Purpose in Action

Protecting patients.
Delivering resources.
Supporting learning.

Annual Report 2025



RCDSO | Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Table of Contents

2 PROTECTING THE PUBLIC

4 MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRAR & CEO

6 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

8 OUR REGULATORY JOURNEY

10 ENGAGING AND LISTENING

12 COLLABORATING WITH PARTNERS

14 REGISTRATION

16 THE PROFESSION IN FOCUS

18 QUALITY ASSURANCE

20 FACILITY INSPECTIONS

22 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

24 PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROGRAM

26 THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE MISSION

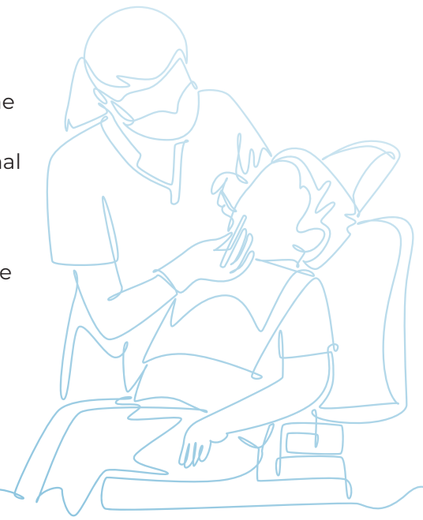
28 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our Mandate

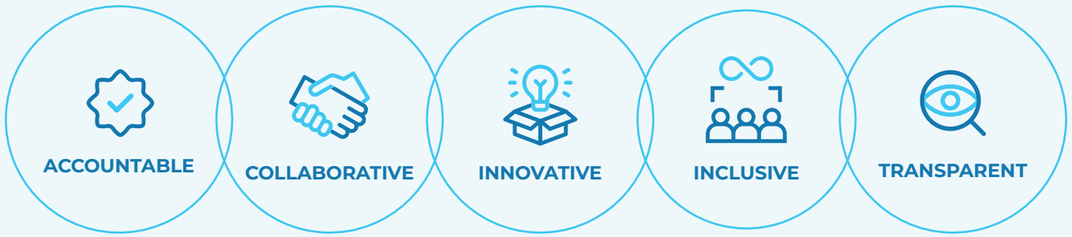
The Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) regulates the practice of dentistry in Ontario to ensure the public has access to safe, high-quality dental services.

The RCDSO:

- Sets the education and qualifications necessary to become a registered dentist
- Develops professional standards and resources
- Holds registered dentists accountable for their conduct and practice



Our Values



Our Responsibilities



We register dentists

We ensure only qualified, competent and ethical dentists are licensed to practise in Ontario.



We ensure quality

We promote continuous improvement in dental care through quality assurance programs and practice assessments.



We investigate complaints

We respond to concerns about dentists' conduct or care through an impartial and patient-focused complaints process.



We offer guidance

We support dentists with clear standards, resources and advice to help them deliver safe, inclusive and high-quality care.

The progress made this year strengthens our foundation for the future and reinforces our commitment to protecting patients through clear standards, thoughtful guidance and responsible innovation.



Advancing Regulatory Excellence

As our 2023–2025 Strategic Plan comes to an end, we invite you to reflect on the work achieved in 2025, shaped by years of focused effort and commitment.

Throughout the year, we made tangible progress across multiple fronts. We updated two standards of practice and published *Foundations of Professionalism*, a key document developed under our Access to Care strategic project.

Recognizing the importance of innovation and emerging trends, we released guidance on the ethical use of artificial intelligence in dentistry and developed a summary report on practice models and corporate dentistry that highlights opportunities and challenges.

Our dedication to professional development continued to grow through the RCDSO Connect webinar series, which engaged thousands of dentists on critical topics. These sessions are designed to equip dentists with practical tools and deepen their understanding of patients' challenges and needs.

In alignment with our commitment to Reconciliation, we welcomed the Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC) as a new continuing education sponsor to support the advancement of Indigenous cultural safety education for dentists.

