

# Ontario Report

February 1, 2019

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists Board of Directors and associated Committee Chairs continue to meet regularly to tackle the issues facing orthodontists in Ontario and promote the ideals of the specialty across the province. In order to keep costs in check, the Board meets through videoconference from the comfort of our own homes, with our most recent meeting occurring on Monday evening, January 21<sup>st</sup>. During the last week of January, OAO President-Elect Dr. Pourang Rahimi and OAO Director Dr. Natoosha Nargaski, attended the AAO Leadership Conference in Marco Island, Florida to hone their leadership skills to meet upcoming challenges.

Current issues the OAO is actively working on include the DTC orthodontics concern, the successful consumer awareness program, increased collaboration with other provincial specialty association as well as the Ontario Dental Association and upcoming meetings and CE events.

DTC is now sweeping across our province and is no longer limited to the Toronto area as storefronts are scheduled for Kitchener-Waterloo, London and Windsor. The OAO continues to work with the AAO and CAO regarding this issue and has been very active behind the scenes. AAO Legal Counsel, Sean Murphy, attended a meeting with the OAO Executive officers and the Ontario regulatory body, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) in October, 2018, and also arranged to have a Toronto based lawyer specializing in regulatory health care issues attend as well, all at the AAO's expense. The OAO and Mr. Murphy are actively working on setting up a second meeting with himself, OAO Board Members and the RCDSO.

The successful three year Consumer Awareness Program has been very successful and will come to an end in five months. The OAO has partnered with the AAO and has taken advantage of the AAO's matching funds program to the tune of \$79, 000.00 CDN over the past three years. The OAO appreciates the AAO's contributions to the CAP and look forward to continued AAO support as the Board of Directors begins to map out the next CAP program for the upcoming years to continue to educate the people of Ontario on the value of specialty orthodontic care.

Upcoming meetings for all OAO members include the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Thursday evening, May 23, 2019 and the Fall General Meeting, Thursday evening, November 14, 2019. Details will follow shortly. Both meetings are scheduled to dovetail with the Toronto Orthodontic Club meetings which will be held the following day. Details on registration for the TOC meetings can be found at [www.toclub.ca](http://www.toclub.ca). The OAO also encourages all members to attend the GLAO Annual Session in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on September 12-15, 2019.

The OAO recognizes the value of membership in the AAO/GLAO and encourages all orthodontists in Ontario to consider membership in these organizations to maintain the strength of our specialty in the province.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Smith

GLAO Ontario Director