was about to happen. The bootlegger would have decoy pans, models and equipment set out on the day of the raid, the authorities would come and arrest the bootlegger, confiscate the equipment and shut the business down. The next day the bootlegger was operating as usual with the added benefit of newspaper exposure. Surely, it was not as trouble-free as previously stated. Fines escalated every time the bootlegger was caught, sometimes to the point that was equivalent to the price of a house at that time. However, if it was not for tenacity of these early pioneers, we would not exist today.

In the early years, bootleggers could not have existed without dental supply houses. Pressure from dentists made it difficult for dental supply houses to sell to the dental mechanic, but some salesmen resisted the incredible pressure and covertly supplied dental mechanics the necessary supplies to continue business<sup>5</sup>.

The word Denturist came about as a result of approximately 40 dental laboratories being served with a summons for violating the *Illinois Dental Practice Act in 1951*, for making illegal dentures for the public. The resulting action caused the dental technicians of Illinois to form the Independent Laboratory Association of Illinois. Once formed, the Independent Laboratory Association of Illinois decided to present a bill to the State Legislature of Illinois for licensure and once passed, thirty five members of the newly formed organization held a meeting at the laboratory of Eli and Les Sutker to determine a name for their newly formed profession. Approximately twenty different names were discussed, and the name Denturist was chosen to be used to classify the newly created profession to the Illinois Public Dentists Law on May 19, 1955<sup>2</sup>.

In 1957, the name (denturist) spread to the State of Washington. A proposal for licensure was presented to their State Senate as House Bill 713<sup>2</sup> and in 1959 the Washington State Senate passed the State

Senate House Bill 618, defining a denturist as a "person qualified to do certain parts of dental laboratory work for the public"<sup>3</sup>. In 1957, the concept had migrated north to Alberta. The Alberta Independent Dental Technicians Association may have discovered the new classification as a result of a pamphlet which was produced by the denturists in Washington. They changed their name to The Alberta Public Denturist Society, and subsequently republished their own pamphlet titled *It's The Public That Pays...A Book of Facts*<sup>2</sup>.

In BC, our journey began in 1950 when dental mechanics were successful in gathering public support. They presented Bill 121 in 1955 to the BC Legislature, which provided for direct contact between the dental mechanic and the public, for the purposes of repairing dentures. The Dental Technicians Society supported the bill, however the Dental Laboratory Association and the Royal College of Dentists of BC opposed the bill. The Minister of Health and Welfare in response to the action appointed a committee to investigate the circumstances giving rise to the bill. The resulting committee's recommendations gave rise to assessing dental technicians' competence and the training of future dental technicians. In 1957, sixty five percent of all dentures being produced in BC were bootlegged. However, 1958 brought about a change in the legislature by introducing Bill 45, which proposed, that a RDT be allowed to "make, produce, reproduce, construct, furnish, supply, alter, or repair any prosthetic denture and for such purposes deal directly with the person for whom the denture is intended" The opposition to the bill presented by the Dental Laboratory Association and the Royal College of Dentists of BC was so intense that the bill was referred to a special committee of the Legislative Assembly. The committee removed the word "the right to serve the public directly".