Continuing our commitment to risk management in the public interest, we took proactive steps to prepare for Ontario's expanded As of Right legislation. The College collaborated with the Ministry of Health and regulatory partners to ensure readiness and uphold public protection under this new framework.

As we reflect on these accomplishments, we are reminded that regulatory excellence is not a destination but a continual journey of learning, adapting and evolving in the public interest.

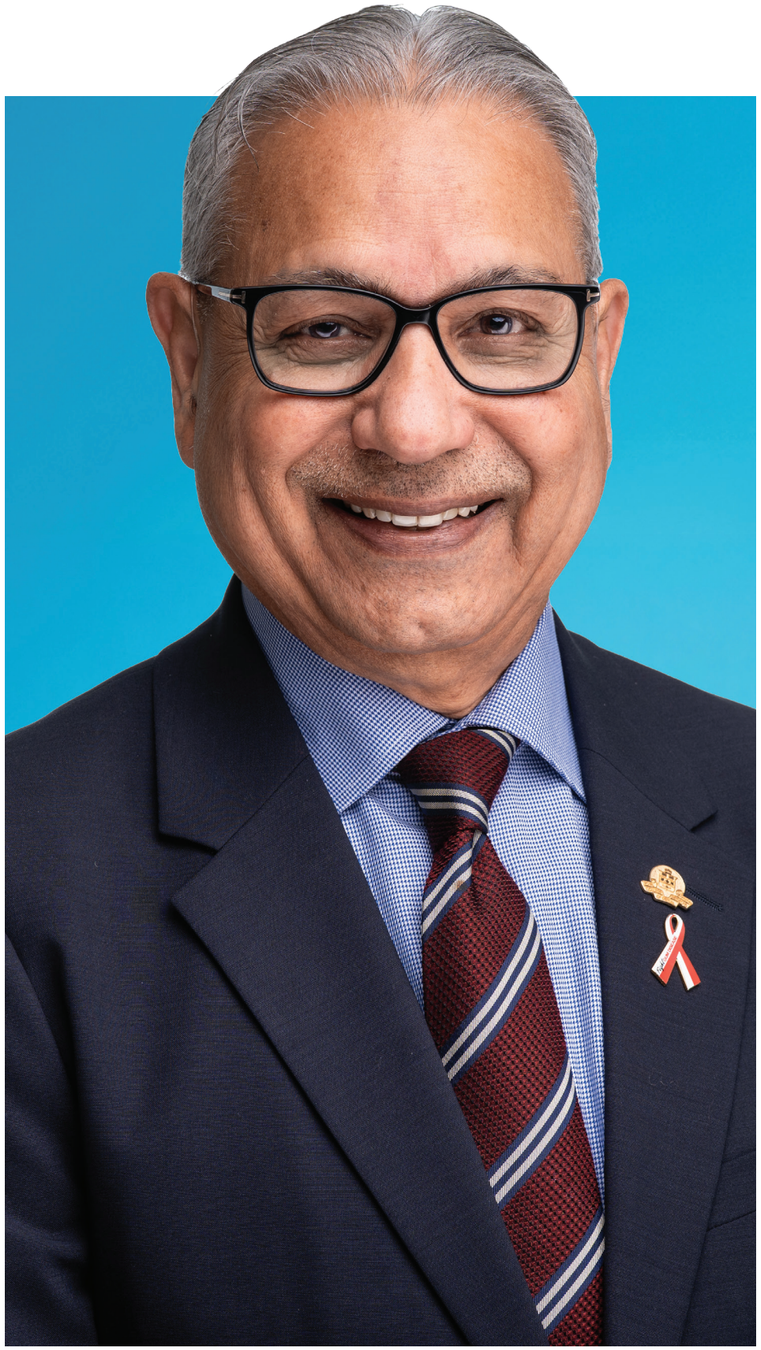
The progress made this year strengthens our foundation for the future and reinforces our commitment to protecting patients through clear standards, thoughtful guidance and responsible innovation.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our Council members, staff, partners and the profession for their dedication and collaboration throughout this transformative year.

