

The image features a scenic landscape of mountains at sunset or sunrise, with a hiker standing on a rocky peak in the foreground. The sky is filled with soft, colorful clouds in shades of orange, pink, and blue. In the top left corner, there is a decorative graphic of overlapping blue squares. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

RCDSO | Royal College of
Dental Surgeons of Ontario

VISION 2035

Better oral health care for every patient through system dialogue,
proportionate regulation and excellence in the practice of dentistry.

VISION 2035



As the regulator of dentistry in Ontario, the RCDSO anticipates a future shaped by evolving public and government expectations; variable patient access to oral healthcare; ongoing health system transformation; and rapid technological innovation.

Over the next ten years, our vision is to lead change in the health system; to address emerging risks through a right-touch regulation approach; and to prepare dental professionals to navigate change while continuing to uphold the highest standards of excellence.

In this pursuit, we, together with Ontario dentists and our system partners will keep patients at the centre of everything we do.



1. Healthy System: *Leading System-Wide Dialogue and Change*

We believe that oral health is a vital part of overall health and well being. Every Ontarian deserves accessible¹, safe, and high-quality oral health care, supported by a healthcare system that works effectively and collaboratively across all disciplines.

RCDSO will convene and inspire inclusive, forward-looking conversations about the future of oral health and the broader health system, helping shape a more coordinated, patient-centred system that better serves all Ontarians.

We will build trust among our system partners; facilitate honest dialogue; pursue innovation and foster collaboration across professions, regulators, educators and industry in order to advance system solutions and support the delivery of world-class healthcare.

We will champion a culture of shared and collaborative responsibility across all caregivers and lead the shift toward an integrated health system where oral health is fully recognized as part of primary care. By encouraging providers to work side by side as a coordinated team, we will help drive better patient outcomes and strengthen preventive care for all Ontarians.

¹ References to “accessible care” refers to **the five pillars of access**: affordability, availability, accessibility, accommodation and acceptability Penchansky, R. and Thomas, J.W. (1981). *The concept of access: definition and relationship to consumer satisfaction. Med Care, 19(2): p. 127-40*

Markers of success:

- The RCDSO is recognized as a trusted leader and influential partner across the health system.
- The RCDSO is sought out by government as a key advisor on oral health and health system reform.
- There is evidence that barriers to oral health care are meaningfully reduced, particularly for underserved and disadvantaged populations.
- Preventable oral disease in Ontarians declines through improved access, prevention, and early intervention.
- The RCDSO has taken demonstrable steps to lead and facilitate discussions on health system reform and the integration of oral health within primary care.
- Awareness and understanding of the distinct oral health needs of Indigenous peoples increases amongst dentists and system partners.
- The RCDSO’s Reconciliation Action Plan is finalized, implemented and actively guiding change.





2. Right-Touch Regulation: *Anticipating & Addressing Emerging Risks*

An era of rapid change requires the execution of smart, Right-touch regulation. RCDSO will continue to engage in a regulatory approach that is agile, intelligent and responsive to a rapidly evolving environment. We will anticipate and prevent risks, embrace change, and design interventions that are proportional, effective, and that achieve positive regulatory outcomes. We will cultivate a culture of curiosity, innovation, and continuous improvement, ensuring that our regulatory practices remain resilient, forward thinking and impactful.

We will leverage data and analytics, and system partnerships to support proactive evidence-based decision making and meaningful measurement of our impact in order to drive sustainable and transformative regulatory excellence.

Markers of success:

- RCDSO standards and resources are widely adopted by others and set the benchmark for regulatory excellence.
- The RCDSO is sought out as a leader on regulatory data, trends and emerging risks.
- The RCDSO applies a continuous improvement approach to regulatory work, with change and innovation sparked by data, internal lessons learned, and the work of regulators across sectors.
- The RCDSO demonstrates clear, measurable regulatory impact through effective regulatory programs and interventions.





3. Prepared Professionals: *Equipping and Empowering Dentists*

Excellence in oral health care requires dentists to adapt and respond to change while remaining steadfast in their commitments to professionalism and ethics and clinical excellence.

RCDSO will be recognized as a trusted partner and an essential resource for dentists. We will collaborate closely with a diverse network of system partners, including educational institutions, to ensure that our guidance and resources are timely, relevant and responsive to the evolving practice environment. Through this shared work, we will help dentists uphold public trust and ensure patients remain at the centre of everything they do.

Markers of success:

- The RCDSO is recognized as a trusted, influential, and valued partner in supporting excellence and professionalism in dental practice.
- Registrants report feeling confident, prepared, and well supported to navigate emerging challenges in their practice.
- The RCDSO sees a decrease in ethics or professionalism related complaints.





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