

Hello!

This morning I attended a zoom meeting with Health Canada and our provincial association counterparts, regarding the Oral Health Access Fund. I took screen snips of the ppt (although it says, “not for distribution”, I’ll trust you won’t circulate outside this group). We have also been advised that this is NOT part of the NDA and may be discussed openly. This is the first time we are hearing a few more details of the plan, although in Health Canada fashion, we did not learn much.

- \$250M over three years, starting 2025-26
- \$75M per year ongoing
- the funding will be for non-financial barriers to accessing oral health care; seniors in LTC homes, and rural and indigenous northern communities.
- Provincial Gov will be able to apply, but the funding for this does not automatically go to each province and dispersed from there. Based on who makes the application.
- No set fixed regional amount, competitive.
- Will for-profit colleges (ie. DA schools) be able to access? Unclear, will get back.
- Maximum funding? Not defined yet. But can be multi-year funding.
- LTC Homes, the OHAF could assist in funding. If it is a Government facility, they would need to apply.
- Process for application:

When call comes out in spring (TBD), instructions, direction and deadlines will be clear. Not set yet.

- Public awareness campaigns, promotion of DA/DH as a career, etc., will HC consider these types of communications for funding?
 - Funding for OH awareness and education is open for consideration. HC may be doing that on their own.

Schools losing patients to the CDCP. They worked with the Universities on an Innovation design workshop (earlier in Dec), ideas on how to adapt training models.

Universities are looking for money, \$75M will go quick.

- Training concerns that the CDCP will lose patients at the schools, but this won’t be a route to fix it.
- This will not be a fund to replacement tuition and other funding shortfalls.
- Short term targeted investments, so must be sustainable.

A lot of unknowns, as usual with Health Canada. They do not have an application date time or process set—except “Spring”.

Jaime Korczak

Executive Director

College of Dental Surgeons of Saskatchewan

201 1st Ave S - 1202 The Tower at Midtown

Saskatoon, SK S7K 1J5

Ph: 306-244-5072 ext.222 Web: saskdentists.com

jaime@saskdentists.com

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