Daniel Faulkner

Registrar & CEO
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

“Council’s work was guided by a shared vision: strengthening governance, advancing work on equity and inclusion, and acting in the public’s best interest.



A Year of Progress and Transformation

Throughout 2025, Council’s work was guided by a shared vision: strengthening governance, advancing work on equity and inclusion, and acting in the public’s best interest.

We began the year by welcoming new Council and committee members whose diverse expertise and perspectives have enriched our decision-making. Their contributions have helped build a strong foundation for the transformative work ahead.

Council advanced governance modernization as we prepare for the transition to a province-wide election model in 2026. The reforms introduced will enhance representation and foster stability, ensuring Council is equipped with a wide range of competencies needed now and in the future.

While the number of elected dentists on Council will shift, this change does not diminish the voice of the profession. Dentists will remain deeply engaged across College committees, programs and advisory roles, continuing to guide and strengthen the College’s work.

Council also played an active role in the College’s standards modernization work, sharing valuable insights and ensuring the updated frameworks are responsive to both current practice realities and patient needs.

One of Council’s most significant responsibilities this year was overseeing the divestment of the Professional Liability Program. As part of its stewardship role, Council approved the necessary regulatory amendments to ensure that registrants continue to have robust liability protection. Council’s guidance was central to ensuring that the transition was carried out thoughtfully, securely and with the public interest at the core.

As our 2023–2025 Strategic Plan concludes, Council worked closely with RCDSO leaders to shape the College’s future direction. We reflected on priorities for the next decade, informing the development of two key documents: a vision for the next 10 years and the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan. Together, these will guide the College in meeting emerging challenges and opportunities with clarity and purpose.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Council and committee members, College staff and our CEO & Registrar, Daniel Faulkner, for their leadership and collaboration.

Guided by our mandate, we remain committed to advancing patient-focused dental care in the public interest.

Dr. Harinder Sandhu

President of Council
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Our Regulatory Journey

In 2025, the College advanced its regulatory work in response to evolving practice environments and public expectations. With a focus on standards, governance reforms, risk management and a commitment to reconciliation, we strengthened regulatory oversight and accountability.

MODERNIZING STANDARDS AND DEVELOPING NEW RESOURCES

In 2025, we continued to develop standards and resources to keep pace with evolving technology, public needs and practice models. These updates strengthened the College's commitment to professionalism and supported, patient-centered dental care across Ontario.

5 NEW DOCUMENTS

- ☐ Prevention of Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse Standard of Practice
- ☐ Consent to Treatment Standard of Practice
- ☐ Artificial Intelligence guidance
- ☐ Foundations of Professionalism document
- ☐ Practice Models and Corporate Dentistry summary report

GOVERNANCE

Recognizing that effective governance must continually evolve, we implemented several key reforms in 2025:

- **Single district province-wide election**
  Promotes fairness and equity while strengthening representation across the profession.
- **Reduced size of elected Council members**
  Reduced the number of elected dentists' seats on Council from 12 to 10.
- **Updates to terms**
  Introduction of nine-year term limits, cooling-off periods and staggered terms for elected members.
- **Refreshed competency and diversity profiles**
  Ensures Council better reflects the skills, perspectives and lived experiences needed for effective oversight.
- **Improvements to the candidate screening and evaluation process**
  A rigorous, competency-based approach to appointments.
- **Supporting continuity during the transition**
  Terms of office for three Executive Committee Council members extended to December 2027.



PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY PROGRAM

We continued our multi-year transition of the Professional Liability Program (PLP), ensuring the program remains effective and sustainable.

- **PLP divestment announcement:** Navacord, one of Canada's largest multi-line insurance brokerages, was selected to assume ownership and operation of PLP, effective January 1, 2026. Jones DesLauriers (JDIMI) continues to serve as the broker of record providing excess liability coverage for dentists, supporting the PLP under Navacord's ownership.
- **Coverage continuity for members:** Registration fees for 2026 include PLP coverage, with funds for the liability cost passed directly to Navacord.
- **Smooth operational transition:** Service and coverage remain unchanged during the transition, providing uninterrupted support for dentists seeking assistance with claims, risk management advice or legal guidance.

RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN

The College has committed to advancing Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples in Ontario, focusing on cultural safety, competency and meaningful partnerships.

OUR PARTNERS

- First Peoples Group
  - ◇ Strengthens the College and Council's understanding of Indigenous perspectives.
  - ◇ Supporting the development of a Reconciliation Action Plan to embed reconciliation values into our regulatory work.
- Indigenous Primary Health Care Council (IPHCC)
  - ◇ Provides educational opportunities to enhance clinical and cultural safety and competency.



Engaging and Listening

In 2025, the RCDSO strengthened its engagement with the public, the dental community and system partners to ensure regulatory decisions are informed, transparent and aligned with the evolving needs of Ontarians.

INSIGHTS FROM ONTARIANS

To better understand public experiences and expectations of dental care, the College conducted a *Voice of the Patient* polling initiative. The results provided key insights into satisfaction with dental care, access challenges, equity issues and awareness of the RCDSO. These findings are foundational in shaping a more responsive and patient-centered regulatory framework, and the data collected will inform future standards, guidance and policy development.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

Throughout 2025, the College engaged the public, dentists and stakeholders through consultations to gather meaningful feedback on standards and resources.

These consultations strengthened policy development and ensured that a wide range of perspectives informed final decisions.

2,000 Ontarians surveyed









9 PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

- Artificial Intelligence in Dentistry
- Foundations of Professionalism
- Standards of Practice:
  - Dental CT Scanners
  - Managing Conflicts and Ending the Dentist-Patient Relationship
  - Use of Sedation and General Anesthesia in Dental Practice
  - Implant Dentistry
- Registration Regulation Amendment
- By-law amendments:
  - 2026 Annual Fee
  - Professional Liability Coverage

Collaborating with Partners

We strengthened collaboration with government, dental faculties, regulators and the broader oral health sector to support improved access to care, enhanced professionalism and greater system alignment.

The following features key accomplishments from a selection of system partners.





ONTARIO MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- Inter-provincial mobility
- As of Right legislation

NATIONAL DENTAL EXAMINING BOARD OF CANADA (NDEB)

The College supported:

- National standards
- Examination design and capacity
- Access to examinations for internationally trained dentists

ONTARIO FACULTIES OF DENTISTRY

- Standards of Practice and resource development
- Regulatory modernization
- Educational initiatives
- Exploring new contributions aligned with the College's mandate (e.g., bursaries)
- Partnered on Western University's *Professionalism Day*

Schulich MEDICINE & DENTISTRY | UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

ONTARIO DENTAL ASSOCIATION (ODA)

Discussion of profession-wide issues (e.g., human resources, data gathering)

Joint communications with other oral health regulators on emergent public health issues (e.g., measles outbreak)

RCDSO hosted a booth and staff delivered category 1 course presentations at the ODA Annual Spring Meeting



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN FACULTIES OF DENTISTRY (ACFD)

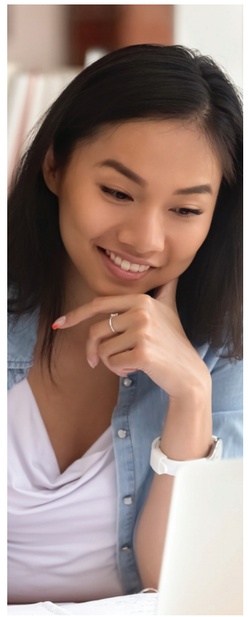
Exploring an additional licensure pathway for internationally trained dentists.



Ensuring Safe, Accessible Registration Pathways

The College consistently met all regulated registration timelines, maintaining efficient and low processing times while delivering impeccable customer service.







The Registration Regulation was amended to support the divestment of the Professional Liability Program. Additional amendments were introduced to streamline processes and enhance transparency:

- Introduction of a mechanism to ensure dentists can't practice without appropriate work authorization once registered.
- Streamlining pathways for dentists returning to practice in Ontario after an absence.
- Amendments to suspension and reinstatement provisions, including the addition of targeted exclusions to reinstatement, to reduce administrative burden while maintaining robust safeguards.

