

SOHC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year!
The SOHC Inc. is starting 2024 with changes and exciting evolutionarily plans for the future!

Susan Anholt, who has been with the SOHC since its inception in 2010 and as a director since 2017, is resigning.

Susan has been a dedicated, hard-working member and director for 14 years! She has made a significant contribution to the success of the coalition and will be missed. Thank you Susan for your compassion and steadfastness to the SOHC Inc. mission and values!

Lena Ens, our administrative coordinator is also resigning in the next few months. The in-coming administrative coordinator will be Joan McDonald. Lena will be orientating and training Joan over the next few months as she transitions into this new role. Lena has been outstanding in her administrative role with the SOHC Inc.! She is extremely well-organized, competent and resourceful! You will be missed Lena.

In October 2023 the SOHC Inc. hosted a successful professional development day at The Barn at Winds Edge. It was an excellent day of comradery, networking, and learning! The presentations (<https://saskohc.ca/archives/presentation>), and livestreams (<https://saskohc.ca/archives/live-streams>) are on the website. Thank you to all members and stakeholders who attended.

continued on page 2...

[Consider donating to SOHC Inc.](#)

Your [donation](#) will go towards covering the cost of dental treatment for people in need, or those who have complex life issues, with no dental insurance or ability to pay for treatment. It also helps provide basic oral health care supplies to those who cannot afford to purchase them.

Visit our website: www.saskohc.ca

Follow us:



Would you and/or your organization like to submit an article for the SOHC Inc. Newsletter?

Contact us for more information:

sohcadmin@saskohc.ca

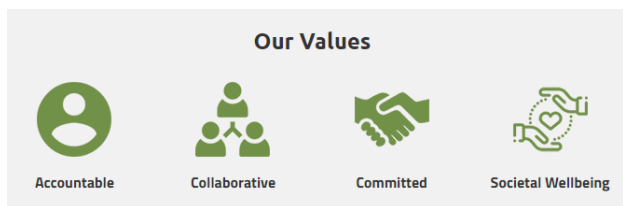
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SOHC DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE *continued...*

Over the 2024 year, the directors will begin planning for the next step in our evolutionarily education development. For 14 years, minus the COVID years, we have traditionally held two "meetings" each year with education as the focus. As the SOHC Inc. Mission is to address the needs of vulnerable populations to improve oral health and overall health of Saskatchewan people, we will continue to provide educational and networking opportunities to support this goal – but it is time to kick it up a notch. Throughout 2024, we will be diligently planning the first SOHC Inc. Conference. It will be held May 1 and 2, 2025 in Saskatoon, so please mark these dates in schedule now. Stay tuned for future information! Thanks to all members who provided feedback in October on a future conference. It was helpful in initiating the planning process; lots of excellent ideas shared.

At the Director's January 8th meeting, we reviewed the SOHC Inc. Mission and Values. Again – thanks to members input in October to this process. As a result, our values will be refreshed to reflect the following:

- **Accountable** (members, fiscally, vulnerable population, common goals)
- **Collaborative** (work with wide variety of stakeholders and members, inclusive)
- **Committed** (dedicated, commitment to values, goals and stakeholders, culturally)
- **Societal Wellbeing** (common good, empathy, equity, ethical, futuristic, holistic, inclusive, informed, integrity, preventative, progressive, respect, understanding, awareness)



Membership fees will also be increased for the first time ever since their inception. This is necessary to support basic costs of website, admin, newsletters etc.. This is not a decision we make lightly, but is also an evolutionary step towards sustainability. The new 2024 fees are:

Individual - \$100
Non-Profit - \$150- up to 5 members
Business - \$250- up to 5 members
Students - no charge

The directors have also approved the implementation of an application form to request funding for dental treatment. This follows the launch of the testimonials, in October, that are on the website (<https://saskohc.ca/>). Even with the Canadian Dental Plan, there are many people who will not be able to access dental care, for a wide variety of complex reasons. One of the SOHC Inc. goals is to assist anyone in these dire circumstances. No one should have to live with dental pain, infection, disfunction and low quality of life due to poor oral health. The form will be available on the website soon.

