

## Days on the Hill 2005

Read about [Days on the Hill 2004](#).

### Ottawa — November 23 and 24, 2005

The Canadian Dental Association recently concluded another successful round of meetings and consultations with parliamentarians in Ottawa. This year's "Days on the Hill" provided a forum for advocates of CDA to discuss issues of importance to Canadian dentistry with parliamentary leadership.

Conducted annually, Days on the Hill is organized to keep oral health issues high on the government's agenda. The personal meetings are an ideal venue for CDA to communicate its initiatives, strategies and positions with the cabinet ministers, critics, parliamentary secretaries and committee members who influence decision-making on Parliament Hill.

The following section outlines the issues discussed at this year's meetings and gives background on some of the key people involved.

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Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh pauses for a photo after meeting with CDA representatives.

(L. to r.) Dr. David Mock, dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, Dr. Wayne Halstrom, CDA president-elect, Dr. Phil Poon, chair of CDA Government Relations and Public Advocacy Committee, and Minister Dosanjh.

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### CDA Participants

CDA officers, Dr. Phil Poon, chair of CDA's Committee on Government Relations and Public Advocacy, special guest Dr. David Mock, dean of dentistry, University of Toronto, as well as CDA staff, attended these meetings on behalf of CDA.

The Committee on Government Relations and Public Advocacy is responsible for ensuring a consistent approach in CDA's messaging to government, media and the public on national oral health issues.

CDA officers:

- Dr. Jack Cottrell, president
- Dr. Wayne Halstrom, president-elect

CDA employees:

- George Weber, executive director
- Andrew Jones, director of corporate and government relations
- Dr. Benoit Soucy, director of membership and professional services

- Beth Keeping, manager of media and government relations
- Aaron Levo, coordinator of government relations



CDA was very pleased to hold an in-depth breakfast meeting with deputy leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Mr. Peter MacKay.

Dr. Phil Poon, chair of the CDA Government Relations and Public Advocacy Committee, at the table with Mr. MacKay and Mr. George Weber, CDA executive director.

### **Are you interested in getting involved?**

Government relations is more than a once-a-year lobbying effort. To ensure politicians are aware of issues relating to oral health and dentistry in Canada, CDA maintains regular contact with government officials throughout the year. CDA needs dentists from across Canada to liaise with politicians in their local ridings.

If you are interested in working with CDA, contact:

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### **The Issues**

CDA's 2005 Days on the Hill meetings focused on the following six issues:

#### **1. Oral Health**

The Canadian Dental Association recommended a needs-based approach to the creation of a social safety net aimed at providing oral care services to socio-economically disadvantaged Canadians. CDA also recommended that government demonstrably re-invest in tobacco denormalization and other tobacco reduction strategies as cited by the Canadian Coalition for Action on Tobacco, of which CDA is a member. Finally, CDA supports interventions to reduce consumption of junk foods.

#### **Meetings held with:**

- Ujjal Dosanjh, minister of health
- Carolyn Bennett, minister of state for public health
- Steven Fletcher, opposition health critic
- Jean Crowder, NDP health critic

#### **Resource:**

Fact sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting.

[ [Oral Health](#) ] -  46 KB



Dr. David Mock, dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, and Dr. Jack Cottrell, CDA president, meeting with Minister of State for Public Health Dr. Carolyn Bennett.

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## 2. Oral Health - Tobacco

The Canadian Dental Association recommended that the federal government present legislation flexible enough to prohibit all tobacco advertising that delivers a false message, including, but not limited to, "light and mild" labeling. Also, CDA sought a guarantee that the government will continue to implement and fund a mass media campaign through the Tobacco Control Programme.

CDA recommended that the federal government restore \$13 million to the Tobacco Control Programme and guarantee that funding allocated for tobacco control will not be transferred to other federal initiatives. CDA also recommended that the government strongly consider appointing a dentist to the Ministerial Advisory Council (MAC) on Tobacco Control.

### Resources:

- Fact sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting.  
[ [Oral Health Care - Tobacco](#) ] -  53 KB

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## 3. Oral Health Care for Seniors and Veterans

The Canadian Dental Association recommended a needs-based approach to the creation of a social safety net aimed at providing oral health care services to socio-economically disadvantaged Canadians, including seniors. CDA also recommended that government investigate Personal Wellness Investment Funds as one means to provide financial support for oral health care and wellness.



Finally, CDA recommended that the federal government take a leadership role through the Veterans' Affairs Canada dental program to set an example for the structure and delivery of seniors oral care programs by providing comprehensive education, preventive and restorative coverage, and fair reimbursement levels to providers.

