

What patients can expect from the oral health team

The BC College of Oral Health Professionals is here to protect the public and promote better outcomes for oral health patients in BC.

As a patient, you can expect that:



About the artwork

This artwork reflects what patients can expect from their oral health team in BC, expressed through the stories of six symbolic figures.

The circle motif highlights cycles and transformations, acknowledging the work that BCCOHP is doing to transform. Within the circle are six figures, each representing one of the major themes. The figures are as follows:

- **Eagle** (“Your oral health team will communicate effectively and obtain informed consent”) – Eagle was chosen as it is the figure that serves as the messenger to and from the creator. He is the one who can travel between realms, which is why an eagle feather is most often used for smudging across Turtle Island.
- **Wolf** (“Your oral health team will collaborate in your interests”) – Wolf was chosen as it is widely regarded as the protector figure, making it a great choice for themes of working in the patient’s interests. The wolf is also known for its skills in collaboration. Their family-oriented nature makes them some of the most important figures to First Nations all over the West Coast.
- **Human** (“Your oral health team is culturally aware, equitable and inclusive”) - The human is a very versatile figure in Indigenous artwork; it can symbolize a lot of things, but in this case, it exists to symbolize inclusivity and human connection, as well as representation of people in the traditional form line art style. In the illustration, the human's hands are also raised in gratitude, acknowledging thanks to all our relations in all their diverse backgrounds.
- **Frog** (“Your oral health team will build and maintain trust”) – Frog was chosen as it is known to be the storyteller of the creator, one who is trusted with delivering the truth and all its lessons. She is often regarded as wise, level-headed, and patient for whatever is to come.
- **Bear** (“Your interests will be put first”) – The bear is a figure known not only for strength, power, and courage, but also for leadership. Bear is confident in his beliefs and is willing to push and advocate for them. He is independent, strong-minded, and teaches us that our interests are worth every minute of effort.
- **Salmon** (“You will receive safe and competent care”) – The salmon is arguably the most important non-supernatural figure in Northwest coast artwork and storytelling. The salmon’s cycle has always been known to be a delicate one. As one of the most valued resources known to First Nations across the coast, it was always understood that their habitat needed to be cared for and nurtured in the same way that the salmon take care of and nurture us.

Created in partnership with [Indigenous Marketing Solutions](#).