



## President's Newsbite

It is a pleasure to once again bring you highlights of CSDH's work and accomplishments over the last two months. Thank you everyone for renewing your membership and welcome to our new members. Your support of our vision, mission and goals is appreciated.

Several Board members and I met by zoom with Mr. Don Davies, NDP Health Critic, on two occasions. We discussed the progress of the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) and exchanged ideas regarding access to care for people living with disabilities (PLWD). Mr. Davies was very encouraging and thanked us for our continued advocacy.

On January 26, we had a productive meeting with the Ontario Dental Hygiene Association (ODHA), organized by Lara Timler, CSDH Board member and Program Director for Dental Hygiene at Fanshawe College. We explored some very exciting partnership opportunities and will meet again to further plan how we can be effective through collaboration.

Drs. Olaf Plotzke, Steve Lipinski, and Ian McConnachie, along with Joan Rush and Shauna Hachey met with Mr. Luc Morin, Director, Community Income Tax Program and Benefits Outreach Division, Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) and Marika Nadeau, Director General, Engagement and Federal-Provincial-Territorial Relations, Oral Health Branch Health Canada on February 20. The purpose was to understand the tools and support in place for PLWD to file their taxes, a current requirement to enroll in the CDCP. It was also a great opportunity to share the challenges we see and the concerns we have regarding the CRA requirement, so the CRA can plan to enhance the government's tools and support for PLWD.

An historic and very successful interprofessional meeting and workshop was held in London on February 26. Oral health students from Fanshawe College and Western University came together to participate in an introduction to American Sign Language presented by CSDH member Dr. Shelly Stack. Thank you to the organizers, Lara Timler, Dr. Shelly Stack and students Sophya Sidhu from Fanshawe Dental Assisting and Nikki Faghani from Western's Schulich Dentistry for all of their hard work and planning.

CSDH board members Carol Yakiwchuk and Dr. Clive Friedman co-lead the Special Smiles oral health screening program at the Special Olympics Canada Winter Games February 27-March 2. Volunteers included 5 dentists, 25 dental hygienists, and 5 senior dental hygiene students from the University of Alberta. 850 athletes attended the games, with 340 participating in the Special Smiles program.

Through the kindness of the Canadian Dental Hygienists Association (CDHA), members of the CSDH Board participated in a zoom meeting on media training. The workshop was taught by Huw Williams, a professional in the area of speaking with the media. He is an excellent teacher and gave

us much practical information and tools for future media interviews. A special thank you to Ondina Love, CEO of the CDHA, for arranging to have us join.

Finally, several of our dedicated members developed and staffed a CSDH booth at the Pacific Dental Conference, March 7 to 9. Over 150 conference attendees who stopped by are now aware of the mission of CSDH and our areas of advocacy. Several booth visitors joined CSDH after the conference. Thank you to Barbara Rand, Olaf Plotzke, Joan Rush, Carol Yakiwchuk, Liz Morch, and Sharat Pani for organizing and attending this event.

Yesterday the calendar turned to Spring, ushered in by snow in London, Ontario. Go figure. Wishing you a safe, healthy and fun Spring season.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Romanson".

Paul Romanson  
President CSDH