



About the Access to Dental Technology Project

This project is funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program.

Project Overview

The College of Dental Technologists of Ontario, in collaboration with the Canadian Alliance of Dental Technology Regulators (CADTR), has received funding from the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition Program (FCRP) for close to \$575,000 over two years to support the Access to Dental Technology Project (ADT). Led by CDTO, this pan-Canadian project will help reduce barriers to employment in Dental Technology for internationally trained newcomers.

The overriding objective of this project is to ensure that Canada has the educated and skilled workforce needed to support professional and economic growth by expediting the assessment and licensure processes of Internationally Educated Dental Technology Professionals (IEDTPs) to practise the profession of dental technology in Canada. The overall project objectives are directly linked to the objectives of the FCRP and aim to provide fair, accessible, transparent, consistent, and rigorous service that optimizes the effectiveness and efficiency of registering IEDTPs and contribute to improving labour market integration outcomes of IEDTPs in the dental technology sector.

The project will be informed by research carried out to date and published, such as "Improving Pre-Arrival Information Uptake for Internationally Educated Professionals", B. Baomal and K. Johnson, June 2016, which "indicates that for many skilled immigrants the true realities associated with meeting entry-to-practice standards, upgrading technical and language skills, and securing meaningful employment are very different than originally assumed. Pre-arrival research, related to their chosen professions, conducted in an orderly or systematic way is rarely carried out. The provision of timely pre-arrival resources, accessed throughout the immigration process can help to better align the perceptions skilled immigrants have of working in Canada (while in their home countries) with the realities they face on arrival."

The project aims to create a coherent assessment criterion that is standardized across Canada. The assessment criteria/methodology of one jurisdiction directly affects the quality of practitioners working in all jurisdictions. Greater harmonization of international credential assessment practices and entry-to-practice policies, including a national examination based on a national competency profile, is essential in ensuring the integrity of assessment and recognition of IEDTPs seeking licensure to practice Dental Technology in Canada.

CADTR Membership

CADTR is the national federation of dental technology regulators in Canada. It is comprised of regulatory bodies that have been established and mandated by their respective provincial governments to regulate

the practice of dental technology and govern their regulated members in 7 out of the 13 jurisdictions in Canada. Other member regulators include:

- College of Dental Technicians of British Columbia (CDTBC)
- College of Dental Technologists of Alberta (CDTA)
- Dental Technicians Association of Saskatchewan (ADTS)
- Ordre des techniciens et techniciennes dentaires du Québec (OTTDQ)
- New Brunswick Dental Technicians Association (NBDTA)
- Nova Scotia Dental Technicians Association (NSDTA).

The profession of dental technology is also regulated in Newfoundland and Labrador and is not yet regulated in Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The member regulators have mandates to serve and protect the public and fulfill this by ensuring individuals seeking registration to practise dental technology meet standard qualifications in education and professional competencies. CADTR's focus is on national issues of concern and to advance the profession of dental technology. CADTR operates as a forum for the exchange of information between regulating bodies and to assist them in fulfilling their mandate.

Project Objectives

The general objectives of the ADT project meet the specific goals of CDTO and members of CADTR to:

- Ensure IEDTPs preparedness for registration through the creation of practical pre-arrival self-assessment tools
- Enable fair and consistent assessments of both domestic and internationally educated professionals based on a national credential assessment and a national competency-based examination; and
- Strengthen the relationship between regulators and educators (i.e., schools) to advance the foreign credential recognition agenda for the benefit of IEDTPs, the dental technology profession and the Canadian public.

Expected Results

The expected outputs of the successfully completed ADT project are:

- Up-to-date information on the current dental technology profession in Canada, (e.g., competencies, education in Canada, regulation of the profession, examination practices in each Canadian jurisdiction) and the identification of the problems, barriers, and gaps with current processes and tools to assess IEDTP candidates;
- A comprehensive, centralized, and accessible bilingual national website which will provide a central point of contact for IEDTPs;
- Practical pre-arrival self-assessment tools;
- A national practice, written theory, and practical examination that will standardize entry-to-practice requirements across Canada and enable fair and consistent assessments of qualifications and competencies of IEDTs; and
- Final report to ESDC.

These outputs will lead to expected outcomes which are:

- A clear, consistent and transparent articulation of the credential, registration/licensure and work experience assessment processes of IEDTPs;
- Enriched awareness and preparedness of highly skilled newcomers, including those starting the process prior to immigration, searching for professional level jobs in the dental technology profession;
- Strengthened and harmonized regulation of the dental technology profession which enables fair treatment for all applicants;
- Improved public protection and quality of dental technology services through the use of the same set of entry-to-practice standards;
- Increased and sustainable supply of highly skilled newcomers to provide services to Canadians;
- Enhanced confidence that all registered practitioners have been admitted to the profession using the same set of entry-to-practice standards to provide quality services and public protection; and
- Improved capacity, collaboration, communication, cooperation, and consultation between regulators, educators and other related stakeholders to further reduce duplication and assist in the continuation of system-wide enhancements.