By establishing a clear, enforceable mechanism for requiring and maintaining professional liability protection following the divestment, the College ensured continuity of public protection.

The Profession in Focus

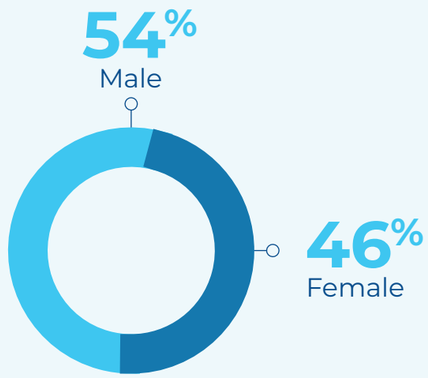
Dentists on Register

12,134
Dentists on register

* Number of unique dentists who held an active certificate of registration at any time during the 2025 calendar year.

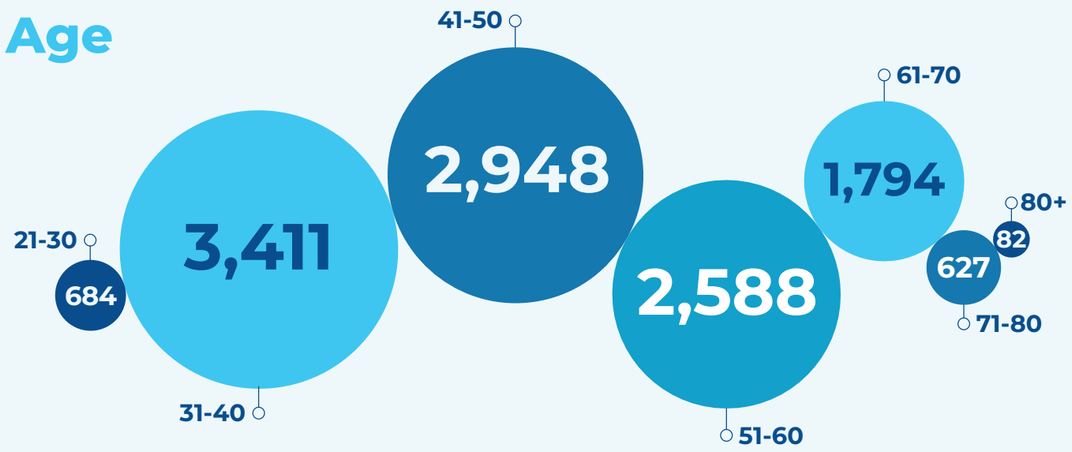
Certificate types

General	Speciality	Education
10,570	1,489	75



** While the registration and annual renewal questionnaires include an option for registrants to identify as 'Other', no registrants selected this option.

Age

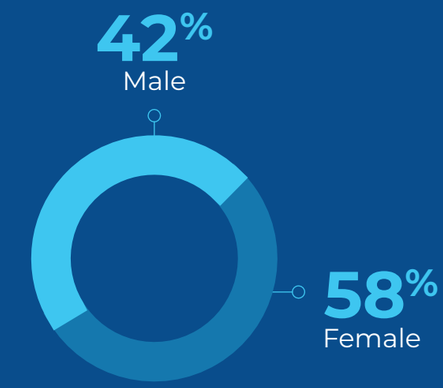


New Registrants

713 New registrants

Certificate types

General	Speciality	Education
659	27	27



* While the registration questionnaire includes an option for registrants to identify as 'Other', no registrants selected this option.

Age

Country of dental education

Top 5

1	Canada	247
2	India	177
3	USA	85
4	Iran	35
5	Australia	34

Application timelines

Average number of days from

When an application is received to when it's assessed: **5.7 days**

Completed to approved: **2.9 days**

Driving Excellence Through Practical Learning

Our Quality Assurance (QA) program continued to support dentists in strengthening their core competencies through practical learning opportunities focused on priority areas and timely topics, helping dentists deepen their understanding and deliver better care to their patients.