The SOHC Inc. annual general meeting will be on May 11, 2024, 0830-1030. It will be virtual and will include member/stakeholder updates. We will move to having member/stakeholder updates annually at the AGM.

As directors, we hope that you will remain with us on the journey as a new charitable organization, to continue to work as a collaborative, inter-disciplinary group that address the needs of vulnerable populations to improve the oral health and overall health of Saskatchewan people. In order to achieve our mission and goals it requires funding and tax-deductible donations. Donations are starting to come in! Thank you to all of those who have included the SOHC Inc. as part of their charitable giving in 2024!

Leslie Topola
SOHC Inc. Director and Chair



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION: January through December 2024

Organization Levels (Select one)

- ☐ **\$250 – Business/For-profit organization** (The fee will cover up to 5 people- list names and email addresses below)
- ☐ **\$150 – Non-profit organization** (The fee will cover up to 5 people- list names and email addresses below)
- ☐ **\$100 – Individual members**
- ☐ **Free – Full-time Student** (must provide a copy of student identification)

By seeking membership in the Saskatchewan Oral Health Coalition Inc., I/we pledge to support and help to accomplish the Mission of the Coalition.

Main Applicant's Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: ☐ Business ☐ Home _____

City/Town: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Occupation/Title: _____ Professional Credential: _____

E-Mail: (Please note only this email will be used for communication) _____

Phone: ☐ Business ☐ Home ☐ Cell _____

Alternate Phone: ☐ Business ☐ Home ☐ Cell _____ Fax: _____

For Business/For-profit and Non-profit organizations:

Applicant #2 Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Applicant #3 Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Applicant #4 Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Applicant #5 Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

- ☐ My/our name/organization/business name may be shared on the Coalition website/material as a member
- ☐ My/our contact information may be shared with other Coalition members for the purpose of networking around local and provincial overall /oral health issues.

Complete this form and return by the following mailing and payment options:

- Email form and e-transfer to sohcadmin@saskohc.ca; OR
- Email form and contact sohcadmin@saskohc.ca for credit card payment instructions; OR
- Print completed form and mail with a cheque, made payable to **Saskatchewan Oral Health Coalition Inc.**, to:
Saskatchewan Oral Health Coalition
Attention: SOHC Inc. Admin Coordinator
167 Meilicke Road
Saskatoon, SK S7K 5V5

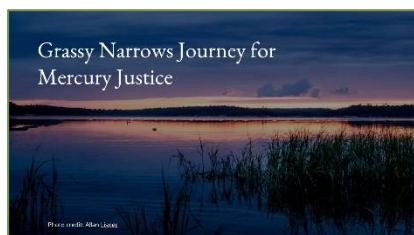
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Payment by: ☐ E-transfer _____ ☐ Cheque _____ Date: _____

Receipt No. Issued: _____

[Click here for the fillable membership application form](#)

SOHC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY – HIGHLIGHTS



Judy Da Silva
[Recording](#)

[Presentation](#)



Dr. Keith Da Silva
[Recording](#)

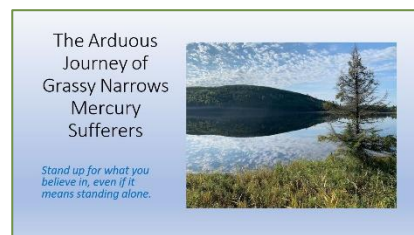
[Presentation](#)



Melanie Martel
[Recording](#)

[Presentation](#)

Lauri-Ann Marshall
[Presentation](#)



Dr. Sheri McKinstry
[Recording](#)

[Presentation](#)



[Closing the Smile Gap Campaign](#)
Dr. Sheri McKinstry

Check out PD Day photos at:

<https://saskohc.ca/sohc-pd-day-oct-23-2023>

Oral Health Testimonials:

<https://saskohc.ca/resources/videos>



[Karen's Story](#)



[Tyler's Story](#)



[Mia's Story](#)



[Jerry's Story](#)



[Maxim and Yegor's Story](#)



[Ruben's Story](#)



[Omar's Story](#)



[SOHC Director – Leslie Topola](#)

Thirsty for Justice

Judy Da Silva, keynote speaker at the SOHC Professional Development Day, is a community activist for safe drinking water for Grassy Narrows and other First Nations communities.