The legislative committee established a board of examiners, who were to make regulations defining allowable services and the circumstances under which the services could be provided to the public. The Act was approved by the Legislative Assembly on March 19, 1958<sup>6</sup>. Under this new Act, the board allowed senior dental technicians, with a minimum of twelve years experience, a special license under a grandfather clause referred to as Division 10, if the technician had spent the last seven years in an establishment dealing with the public in BC. A technician with a designation of Senior Grade, was allowed to provide full dentures directly to the public. These revised regulations were passed on June 15, 1960. More than a hundred dental technicians applied for the special designation. Familiarly, dental technicians were required to have a prescription before providing full denture service. Those who provided denture service to the public without a prescription were ferreted out by special investigators. The resulting circumstances of these investigations disallowed the issuance of new licenses previously provided for in the Act hoping that the existing holders of the issued license would simply fade away. Three denturists were denied license after this incident<sup>7</sup>. The resulting action caused a Supreme Court trial which produced a ruling stating that "It was never the intention of the Act to prevent a dental technician (senior grade) from acquiring the added advantage of becoming the holder of a special license; nor...to prevent an apprentice upon attaining the necessary qualifications to first become a dental technician (senior grade) and ultimately the holder of a special license". This ruling found that the regulations were found to be ultra vires the Act. Sixty denturists were stripped of their licenses, resulting in no licensed denturists in the province of BC. On March 29, 1962 an Act to amend the Dental Technicians Act was assented to, however the proclamation of the Act was announced in 1963. A distinction was established between dental technician and a dental mechanic. Only dental mechanics were allowed to serve the public directly, providing an Oral Health Certificate was attained before beginning work on the patient. The Oral Health Certificate could be signed by a dentist or a M.D.. Ninety five candidates applied for licensure under the new Act, eighty four were successful on completing the three part examination<sup>8</sup>.

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Fast forwarding to present day; knowing where we come from, helps us appreciate the present and the future. So many people have sacrificed and worked diligently to create what we have today. Present day denturism has evolved as a direct result of our past and will continue evolving with our present day contributors. Looking at Alberta as the mavericks of our current profession is indeed an intriguing muse for the future.

Bibliography:

#### **Denturists Birth of a Profession**

Author: Barbara Himmel, ISBN 0-88925-667-5

Published by: The Denturist Society of Alberta

(1)page 3, (2)page 6, (3)page 7, (4)page 11, (5)page 29,

(6)page 116, (7)page 117, (8)page118



## ~Denturist Regulation~

The College has received a number of enquiries during the past year about the Denturists Regulation. The Regulation, which was approved in February 2000, establishes the scope of practice. The nature of the enquiries, from dentists and Denturists, indicates that there remains considerable misunderstanding about the requirements of the Regulation.

Clearly, any and all partial dentures require a prescription signed by a dentist. A prescription is defined as a complete written description and design of a partial or over denture, signed by a dentist.

This includes partial dentures with cast frames, acrylic partial dentures with cast or wrought wire clasps, flexible partial dentures and any other kind of appliance that replaces one or more, but not all of a patient's natural teeth. Also, dentures attached to implants or which cover natural teeth or roots of teeth also require a prescription signed by a dentist.

### **CRIMINAL RECORD REVIEW UPDATE**

Late last year the government implemented changes to the Criminal Record Review Act. The Act now requires periodic criminal record rechecks. This means that every registrant of every professional organization and regulatory body must submit a new criminal record authorization form not less than every five years.

To assist registrants with this program, the College has sent an authorization form and added the requisite fee to the annual renewal fee. Rather than having each member send a money order or process a credit card payment directly with the Ministry of the Solicitor General, the College will make a deposit to a special draw down account.

In addition to the regular reviews, the list of relevant criminal offences was also expanded. In the event that a registrant has a criminal record, and it is deemed by the Criminal Record Review program to be a possible risk to children, the College is notified. It is the responsibility to the College to ensure that anyone deemed to be a risk of physical or sexual abuse to children is not in a position where they work with, or have unsupervised access to children in their professional practice or employment position.

The program website is a valuable resource for individuals who would like to learn more about the government's efforts to protect children from physical or sexual abuse. The site lists the 62 relevant criminal records and the policies and procedures followed by adjudicators.

[www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminal-records-review/)

### **Quality Assurance Program Update**

The Quality Assurance Committee continues to work on the development and implementation of a renewed program. Since the program was introduced in September there has been a good deal of behind the scenes work. The College concluded its relationship with Betty Jean Tucker, who had been hired as a consultant, in March 2008 and has moved to the next phase of program implementation.