These learning opportunities deepened our engagement with system partners, supporting them in sharing critical information and reinforcing RCDSO's role as a trusted, valued partner.

6
Category 1 RCDSO Connect webinars

8,810
Cumulative attendance

10,747
Category 1 points awarded

6 LEARNING IN ACTION TOOLKITS
Designed to complement the RCDSO Connect webinars, these activities and resources support dentists in applying best practices in their daily practice.

Access to Care

Quantifying Disability: The Canadian Society for Disability and Oral Health (CSDH) Case Complexity Tool

The Role of Dentists in Gender-Based Violence/ Intimate Partner Violence and their Impact on Oral Healthcare Delivery

Jurisprudence & Ethics

The AI Advantage: Transforming Dental Practice in the Digital Age

Clear Conversations: Strengthening Communication in Dental Practice

Professionalism in Practice

Standards

Standards in Focus: What's New in Consent to Treatment and Prevention of Boundary Violations and Sexual Abuse



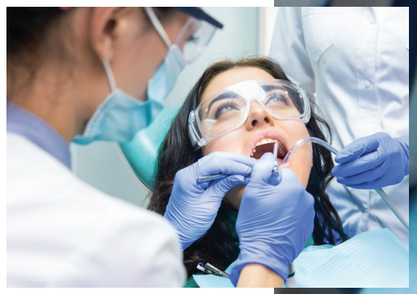
Together, these initiatives promote continued competence, reinforce professional accountability and support inclusive and accessible care.

Ensuring Safety and Compliance

Our Facility Inspection Program (FIP) helps ensure that Ontario dental practices providing sedation, general anesthesia and dental computerized tomography (CT) operate safely and meet regulatory obligations. Through regular inspections and renewals, we verify practitioner authorizations and permits and ensure facilities:

- have the required equipment
- are prepared to respond to emergencies
- provide patient care that aligns with the College's Standards of Practice





Computerized tomography (CT)

119
New authorizations

989
Authorizations renewed

110
New facility permits

694
Facility permits renewed

Sedation

Non-visiting	Visiting
547	**21**
New authorizations	

Non-visiting	Visiting
5,520	**121**
Authorizations renewed	

283
New facility permits

1,416
Facility permits renewed

Strengthening Public Confidence through Accountability

The College addresses concerns about dentists' practice, conduct or competence, which may involve an investigation by the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee (ICRC).

Complaints

778

Top Issues*

Competence/Patient care	**77%**
Communication	**36%**
Professional conduct and behaviour	**28%**
Billing and Fees	**28%**
Recordkeeping	**8%**

* Some complaints address more than one issue

Using a risk-based framework, the ICRC determines the appropriate regulatory action in the public interest. It may refer very serious concerns about a dentist to the Discipline Committee for a hearing.

In 2025, RCDSO received 778 complaints, a 22.5% increase over 2024. Our continued focus on workflow review and process improvements supported our ability to manage an increased volume of complaints, while achieving faster investigative and decision disposition timelines.

The addition of subject matter expert adjudicators to Discipline Committee panels in 2025 enhanced the committee's ability to adjudicate complex matters and strengthened its capacity to respond to increased referral volumes in 2024 and 2025.

These achievements reflect RCDSO's ongoing commitment to protecting the public through integrity and transparency in our regulatory processes.



Discipline

Hearings held: **8**

Discipline cases completed: **11**

Penalty orders* 7

Revocations	**3**
Suspensions	**4**
Terms, Conditions and Limitations (TCL)	**4**
Reprimands	**7**

* Orders may include multiple components

ICRC

738 Decisions issued

100% of decisions issued by the Health Professions Appeal and Review Board upheld the ICRC decision.

Outcomes*

No further action	**40%**
Advice/Recommendations and/or Remedial Agreement	**39%**
Caution and/or Remedial Program	**21%**
Undertaking	**1%**
Referral to Discipline	**4%**

* One matter can result in multiple outcomes

Providing Consistent Support

The Professional Liability Program (PLP) staff remained focused on delivering timely guidance, managing claims efficiently and ensuring that dentists received consistent, reliable assistance when concerns or potential claims arose.