Watch an [Interview with Judy Da Silva](#)

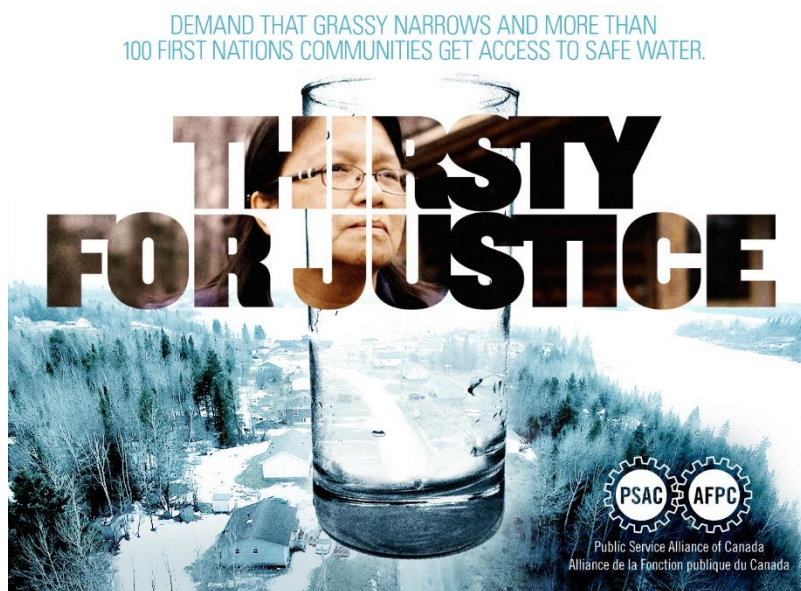
In the 1960's the community of Grassy Narrows experienced one of the worst environmental disasters in Canadian history. Now sixty years later, the latest science has supported what community members have always known about the impact of the mercury poisoning on their health and well-being.

Watch [The Story of Grassy Narrows](#)

The Public of Service Alliance of Canada has partnered with the community of Grassy Narrows to launch this campaign demanding safe drinking water in First Nations communities.

Grassy Narrows is only one of more than 100 First Nations communities that do not have access to safe water for drinking, cooking and bathing.

Visit the [Thirsty for Justice website](#) for more information



If you were unable to attend the 42nd session of the Healthy Smile Happy Child presentation series, ["Myths & Facts about Fluoride and Community Water Fluoridation"](#) with Dr. Khalida Hai-Santiago, you may see it now on the [HEALTHY SMILE HAPPY CHILD](#) YouTube channel:

HEALTHY SMILE HAPPY CHILD presents

Myths & Facts about

Fluoride and Community Water Fluoridation

with
Dr. Khalida Hai-Santiago, DMD

October 12, 2023
12:00-1:00pm CST

Myths & Facts about Fluoride and Community Water Fluoridation

Dr. Khalida Hai-Santiago is a member of the HSHC Intersectoral Dental Health Promotion Group and Oral Health Consultant with Manitoba Health and Shared Health...

www.youtube.com

Practice Trends and Job Satisfaction of Dental Therapists in Canada: Results from a National Survey

December 8, 2023

Mohammad Saad Khawer, Trish Goulet, Doug Brothwell and Keith Da Silva
College of Dentistry, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK, Canada

ABSTRACT

The objective of this research was to evaluate the practice trends, clinical services and job satisfaction of dental therapists in Canada. Licenced Canadian dental therapists were recruited to participate in this cross-sectional study. A total of 124 dental therapists completed the survey (~68% response rate), with 57.3% of respondents being over the age of 50. Most respondents were actively engaged in full-time clinical practice in private dental offices. Indigenous dental therapists were significantly more likely to work outside of private dental offices providing care for Indigenous communities. Just over half of respondents were compensated by an annual salary, with the highest proportion of full-time practitioners earning between \$75,000 and \$99,000 per year. Dental therapists who were active in clinical practice performed a wide range of preventive, diagnostic, and treatment services consistent with their scope of practice. This research demonstrates that Canadian dental therapists are highly engaged and satisfied with their profession. Dental therapists can facilitate improved access to oral health care in less accessible areas of Canada; however, compensation packages and incentives to work in these less accessible areas must be addressed, as well as legal and regulatory requirements to ensure that dental therapists are licenced providers throughout Canada.

