

Ontario Report – November 2019

The Ontario Association of Orthodontists has been busy the past number of months working on issues to improve the practice lives of orthodontists across our province. The Board of Directors has a keen sense of the turbulent times we face and has undertaken a number of initiatives to strengthen orthodontics in Ontario.

Recently, the OAO executive has forwarded feedback to our regulatory body, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario (RCDSO) on the following issues: 1) Performance of intra-oral procedures that are not Controlled Acts by preventive dental assistants – this is a matter that has been on the radar of Ontario orthodontists for quite some time, and through the efforts of the OAO over the years, we are inching closer to a standard of delegatable duties that matches our colleagues across Canada; 2) Teledentistry – the RCDSO has called for input from key stakeholders on how to regulate teledentistry and the OAO has responded with strong feedback based on our experience with DIY orthodontics that has infiltrated the province. The theme of the response was that teledentistry must meet the Standard of Care that currently applies to all treatment being provided in person by Ontario dentists and specialists in order to protect the public. Beyond these two issues, the OAO continues to work with the AAO and the Canadian Association of Orthodontists on the Direct to Consumer issue.

The Autumn OAO General Meeting is planned for Thursday evening , November 14, 2019 at the Sheraton City Centre. This will include not only a business meeting but also a presentation by author Beverly Beuermann-King on “7 Mental Health Secrets to Help Your Practice Thrive”. This meeting will be live-streamed to allow all members access across the province. All orthodontists are encouraged to register for the Toronto Orthodontic Club continuing education program the following day, also at the Sheraton, featuring noted speaker, Dr. Jason Cope from Dallas, Texas. The OAO has also joined with the Ontario Society of Periodontists to sponsor a joint CE meeting featuring Dr. Vince Kokich Jr. on February 29th, 2020, also in Toronto. Finally, planning continues for the OAO’s 4th Biennial Scientific Session being held May 29-31, 2020 in beautiful Niagara-on-the-Lake. This promises to once again be a weekend chock-full of education and socializing in Ontario’s wine country.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dr. Drew Smith, GLAO Ontario Director