

Briefing Note: Meeting of the Board

Date: September 5, 2024

Title	National Dental Examining Board of Canada Board Appointment
Action	Decision
From:	Chris Hacker – Registrar/CEO
Prepared by:	Chris Hacker – Registrar/CEO
Date	August 17, 2024
Draft resolution	The Board resolves to appoint Dr. Bertrand Chan, as the BCCOHP representative to the National Dental Examining Board of Canada Board for a three year term, beginning November 2024.
Additional Material Attached	1. Dr. Bertrand Chan - CV

Summary

The National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) is the organization responsible for establishing and maintaining a national standard of competence for dentists in Canada.

The NDEB Board is composed of 13 members. Each provincial dental regulatory authority appoints one member, with two members being appointed by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada. There is also a public representative appointed to the Board.

The Registrar recommends the Board appoint Dr. Bertrand Chan [Appendix 1], as BCCOHP’s representative to the NDEB Board, to replace Dr. Jim Richardson, who is retiring as BCCOHP’s current representative in November 2024.

Background

Created by an Act of Parliament, the National Dental Examining Board of Canada (NDEB) has been given the mandate to establish a single national standard for general dentists in Canada and to develop and administer examinations to confirm individuals who apply for registration as dentists have met the national standard.

The NDEB works in collaboration with the Canadian Faculties of Dentistry, the Commission on Dental Accreditation of Canada, and the provincial Dental Regulatory Authorities to support quality dental care in Canada.

The NDEB's mission states, *'Contributing to the oral health of Canadians by providing a fair, valid and reliable evaluation of competence for the certification of dentists.'*

The NDEB develops and administers internationally-recognized examinations that are valid and reliable. Each year, approximately 1000 dentists from Canada and around the world are certified through the NDEB's examination processes.

Section 6.12 of the BCCOHP bylaws requires a dentist applicant for full dentist registration with the College, to provide evidence of either a degree or equivalent qualification from a recognized general dentistry program, or a program in general dentistry at a post-secondary educational institution that is, in the opinion of the registration committee, equivalent to a recognized general dentistry program, and an NDEB Certificate (the Certificate).

The NDEB provides the Certificate to applicants who have successfully completed the NDEB capstone exam and have provided verified evidence of successful completion of an accredited dental program, or successful completion of an international, unaccredited undergraduate dental program plus the NDEB's Equivalency Process (<https://ndeb-bned.ca>)

With each provincial dental regulatory authority (DRA) appointing one member to the thirteen person board, this allows governance of the organization from the perspective of the public interest.

The NDEB board meets annually in Ottawa in November. The expenses for each of the individual board members are covered by their respective DRAs. The remainder of the meetings through the year are held virtually.

While the appointment is for a renewable three-year term, it is expected that each appointed board member serves for ten years with the final three years in the progressive positions of Vice President, President, and Past President.

Dr. Bertrand Chan [Appendix 1]

Dr. Chan has been a registrant in good standing in BC since 2009, graduating from the University of Hong Dental School with a general dental degree in 2002. He went on to successfully complete a specialty program in Oral Medicine in 2008 from the University of BC's Faculty of Dentistry Graduate Program.

As an international graduate, and a dentist who has served as a dental examiner for the NDEB for the last ten years, Dr. Chan brings valuable perspective as someone who has not only worked both within the NDEB but has also engaged the certification process as a candidate.

A number of candidates expressed interest in being considered for the role. After careful and intentional consideration of each applicant, it was determined that Dr. Chan was the most suitable to represent BCCOHP and the public interest as a board member of NDEB.

Links to Organizational Priorities

Strategic Plan

BCCOHP's Mission:

To safeguard the public from harm and discrimination by diligently overseeing safe, competent, ethical, and team-based oral health care, ensuring trustworthiness in our regulatory practices.

Risk

R.2 – Regulatory Risk:

Non-compliance with authoritative legislation (including BCCOHP Bylaws)

Questions to Consider

1. Going forward, does the Board want regular (annual, biannual) in-person reports for BCCOHP's NDEB Board member?
2. Does the Board feel comfortable in their overarching knowledge of entry to practice processes of all regulated oral health professionals? Is it important for the Board to understand? Would reports from all of the national oral health regulators be helpful?
3. Is the board comfortable with the selection process for the appointed NDEB board member?