



The College of  
**Dental Surgeons**  
of Saskatchewan

# **2023 CDSS Annual Report**



## **Land Acknowledgment**

The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan acknowledges that we operate on Treaty 6 territory and additionally act in the public's interest on Treaty 2, 4, 5, 8, and 10. We acknowledge the truth of our past, its place in our present and the ongoing impact it has on our future.

# Table of Contents

About the CDSS .....	4
Council, Committees & Staff .....	5
President Report.....	6
Registrar Report .....	8
Executive Director Report.....	9
Registration/Licensing Data .....	.10
Demographics of Registrants .....	.11
Professional Conduct and Discipline .....	12
Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program.....	13
Updated Professional Practice Standards & Bylaws.....	14
Thank You to Past President .....	.15

# About the CDSS

**The College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan is the regulatory body responsible for licensing and regulating dentists in Saskatchewan in the public interest under The Dental Disciplines Act.**

## **VISION:**

Safely serve the public.

## **MISSION:**

License new entrants.

Regulate registrants.

Ensure continuous education.

Implement current best practices.

## **VALUES:**

Safety.

Integrity.

Professional.

Fulfilling.



# Council, Committees & Staff

## COUNCIL:

### Elected Council Members

Dr. Derek Thiessen, *President*  
Dr. Mike Fowler, *President-Elect*  
Dr. Raj Bhargava, *Vice President*  
Dr. Michael Koskie  
Dr. Erika Ridgway  
Dr. Kevin Saganski  
Dr. Wes Thomson  
Dr. Kabir Viridi

### Saskatchewan Public Representatives

Mr. Don Robinson  
Mr. Gord Wyatt  
Mr. Al Scholz

### Other Representative

Gord Gillespie, *ICD.D, CDSS Council Chair*

## COMMITTEES:

### Governance Committee

Dr. Michael Fowler, *Chair*  
Dr. Erika Ridgway  
Gord Gillespie  
Dr. Dean Zimmer  
Jaime Korczak

### Finance Committee

Dr. Raj Bhargava, *Chair*  
Dr. Wes Thomson  
Gord Wyatt  
Gord Gillespie  
Dr. Dean Zimmer  
Jaime Korczak

### Human Resources & Compensation Committee

Dr. Derek Thiessen, *Chair*  
Dr. Mike Fowler  
Dr. Raj Bhargava  
Don Robinson  
Gord Gillespie  
Dr. Dean Zimmer  
Jaime Korczak

## STAFF:

Dr. Dean Zimmer, *Registrar*  
Jaime Korczak, *Executive Director*  
Jessica Gunn, *Executive Assistant*  
Lisa Cassidy, *Senior Coordinator of Professional Standards and Complaint Process*  
Dayzia Twordik, *Coordinator of Professional Standards and Complaint Process*  
Morgan Molde, *Administrative Licensing Coordinator*  
Kaci MacCallum, *Communication and Events Coordinator*

# President Report

## Dr. Derek Thiessen



Once again summer has blown by far too quickly and we are once again enjoying the newly-branded Saskatchewan Dental Conference.

Thank you to everyone who has worked hard to put this together. It has been an eventful, challenging, but rewarding year for the CDSS. In this report I would like to highlight a few initiatives, developments, and achievements that have occurred over this past year as there were much too many to mention here.

My term as President began with more stability in the College office than we had had in the preceding few years. The appointment of Mrs. Jaime Korczak into the Executive Director role has proven to be a wise choice for the organization. Her oversight in the College office and her representation on the national stage has been exemplary.

November 2023 brought with it the first glimpse at the Federal Government's

Canadian Dental Care Plan. The plan had been fully developed by the government and Sunlife to this point, without any input from the Provincial and Territorial Dental Associations (PDTAs), and it showed. Our hands were tied by non-disclosure agreements, bureaucratic red tape, and NDP/Liberal political promises, however, over the next seven months Jaime and I worked closely with our provincial counterparts both in-person and via ZOOM to effect meaningful change in the program. I realize the CDCP as it currently sits is far from perfect, but if only you could see its first draft. I am proud of how far the PDTAs were able to move the needle. Having said that, we understand that some members will support the CDCP while others oppose it. The CDSS will continue to advocate on your behalf and support all members, whether or not they utilize the CDCP.