Introduction

Oral health is an important component of overall health and well-being [1]; however, equitable access to oral health care remains a challenge in Canada particularly for Indigenous people living in rural and remote locations [2]. The most recent national data from the First Nations Oral Health Survey (FNOHS) demonstrates that the oral health status of First Nations Canadians is poor across a range of clinical oral health indicators (e.g. dental caries, periodontal disease) when compared to the findings for non-Indigenous Canadians [3]. Historically, the Canadian workforce model for dental therapists was viewed as an alternate way to finance and deliver oral health care to less accessible areas of the country [4]. At the behest of the Federal government, the first dental therapy training programmes were established in Canada in the 1970s, with the aim of developing mid-level oral health care providers who could provide a targeted response to meet the needs of Indigenous and less accessible communities [4,5]. For decades, dental therapists in Canada have provided quality cost-effective care, with a high level of public acceptance [6–8]. However, in 2011, due to political and economic factors, the last remaining dental therapy school in Canada was closed [5]. Currently, it is estimated that fewer than 200 dental therapists work in Canada, many of whom have migrated away from remote communities to private practices in larger cities [6]. This has resulted in a shortage of oral health care providers in rural and remote regions of Canada [5].

Read the full survey results [here](#)

Study: Fluoridation More Beneficial than Free Dental Care

November 2, 2023



[A new study](#) has linked community water fluoridation (CWF) in Israel with lower rates of tooth decay. The authors found no such link between decay and the effects of free dental services which were mandated in 2014. When Israel adopted nationwide water fluoridation in 2002, tooth decay among children fell significantly. The practice was discontinued in 2014, a few years after an Israeli law mandated free dental care for all children and teens under the age of 18 to compensate for the anticipated cessation of water fluoridation.

To assess long-term tooth decay trends, the authors of this nine-year study collected dental health data of more than 34,000 young adults. After delivering their analysis of the data, the researchers concluded, “we suggest that water fluoridation should be continued” to restore the rate of children’s tooth decay to the lower levels they previously experienced. CWF accompanied by access to free dental care would benefit children by preventing significant amounts of decay, ultimately requiring less treatment.



Opponents of water fluoridation in the U.S. sometimes argue that CWF would not be needed if children simply had better access to dental care. This new study refutes that. The authors added that water fluoridation “is particularly important to people of low socioeconomic status” who are at higher risk of dental disease.

This study is not the first Israeli research paper to affirm the benefits of fluoridation. [A 2015 study](#) found that children in non-fluoridated Israeli communities were more than twice as likely to be [hospitalized for dental infections](#).

Tooth decay is almost completely preventable, benefiting not only children but people of all ages. High quality research has repeatedly demonstrated the [efficacy of CWF](#) in reducing the incidence of tooth decay, averting the needless pain and complex treatment that children now experience. Prevention is one of the primary tenets of public health. It is an achievable goal, one that children everywhere deserve.

Tooth Brushing Technique Graphic & Snippet

[View All Infographics and Videos](#)

This graphic and 30-second video snippet demonstrate tooth brushing technique in a language-free format! They are perfect for anyone working with children and families with limited English proficiency. This message-tested resource conveys messages about brushing two times a day, morning and night, using toothpaste in the appropriate amount, and brushing motion throughout the mouth. Preventing decay before it starts is more important than ever. Please share!

[30-second video snippet](#)

[11 x 8.5 poster](#)

[17 x 11 poster](#)

[20 x 16 poster](#)

[24 x 18 poster](#)



Considerations for Aligning Federal and Provincial Dental Programs to Improve Oral Health

November 2023

Considerations for Aligning Federal and Provincial Dental Programs to Improve Oral Health is a paper drafted by The [Ontario Dental Association](#) (ODA), [Ontario Dental Hygienists' Association](#) (ODHA), and [Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry](#) (OAPHD).