### Meetings held with:

- Tony Ianno, minister of state for families and caregivers
- Carol Skelton, opposition critic for public health
- Betty Hinton, opposition critic for veterans affairs

### Resources:

- Fact sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting.  
[ [Seniors and Oral Health](#) ] -  50 KB

- Report from forum held in Ottawa on February 12, 2005, "Taking Action on Seniors Oral Health Care in Canada".  
[ [Taking Action on Seniors Oral Health Care in Canada](#) ] -  125 KB
- CDA Position Paper.  
[ [Canada's Seniors and Veterans – A New Vision for Oral Health](#) ]  
-  27 KB



Conservative Health critic Steven Fletcher with Dr. Phil Poon, chair of CDA Government Relations and Public Advocacy Committee, Dr. Mock, dean of the University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry, and Mr. Andrew Jones, CDA director of corporate and government relations.

#### 4. Dental Education Concerns



The Canadian Dental Association recommended that transfer payments targeted for post secondary education be increased to lessen the pressures creating tuition increases and faculty shortages. CDA recommended that financial support systems for students recognize and adapt yearly to fluctuations in tuition levels. When tuition fees increase, loans and bursaries should also increase in direct proportion to the tuition fee increases. CDA also recommended that a minimum of 3.5% of research funding be devoted to oral researchers.

CDA is committed to working with government, National Professional Associations Coalition on Tuition, dental universities and Canadian Institutes for Health Research to ensure the future viability of the profession of dentistry in Canada.

#### Meetings held with:

- Mike Savage, chair of the Liberal post-secondary education caucus

#### Resources:

- Fact sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting.  
[ [Dental Education Concerns](#) ] -  52 KB
- Pre-budget submission by National Professional Association Coalition on Tuition.  
[ [Submission to the House of Commons Finance Committee](#) ]  
-  142 KB



Deputy Prime Minister Anne McLellan meets with CDA on behalf of Prime Minister Paul Martin, who was attending the First Minister's Meeting in Kelowna, B.C.

(L. to r.) Mrs. Beth Keeping, CDA manager of media and government relations, Deputy Prime Minister McLellan, Dr.

Jack Cottrell, CDA president, and Mr. George Weber, CDA executive director.

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## 5. Foreign-Trained Dentists

The Canadian Dental Association recommended that governments examine the current system of certification, which balances patient safety with fair and equitable opportunities for foreign-trained dentists, and consult with stakeholders including dental universities, regulatory bodies and associations before making changes to existing policy.


CDA recommended that a careful study be undertaken of the current and projected oral health care needs of the Canadian population as well as a study of the supply and demand of dentists in Canada.

CDA will continue to liaise with government and with other professional associations to share information and determine best practices for the fair and timely entry and integration of foreign-trained dentists.

### Meetings held with:

- Diane Ablonczy, opposition critic for citizenship and immigration

### Resources:

- Fact Sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting. [ [Foreign-Trained Dentists](#) ] -  45 KB
- About the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. [ [CDAC](#) ]
- About the National Dental Examining Board. [ [NDEB Web site](#) ]

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## 6. Oral Health Care – Financial Impact

The Canadian Dental Association made several recommendations to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Finance Pre-Budget Consultation which were outlined in a pre-budget submission.

### Meetings held with:

- James Rajotte, opposition critic for industry

### Resources:

- Fact sheet provided to parliamentary representatives during the meeting. [ [Pre-budget Submission](#) ] -  71 KB



NDP Leader Jack Layton pauses to speak with CDA president Dr. Jack Cottrell during a visit by CDA representatives to the Government Lobby in the House of Commons.

## Related Information

CDA was pleased to arrange meetings with the following Parliamentary leaders:

- Anne McLellan — [Deputy Prime Minister](#)
- Peter MacKay — [Opposition Deputy Party Leader](#)
- Ujjal Dosanjh — [Federal Minister of Health](#)
- Carolyn Bennett — [Minister of State for Public Health](#)
- Steven Fletcher — [Opposition Health Critic](#)
- Jean Crowder — [NDP Health Critic](#)
- Tony Ianno — [Minister of State for Families and Caregivers](#)
- Carol Skelton — [Opposition Critic for Public Health](#)
- Betty Hinton — [Opposition Critic for Veterans Affairs](#)
- Mike Savage — [Chair of the Liberal Post-Secondary Education Caucus](#)
- Diane Ablonczy — [Opposition Critic for Citizenship and Immigration](#)
- James Rajotte — [Opposition Critic for Industry](#)

Related Government Web sites:

- [Parliament of Canada](#)
- [Health Canada](#)
- [Canadian Institute of Health Research](#)
- [Human Resources and Skills Development Committee](#)
- [Industry Canada](#)
- [Citizenship and Immigration Canada](#)
- [Veterans Affairs Canada](#)