2024 began with celebrations for the 2nd year U of S DMD students at their whitecoat ceremony. I was honoured to bring greetings from the CDSS during this important milestone for our future colleagues. January 2024 was also highlighted by the transition of Dr. Dean Zimmer from an Acting-Registrar role,

to that of our permanent Registrar. Dr. Zimmer has accomplished a great deal during his first year in the role and I am confident that this will continue into the future. The CDSS is in good hands with him at the helm.

Early 2024 was accentuated with meetings, many many meetings. Jaime and I traveled to Ontario on a few occasions to meet with the CDA and the PDTAs as well as representatives from Health Canada, including Deputy Minister of Health Stephen Lucas and Minister of Health Mark Holland. We also attended many virtual meetings including with the Conservative Health Critic, Dr. Stephen Ellis. March 2024 was highlighted by our quarterly council meeting in Regina where we were joined by the Honourable Everett Hindley, provincial Minister of Health for a roundtable discussion and question and answer session. This was most beneficial. A continued positive working relationship with the Health Ministry is very important for the CDSS in my opinion.

This past year also brought with it proposed changes by the Provincial Government to the Regulated Health

Professionals Act. While it is still in the consultation phase, the CDSS is keeping a close eye on the proposed changes and how to adapt if and when the legislation passes. We will keep you apprised as things develop on this front.

This past spring Mrs. Korczak, Dr. Fowler, and myself had the opportunity to attend the Canadian Dental Association Annual General Meeting and President's installation in Toronto where Dr. Joel Antel became the CDA's President for the 2024-2025 term. We were also pleased to attend the CDA awards luncheon where a few very deserving recipients were recognized for their contributions to dentistry. Please watch for the calls for nomination from the CDSS office, if you know of anyone deserving of such recognition, please nominate them!

The CDSS is strengthened as it sits upon the pillars of our committees. Thank you very much to all of our committee Chairpersons and their respective committee members who have worked so tirelessly for the CDSS over this past year. Job well done indeed. In addition, I would also like to thank all of our representatives who represent CDSS with the CDA, NDEB, College of Dentistry (Faculty, Executive,

Undergraduate, Curriculum Review, Admissions and Senate).

Thank you to the fantastic team we had this past year as elected and appointed Council members. Our executive and Management team consists of President-Elect Dr. Mike Fowler, Vice-President Dr. Raj Bhargava, Registrar Dr. Dean Zimmer, Executive Director Mrs. Jaime Korczak, and Council Chair Mr. Gord Gillespie. I would like to sincerely thank this group for their guidance and expertise as we navigated this challenging and unusual year. In addition to the Executive and Management team I previously mentioned I would like to also thank our Council members: Dr. Michael Koskie, Dr. Erika Ridgway, Dr. Kevin Saganski, Dr. Wes Thomson, Dr. Kabir Viridi, Mr. Don Robinson, and Mr. Gord Wyatt. I appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that was put in this past year. It is my honour to be a part of such a wonderful cohesive team.

Finally, I would like to thank our Registrants for their commitment to dentistry in our Province. Your patience, resilience, and patient care through the challenges of the past four years has been commendable. The future of the profession is strong in Saskatchewan.

This would normally be the end of my term as President and the beginning of my term as Past-President, however, due to the change in AGM dates moving forward, it looks like you will be stuck with me for an extra nine months or so. Thank you all for the trust and support in allowing me to serve this past year as President of the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan.

Yours truly, Derek Thiessen



# Registrar Report

## Dr. Dean Zimmer



I am pleased to be writing my first Message from the Registrar for the 2023 Annual Report of the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS). I assumed the role of Registrar

of the CDSS in an acting capacity in June of 2023.