The College delayed moving forward with the program until the appropriate sections of the Health Professions Act were enacted. This occurred by regulation in November 2007. The delay in the bylaws approval process has afforded the College the opportunity to further consult with registrants. We continue to anticipate that the new program will be implemented for all registrants by the end of 2008.

*See you in Victoria !!!*

# Discipline Committee Report

By Gary Stewart

The Discipline Committee is charged with the responsibility of holding hearings as a 3 person panel after the Inquiry Committee has issued a Citation. The College has conducted two in-person discipline hearings since our inception in 1996. All other Citations and subsequent discipline decisions have been through the use of agreed statement of facts.

Since 1999, these decisions have become part of the database at our College and all discipline decisions since that time, are outlined below.

<u>Infractions</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>
Section 5(b) – Denturist Regulation (Providing partial denture services when not licensed)	1			2	1		2	
Section 6(4) & 6(5) – Denturist Regulation (Providing structural repairs to a partial denture without ensuring the patient had seen a dentist within 365 days or without immediately referring the patient to a dentist)			1					
Section 4C – Denturist Regulation (Providing partial denture services without a prescription)							1	
Section 45(2) – Denturist Bylaws (Failure to obtain required hours of continuing education)		1		1			1	1
Section 62 – Denturist Bylaws (Failure to respond to a request for information)	1							
Section 62(2) – Denturist Bylaws (Billing dental insurance plans for services not provided)				1			1	
Section 74(1) – Denturist Bylaws (Failing to keep patient records)		1	2				1	
Section 74(2) – Denturist Bylaws (Falsifying patient records)		1						

The number of decisions and types of decisions are both minimal and infrequent. There were no decisions made in 2004. I feel this reflects very favourably for all our Registrants in the profession and it has been my pleasure serving the College as chair of this Committee for the past six years.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members on the Discipline and Inquiry Committees during this period. Also, a great thank you to our support staff who assist us in all aspects of the function of these Committees.

*There are currently 210 Active Denturists registered with the College of Denturists of British Columbia.*

# Legislation Update

## The Speech from the Throne

Over the past number of years, the Minister of Health has made some substantial changes to the Health Professions Act. The amendments, first indicated in 2003, had deferred enactment dates. In the subsequent time period most of the deferred sections have come into force. Most recently, section 26(1) dealing with quality assurance was, for the most part, brought into force. The College required this section to fully implement our new quality assurance program, so the timing could not have been better. The College continues to wait for the approval of our draft Bylaws. There is no indication as to when full consideration of the draft will occur.

On February 12, 2008 the Lieutenant Governor delivered the Speech from the Throne. The Speech sets out, in general terms, the priorities and direction of the Government for the upcoming year. Not surprisingly, given the Conversations on Health, health care is a priority for government, including health regulation. While the Speech from the Throne lacks details, Denturists will be affected.

The Minister of Health plans to introduce a Health Professions Review Board. What the mandate and role of this entity will be, is not yet clear. Ontario, which has a regulatory system similar to ours, has a review board that reviews registration and inquiry decisions in addition to decisions made by hospital boards and veterinary regulators. That province also has a Health Professions Advisory Committee which, in part, reviews scope of practice and other health regulatory issues. A review board with a mandate as described above would increase the accountability and transparency of the health regulatory system in BC.

The Speech made mention of two other related issues, labour mobility and access to services from professionals with the required training and expertise. In December, the Chair of the Board met with representatives of the College of Dental Surgeons to discuss the current prescription requirement for partial and over dentures. To be clear, the nature of the discussion centres on the issue of liability and the ability of patients to obtain signed prescriptions. The issue is not one of expanding the scope of practice as the College is prohibited from such activities. Scope of practice issues must be addressed by the professional association. Hopefully the Government's initiatives will provide an effective and efficient avenue for inter-professional discussions, reduced regulatory burdens, and greater support for collaborative treatment models.