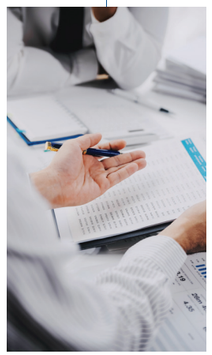
In 2025, new PLP case files increased by 37% compared to 2024, largely due to the College's reminders that dentists report any known claims or situations which could possibly lead to a claim by December 31, 2025, ahead of the transition to Navacord (effective January 1, 2026).

2,542 New files



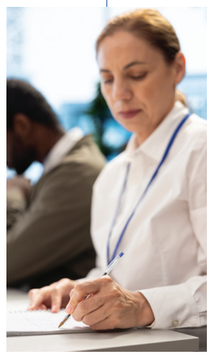
792
Precautionary matters

No formal demand for compensation; precautionary advice provided to dentist



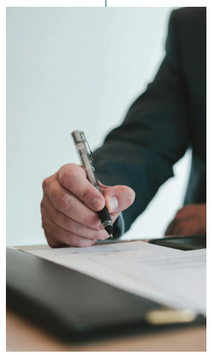
422
Release matters

Dentists refund patients or cover re-treatment costs



1,243
Threatened litigation

Demand for compensation actively involving PLP staff



85
Legal actions

Lawsuit initiated by patients/lawyers at Ontario Courts

The Road Ahead

Looking forward, the College will continue offering meaningful learning opportunities to the profession. This includes expanding continuing education opportunities, strengthening soft-skills development and deepening engagement through RCDSO Connect webinars.

Our commitment to regulatory excellence remains steadfast. We will continue to modernize standards and resources, advance equity, promote innovation and strengthen our role in protecting the public interest.

We will build on Council's work to explore a renewed RCDSO 10-year vision and the launch of our new strategic plan, continuing to apply evidence-informed, risk-based, right-touch regulation to guide our decisions.

By working collaboratively with dentists, the public and partners across the health system, we look forward to supporting a profession that is well-informed, well-supported and well-positioned to meet the needs of Ontarians for years to come.

The People Behind the Mission



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Harinder Sandhu, **President**
Dr. Nalin Bhargava, **Vice-President**
Brian Smith
Marc Trudell
Dr. Erin Walker

APPOINTED BY LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL

Patrick Ballantyne
Ram Chopra
James Colliver
Cristina Cordeiro
Eleonora Fisher
Vivian Hu
Nizar Ladak
Adal Simeone
Brian Smith
Roderick Stableforth
Marc Trudell
Judith Welikovitch

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Nalin Bhargava	**District 1**
Dr. Robyn Somerville	**District 2**
Dr. Peter Delean	**District 3**
Dr. Neil J. Gajjar	**District 4**
Dr. Daniel Fortino	**District 5**
Dr. Harinder Sandhu	**District 6**
Dr. Erin Walker	**District 7**
Dr. Osama Soliman	**District 8**
Dr. Antony Liscio	**District 9**
Dr. Deborah Wilson	**District 10**
Dr. Eilyad Honarparvar	**District 11**
Dr. Anthony Mair	**District 12**