During the year, the CDSS continued to accomplish the mandate to protect the public by: registering and licensing dentists; ensuring the continuing competence of the registrants and the quality assurance and best practices of the profession; implementing and updating the standards of practicing outlining the expectation to provide quality dental care; and responding to complaints in a consistent manner with improved transparency to achieve a resolution in the public interest.

The Government of Saskatchewan passed Bill 120 The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act (2023) to standardize certain provisions of the health

professions to improve regulator transparency and accountability and provide regulators with the tools they need to fulfill their legal mandate of public protection and maintain public confidence in self-regulation. The CDSS is in the process of amending Bylaws and policies to be inclusive of these changes.

In an acting capacity, the Council has determined the focus of the appointment: to define and clarify the role and time commitments of the Registrar position within the current organizational structure; to progress the update of the regulatory bylaws; to redevelop the continuing competency and quality assurance program; and to align the regulatory processes, policies, and standards to the decisions of Council.

The culture of the CDSS has been one of self-awareness and self-improvement, and the CDSS staff will continue to identify and strategize any necessary improvements. “Successful change initiatives share two key characteristics: effective persuasion and a clear understanding of organizational change as a long-term, multistep process rather

than a singular event.”

I would like to extend a thank you to all of the CDSS Council and committee members. A committed group of individuals giving of their time and effort to serve the public, the college, and the profession. Also, I would like to commend the CDSS management and staff for their dedication to the CDSS and their initiative, diligence, efforts, and professionalism in all their obligations to the public and registrants.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jmr'. The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'J' and a cursive 'mr'.



# Executive Director Report

## Jaime Korczak



As I reflect on my first year as Executive Director of the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS) in 2023, I'm left feeling both proud and hopeful on what

was proven to be a challenging and exciting year at the CDSS. Change is never easy, particularly for a 120-year-old organization. But with fresh eyes, new ideas and opportunities, we accomplished what we set out to do: license and regulate dentists in Saskatchewan in the public interest under the Dental Disciplines Act. And being that we are currently a dual mandate organization, a renewed focus on advocacy for our members.

The overarching theme for 2023 was the Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP). The CDSS President and I spent many additional hours travelling and meeting with our national and provincial counterparts, advocating on this matter. While the chance to voice our concerns was received late, our focus was to ensure that this plan, first and foremost,

offers the public greater access to care, and that our dentists' needs are heard and respected. Although our voices were heard on some aspects, there is still much work to be done.

The financial year saw a successful audit by MNP, and an overall budget surplus (see financials). Licensure fees were also unchanged for the 2023 and 2024 licensing year. We are ever conscious of upholding fiscal responsibility, especially in this heightened inflationary environment.

A few other key highlights in 2023: the signing of another 10-year lease for the CDSS office at the Midtown Tower in Saskatoon with negotiations that included a significant leasehold improvement for a modern refresh of the office interior. Additional updates were made to the license renewal process and CE self submission, the annual Sask Dental Conference was held in September, and we welcomed Dr. Dean Zimmer, CDSS Registrar, to join the other four members of the CDSS team. Thank you, Dean, and the CDSS staff for their dedication in 2023. We may be small, but we can accomplish great things.