*Please note that all  
Internship Portfolios  
are due on Monday*

*May 12, 2008.*

## Remembering...

**It is with sadness that we relate the passing of Fred Hill. Fred began his career in 1967, and signed up as an apprentice in October 1968. Working under the tutelage of his father Walter (Wally) Hill, Fred earned the minimum wage of \$35 per week. He was licensed in late 1971.**

**Fred was both a pace setter and a rebel. He was one of the first to practice jointly with a dentist establishing a satellite office in 1973. The Board at the time took him to task for having the audacity for running a display ad in the Similkameen Spotlight.**

**Fred also billed differently for his services. He tracked the time he spent with each patient and charged by the hour. An hour of Fred's time, in 1984, was worth \$65.**

**Fred was a dedicated son, husband, father and a proud member of this profession.**

## Code of Ethics Duty to Colleagues

It is important for Registrants to regularly review their Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice. I thought I would use this space to remind Registrants of their duty to colleagues.

Registrants should not:

- Comment or pass judgement on the qualifications of, or procedures rendered by, other registrants unless,
  - \* Such comment is in the best interests of the patient's health and well being;
  - \* The registrant has been subpoenaed as a witness and is testifying under oath
- Compete for patients or professional services by methods which would adversely affect the honour, dignity, or credibility of the profession; or
- Compare their professional competence to that of other registrants.

In the event of consultation, registrants should render only the treatment which was specifically requested.

Remember Isocrate's golden rule "Do not do to others what would anger you if done to you by others"!

# Thinking about RETIRING?

## Consider the BENEFITS of going Inactive

Are you currently holding an active license, but are not practicing in the province of British Columbia? If so, this section is of interest to you!

Below is a chart of commonly asked questions by Registrants who are considering the cancellation of their Active License.

	<u>ACTIVE REGISTRATION</u>	<u>INACTIVE REGISTRATION</u>	<u>CANCELLING YOUR LI- CENSE</u>
Registration Fees	\$1000.00 + gst	\$200.00 + gst	No cost
What are the Continuing Education requirements?	Must submit CE credits annually	Only submit CE credits when returning to Active practice	No requirements
Is Liability Insurance necessary?	Yes	No	No
Will Registrants receive College mailings?	Yes	Yes	No
Can Registrants see patients?	Yes	No	No
<b>Can Registrants return to active practise without challenging the College's examina-</b>	N/A	Yes, within 3 years	<b>NO</b>

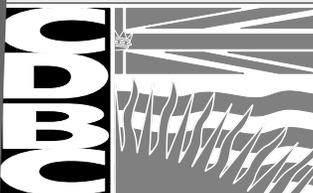
Of most importance is the final question regarding a Registrant's return to active practice. If a Registrant cancels his license with the College, and two years later decides to return to active practice, that Registrant must apply to the College and successfully challenge the College's licensure examinations before an active license will be granted.

However, if that same Registrant went Inactive rather than cancelling his license, he would be able to return to active practice after two years without any problems. He would just need to pay his registration fees, provide proof of professional liability insurance, and complete any outstanding continuing education hours.

Therefore, if you are currently holding an active license, but are not seeing patients and do not intend to for the next few months, the College highly recommends you go Inactive. This will save you money on registration fees and continuing education credits, and give you a period of up to three years to decide what you would like to do. If after three years you are still unsure of what the future holds, simply renew your Active license to avoid having to challenge the College's licensure examinations.



**COLLEGE OF DENTURISTS**



**of British Columbia**

The Articulator is the newsletter of the College of Denturists of British Columbia. It is meant to provide information to Registrants, members of the public, and other organizations. In the event of a disagreement between information in this newsletter and the Health Professions Act, Denturist Regulation, bylaws, or policies of the College, the wording of the Act, Regulation, bylaws and policies take precedence. Letters and articles are welcome. The College serves the right to edit submissions for length or to refuse to publish any letter or article. Copyright April 2008. Visit [www.cd.bc.ca](http://www.cd.bc.ca) for more information.

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