

Elderly residents in care homes need us!
Together, we can provide the essential dental care that keeps them healthy and smiling



Current Depiction

- Seniors in Long term care homes (LTCH) face challenges like worn teeth, limited awareness of oral health, reduced manual dexterity, and systemic health concerns.
- Non-oral health professionals often face difficulties due to limited oral health knowledge, differing scopes of practice, and not enough time to conduct proper assessments.
- These gaps impact the quality of oral care for seniors, showing **the need for oral health care professional support**.
- Dental hygienists (DHs) are skilled at providing standardized oral assessments, preventive care plans, and providing personalized treatments.
- There is an urgent need to incorporate **interprofessional collaboration** between DHs and care aides/nurses

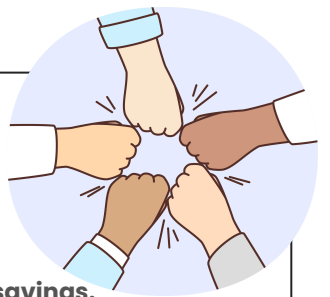


How can a Dental Hygienist make a difference here ?

Answer

Advocacy

Join Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA) committee

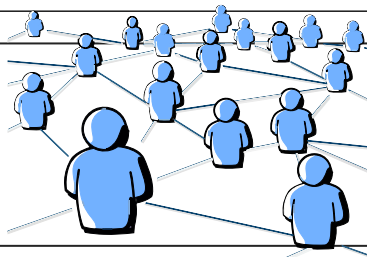


- Join CDHA to access more more learning, connections, support, public recognition, and savings.
- Share concerns & suggest changes to make oral health care mandatory in long-term care homes **by joining CDHA at:**

https://www.cdha.ca/cdha/Membership_folder/Join_or_Renew_Today_folder/Join_Now_folder/CDHA/Membership/Join.aspx#/join/STU/memberInfo

Engage with Social Media

- Use **#oralhealthforseniors**, and tag local MPs
- Engage with **@theCDHA** to spread awareness



Conduct polls for awareness

- Conduct/Participate in surveys/polls



Use CDHA's Election Toolkit

- CDHA's 2023 Parliament Hill Day highlighted this issue
- CDHA's toolkit prepare DH for meetings with federal candidates
- CDHA engages in advocacy through letters, submissions, and meetings with decision-makers to present policy recommendations.
- The association participates in consultations, collaborates with key stakeholders, and builds strategic partnerships within the broader health system.
- CDHA monitors political changes to evaluate their impact on dental hygiene and shares tools and resources to support collective member advocacy.



CDHA is Making a Difference

- CDHA successfully advocated for the inclusion of oral health assessments in the evaluation of residents' overall physical health, a recommendation accepted by Health Standards Organization (HSO).
- CDHA will keep advocating for seniors by supporting the recommendations in the standard. It will also emphasize the important role dental hygienists have in improving the quality of life in long-term care homes.
- Explore this link to see the difference CDHA is making:

https://files.cdha.ca/NewsEvents/tag/2023/HSO_Long-Term_Care_Services_Standard.pdf

**Prepared by VCC Dental Hygiene:
Amanda Lage Barcelos Nunes, Jean Hsueh, Simran Kaur,
Tom Peter Thermadam, Vijaypal Brar
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