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Daniel Haas
Dr. Noha Gomaa

NON-COUNCIL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Hanin Abdullah
Dr. Jessica Aiello
Dr. Nehal Al Tarhuni
Dr. Harpaul Anand
Dr. Kateryna Antonova
Dr. Rebecca Behnaz Sharif
Dr. Rajiv Butany
Dr. Vincent Carere
Dr. Saurabh Chhabra
Dr. Mae Daemi
Dr. Ousama Damlaj
Dr. Priscilla de Araujo
Dr. Nancy Di Santo
Dr. Parminder Dulay
Dr. Elliott Gnidec
Dr. Irwin Golosky
Dr. Nicole Greenwood
Dr. Gehan Ibrahim
Dr. Jaffer Kermalli
Dr. Amro Mahder Bashi
Dr. Laura Minea
Dr. Ramona Motakef
Dr. Christina Oprescu-Havriliuc
Dr. Maryam Pezeshki
Dr. Jay Rabinovich
Dr. Sakshi Rai
Dr. Arnold Reich
Dr. Priscilla Sampaio de Araujo
Dr. Sweetu Shah
Dr. Sehar Siddiqui
Dr. Neil Silver
Dr. Andre Theoret
Dr. Vanessa Theriault
Dr. Kate Towarnicki
Dr. Jennifer Tse
Dr. Mingyang Xie

Independent Auditor's Report On Summary Financial Statements

To the Members of
Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

OPINION

The summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2025, the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, and the related note, are derived from the audited financial statements of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario for the year ended December 31, 2025.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements on the basis described in the note to the summary financial statement.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon. The summary financial statements and the audited financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND OUR REPORT THEREON

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated June 22, 2026.

MANAGEMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements on the basis described in the note to the summary financial statements.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are a fair summary of the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements*.

Licensed Public Accountants
Toronto, Ontario
June 22, 2026

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Summary Statement of Financial Position

As at December 31	2025	2024
Assets		
Cash	**$ 30,030,520**	$ 19,949,368
Short term investments	**39,090**	4,168,613
Accounts receivable	**890,048**	899,261
Prepaid expenses	**1,320,987**	1,049,016
	32,280,645	26,066,258
Long term investments	**79,131,384**	69,914,289
Capital assets	**7,969,389**	9,133,120
Pension plan asset	**36,800**	-
	$ 119,418,218	$ 105,113,667
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	**$ 19,843,748**	$ 2,693,229
Deferred revenue	**27,094,376**	37,698,587
	46,938,124	40,391,816
Accrued claims liability	**29,756,172**	24,773,967
Post-retirement benefit plan liability	**4,093,100**	3,955,300
Pension plan liability	**-**	52,600
	$ 80,787,396	$ 69,173,683
Net assets		
Internally restricted	**30,043,396**	26,043,396
Unrestricted	**8,587,426**	9,896,588
	38,630,822	35,939,984
	$ 119,418,218	$ 105,113,667

Click here to review the complete audited financial statements

Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

Summary Statement of Operations

Year ended December 31	2025	2024
Revenue		
Registration and annual fees	**$ 42,106,523**	$ 39,687,349
Investment income	**4,949,256**	4,388,378
Professional liability program recoveries	**353,514**	306,060
Professional conduct recoveries	**376,550**	297,850
Other income	**187,746**	292,849
	47,973,589	44,972,486
Expenses		
Staffing costs	**21,659,263**	21,124,489
Professional liability program provision	**10,552,069**	4,311,236
Consulting and professional fees	**4,520,112**	2,694,458
Telecommunications and technology	**2,162,673**	2,090,253
Amortization of capital assets	**1,695,763**	1,682,914
Administration	**1,317,173**	1,364,478
Council and committees	**1,174,830**	971,208
Insurance and brokerage	**725,589**	704,012
Faculty payments and fees	**619,862**	567,201
Operations and facilities	**569,717**	526,687
	44,997,051	36,036,936
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	**$ 2,976,538**	$ 8,935,550

Click here to review the complete audited financial statements

Notes To The Summary Financial Statements

The preparation of these summary financial statements requires management to determine the information that needs to be included to ensure they are consistent in all material respects with, or represent a fair summary of, the audited financial statements.

Management prepared these summary financial statements using the following criteria:

a. The summary financial statements include a statement for each statement in the audited financial statements, except the statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows, which can be obtained from the complete set of audited financial statements;

b. The information in the summary financial statements is in agreement with the related information in the audited financial statements;

c. Major subtotals, totals and comparative information from the audited financial statements are included; and

d. The summary financial statements contain the information necessary to avoid distorting or obscuring matters disclosed in the related audited financial statements, including the notes thereto.



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