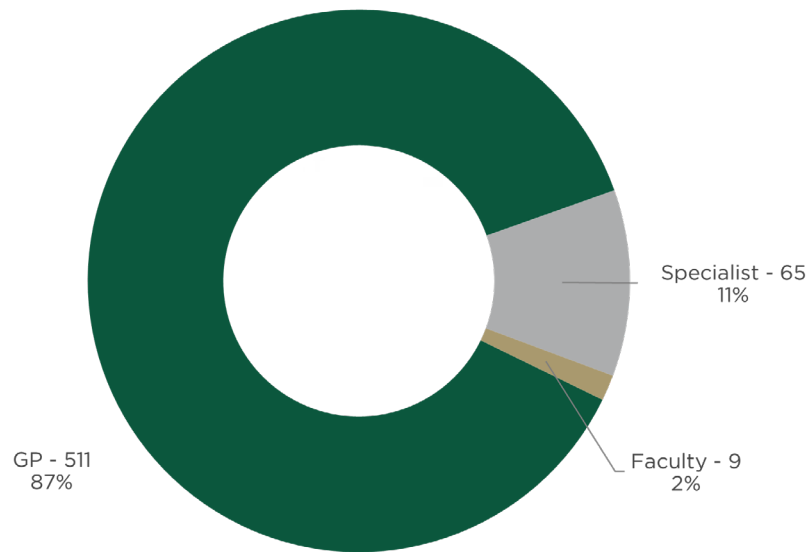
We also offer gratitude to those who volunteer their time on council and committees. Thank you to outgoing President in 2023, Dr. Aaron Bazylak, and our current President, Dr. Derek Thiessen. The CDSS could truly not serve in the public interest and achieve our goals without these individuals. And last, but certainly not least, thank you to the ~600 registrants of the CDSS who's patience and commitment to their profession is evident. We applaud you for reading our eblasts and newsletters for updates on the CDCP this past year. Seeing your willingness and support as we navigated these uncharted waters of the CDCP, we have never been prouder to represent Saskatchewan, "on your behalf". Thank you.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long tail.

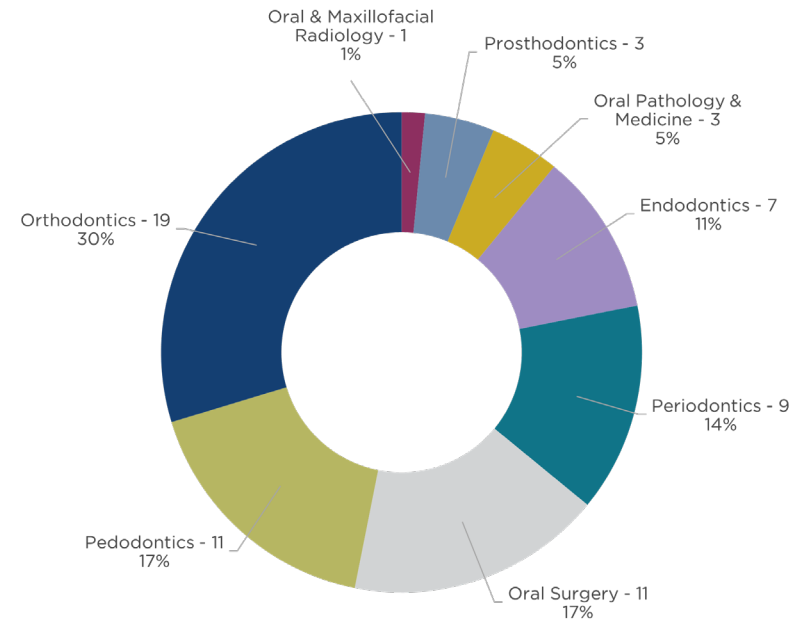
**Jaime Korczak**  
Executive Director

# Registration/Licensing Data

## TOTAL REGISTRANTS (AS PER JAN 15, 2023)



## SPECIALIST BREAKDOWN



Applications for registration and licensure received in 2023:

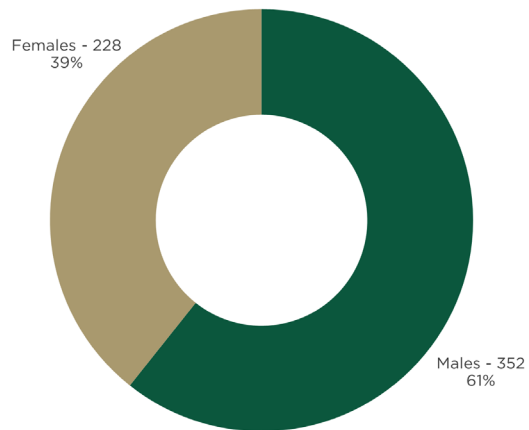
72 applications received

- 72 approved

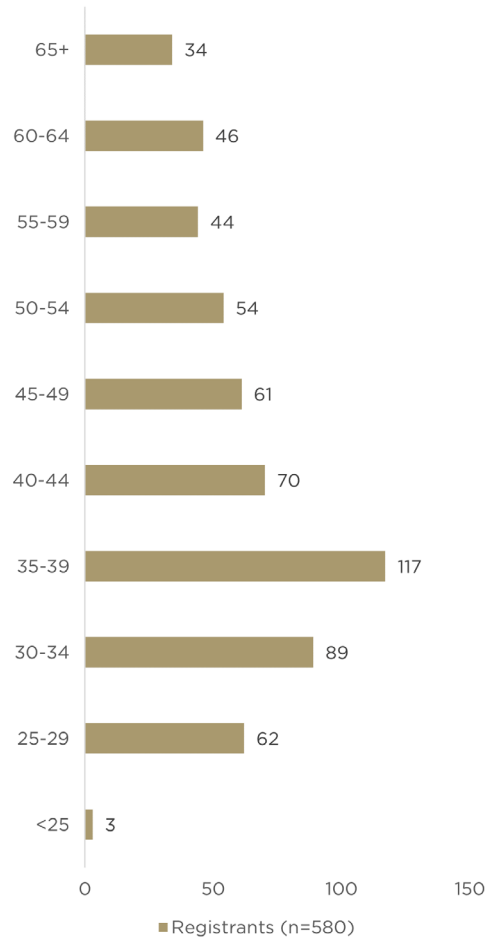
- 0 denied

# Demographics of Registrants

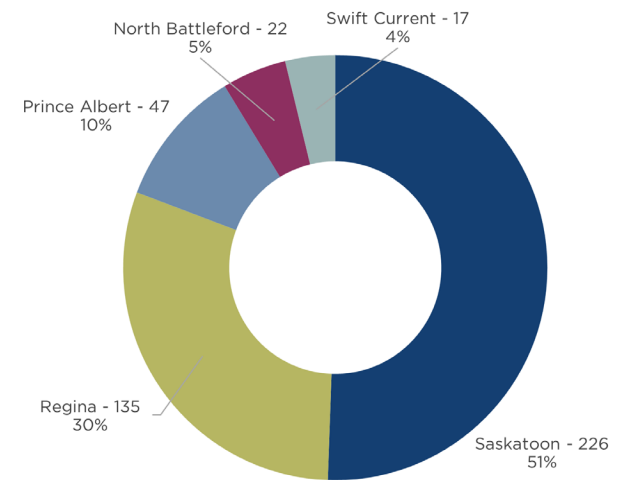
## GENDER OF REGISTRANTS



## AGE OF REGISTRANTS

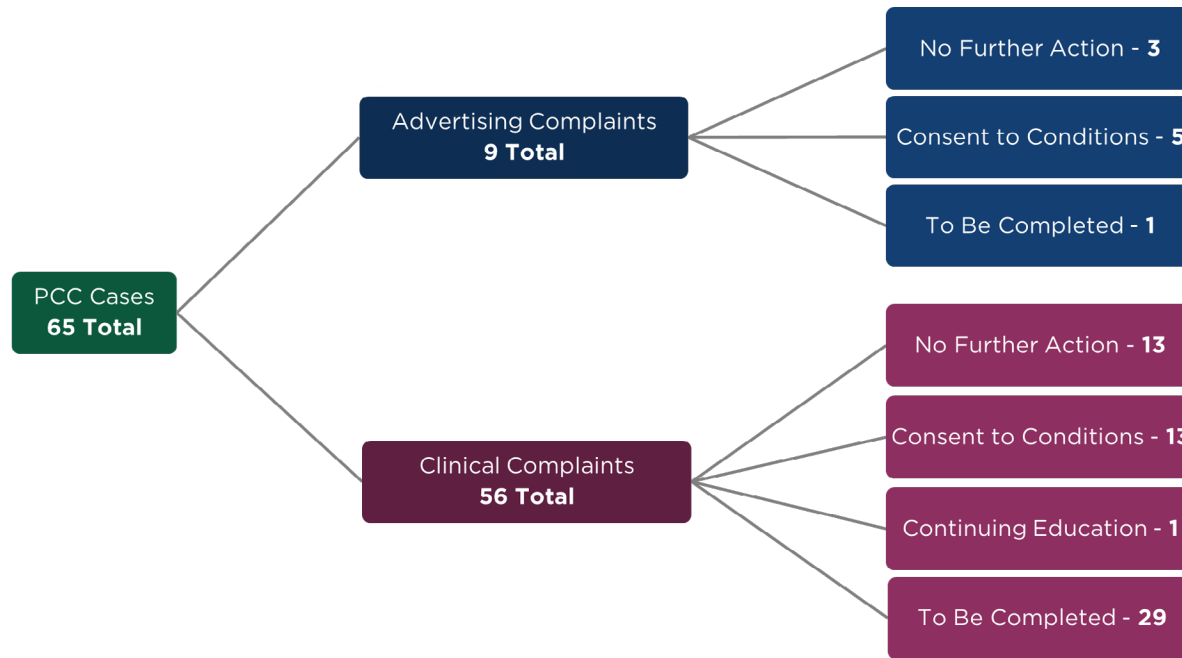


## DENTISTS PER TOP 5 CITIES



# Professional Conduct and Discipline

## 2023 PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT STATISTICS



## 2023 DISCIPLINE STATISTICS

No discipline cases in 2023.

# Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program

One of the primary responsibilities of the College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CDSS) is to ensure best practices, quality assurance, and continuing competence of individual registrants and improve and enhance the practice standards of the profession in general. To this end, the establishment of a Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program is to: ensure a minimum standard of competence; improve and enhance the collective knowledge, performance, and quality of care of all dentist registrants in Saskatchewan; and to demonstrate the commitment and dedication to serve in the public interest. It is the responsibility of the College to utilize the Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program to assist, support, and engage the registrants in a positive, cooperative, and non[1]disciplinary manner. It is the responsibility of the registrants to cooperate and comply with the Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program, to continue to self-evaluate their individual and specific needs of continuing competency in practice, and to maintain and enhance their own competence to practice. Lifelong reflection, self-assessment, self-direction, and learning is a fundamental responsibility of a professional. As an oral health care professional in a dynamic and evolving environment, it is critical to remain current and informed of changes of best practices and standards of care in dentistry and oral health care delivery. The