The document offers considerations for the Ontario Ministry of Health and provincial oral health stakeholders for aligning federal and provincial dental programs. In addition, it provides context and outlines recommendations across eight key areas.

Rationale

ODA, ODHA, and OAPHD came together around the need for strong public dental programs and oral health care to improve the health of Ontarians. The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) is a major step forward in providing access to care to uninsured Canadians. However, it is imperative that the CDCP aligns with current provincial dental programs to ensure vulnerable populations do not fall through any gaps.

Read the full paper [here](#)

Former NFL wide receiver Mike Williams died of brain infections stemming from dental problems, officials say



December 22, 2023

After lots of rumors swirled surrounding how [former NFL wide receiver Mike Williams died](#), officials released an official cause of death late Thursday, while still leaving the door open for other factors.

It was initially reported on Sept. 5 that the ex-[Tampa Bay Buccaneers](#) player had died after he took an accidental blow to the head at a construction site. However, days later, it was revealed he was "fighting for his life."

Williams eventually died Sept. 12 at the age of 36, and the Hillsborough County (Florida) Medical Examiner Department said he succumbed to "Bacterial Sepsis with Cerebral Abscesses and Necrotizing Lobar Pneumonia due to multiple Dental Caries and retained tooth roots."



Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Mike Williams carries the ball during the game against the Detroit Lions at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida, on Dec. 19, 2010. (Getty Images)

[Read the full news article here](#)

Oral health is health: Better access to dental care may have potential benefits beyond Canadians' mouths

December 19, 2023

THE CONVERSATION

Oral diseases, particularly dental decay and periodontal (gum) diseases, are largely preventable, yet are some of the [most common non-communicable diseases around the world](#). Pain due to untreated dental decay impacts eating and sleep quality, among other essential functions. Indeed, the agonizing nature of dental pain earned it the title of “[the hell of all diseases](#)” more than 200 years ago.

But pain is only the most obvious of the many ways oral health is linked to overall health.



Canadian kindergarteners in need of dental treatment are found to score lower on physical, cognitive, social and emotional development scales than those without dental problems. (Shutterstock)

Access to dental care

The federal government recently launched the long-anticipated [Canada Dental Care Plan](#) (CDCP) to improve access to dental care for the almost [nine million Canadians](#) who lack dental insurance.

The program comes in light of the increasing barriers to dental care with the most recent data from Statistics Canada showing that [one in four Canadians avoid seeing a dental professional due to costs](#). While this burden affects mostly low-income families, seniors and people living with disabilities, it also places a huge toll on the population as a whole.

On top of the time lost from school or work due to dental problems, many without the means to access dental care end up seeking care in hospital emergency departments, unnecessarily costing the health-care system billions of dollars.

The CDCP is an important milestone that could eventually get many Canadians the dental care they need and deserve. Meanwhile, this investment in oral health is a reminder of the importance of a healthy mouth, what makes it fundamental to overall health, and notably, how the potential impact of improving access to dental care for those who need it most may extend beyond the mouth.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau making an announcement about applying for the federal dental benefit, at one of Western University's dental clinics in December 2022.

[Read the full news article here](#)