Dental Disciplines Act, the regulatory bylaws, the code of ethics, and the standards of practice are core documents that should be used for continuing competency and quality assurance by dentists. Compliance with the CDSS Continuing Competency and Quality Assurance Program by registrants is a mandatory requirement for annual licence renewal.

The continuing competency and quality assurance programs may include, but are not limited to: Licensure Attestations; Advanced Skill Certification Authorizations and Permits; Continuing Education; External Sterilization Monitoring Program (weekly); External Waterline Testing Program (annual); Radiation and Imaging Quality Assurance Program; Pharmaceutical Information Program; Prescription Review Program; Antimicrobial Stewardship Program; Critical Incidents Reporting; Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation Basic Life Support; Criminal Record Check; Advertising Evaluations and Review; Random Facility and Practice Audits; and Surveys and Assessments Audits.

# Updated Professional Practice Standards

## Standards

**IPC Interim Protocol Update** - Update sent to members - February 1, 2023

**Long-Term Care Resident Guideline** - Update sent to members - February 10, 2023

**Standards of Practice: Advanced Facial Esthetic Therapies and Adjunctive Considerations** - Sent for members to review - March 21, 2023

**Advertising Standard** - Update sent to members - April 5, 2023

**Continuing Education Policy** - Update sent to members - April 5, 2023

All Standards can be found online at <https://members.saskdentists.com/en/professional-competence>

## Bylaws

CDSS Bylaws (no amendments)  
Download [HERE](#).



## THANK YOU DR. AARON BAZYLAK!

The CDSS would like to offer our deepest appreciation to Past President, Dr. Aaron Bazylak, for serving his President term to September 2023. His leadership during the initial advocacy for the Canadian Dental Care Plan, as well as the appointment of the Executive Director and Registrar, was instrumental to the overall success of CDSS.