Integration of a Dental Hygienist into the Interprofessional Long-term Care Team

December 10, 2023



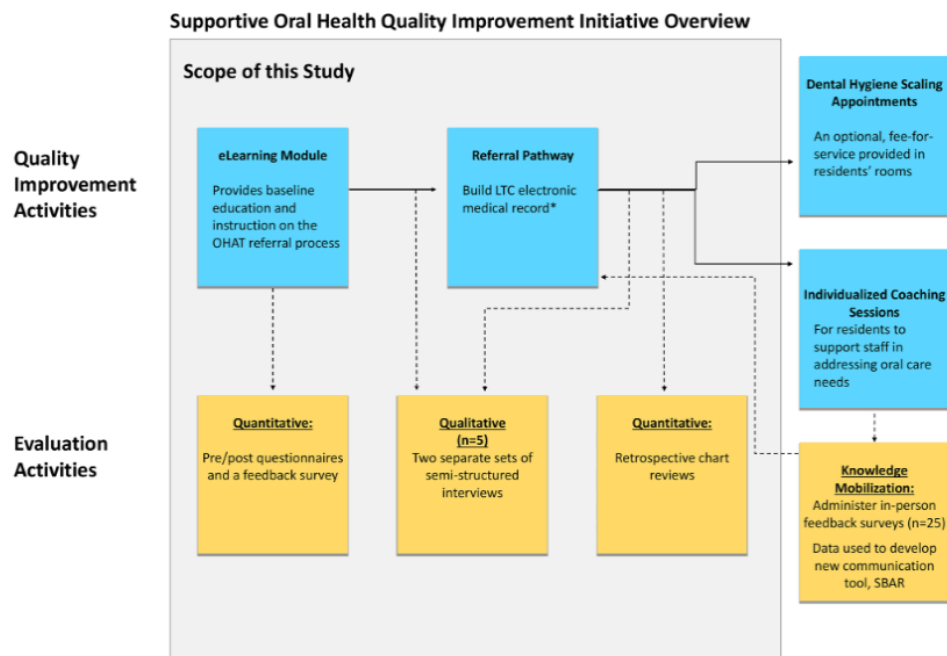
Background:

To address poor oral health of residents in long-term care homes (LTCH), this study explored the process of integrating an educational resource and a dental hygienist on the interprofessional care team.

Methods: This convergent mixed- methods study took place at a 472- bed LTCH in Toronto, Canada from February to August 2018. Nurses employed at the LTCH participated in the study. During the study period, a dental hygienist was integrated into an interprofessional LTCH team. Nurses completed an online eLearning module about using the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) when referring residents' oral health concerns to a. Pre/post knowledge quizzes, module feedback and satisfaction surveys were administered. A retrospective chart review examined OHAT use and compared nurse and dental hygienist oral health assessments. Two cycles of semi-structured interviews with five nurses explored experiences with the eLearning module, OHAT and integration of the dental hygienist into the team.

Results: Nurses scored well on the knowledge quizzes and reported comfort in using the OHAT to refer oral concerns to a dental hygienist; however, actual use was mini-mal. oral health issues were under-reported by nurses on the Resident Assessment Instrument–Minimum Data Set (RAI-MDS); the dental hygienist reported significantly more debris, teeth lost and carious teeth (all $P < 0.0001$). Qualitative analysis indicated that the nurses valued dental hygienist integration into the team. Using knowledge mobilisation practices, a new oral health referral tool was developed.

Conclusions: This study highlights the feasibility and desirability of an oral health eLearning module, practical assessment tools and participation of a dental hygienist on the LTCH interprofessional care team.



*Knowledge Mobilization strategies resulted in a switch from using the Oral Health Assessment Tool (OHAT) to the Situation, Background, Action, Response (SBAR) tool that nurses can use to call the dental hygienist

[Read the full article here](#)

WORLD ORAL HEALTH DAY – MARCH 20, 2024

CAMPAIGN THEME 2024–2026

Visit the [World Oral Health Day website](https://www.worldoralhealthday.org) for updated information



**A HAPPY MOUTH IS...
A HAPPY BODY**

Stay tuned for World Oral Health Day 2024



MEMBERSHIP

Join the diverse membership of the Coalition to make a positive difference for the future of Saskatchewan residents! Membership runs January through December annually.

Organization Levels:

- \$250 – Business/For Profit Organization
- \$150 – Non-Profit Organization
- \$100 – Individual
- Free- Students (full-time)

For Business/For-profit and Non-profit organizations, the fee will cover up to 5 members.

[Download the Application Form](#)

CONTACT US

Joan McDonald,
Administrative Coordinator

Contact Info:

sohcadmin@saskohc.ca

DONATE NOW



<https://saskohc.ca/donate-now>

DIRECTORS

Leslie Topola, Chairperson
Boyd Doucette
Karen Ritchie
Kellie Watson
Meagan Kachur
Dr. Parviz Yazdani
Shelby Hamm

Contact Info:

sohcadmin@saskohc.ca

Visit our website:

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