

THE ROLE OF THE COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNOLOGISTS OF ALBERTA

Understanding the difference between a regulator and an association

The *Health Professions Act* states that the role of a college is to carry out its activities and govern its regulated members in a manner that protects and serves the public interest.

Regulator (CDTA)

Protecting the Public

The **College of Dental Technologists of Alberta** (CDTA) exists to protect the **public** through the following regulatory functions for Registered Dental Technologists (RDT) and Dental Technicians (DT). Registration with the CDTA is **mandatory** for RDTs and DTs under provincial legislation. *The CDTA is accountable to the government.* These regulatory functions include:

- Setting education, registration, and annual renewal requirements according to legislation and bylaws
- Authorizing the use of protected titles
- Setting and enforcing standards of practice and code of ethics for RDTs and DTs
- Setting and enforcing continuing competence requirements
- Investigating complaints regarding the conduct of RDTs and DTs
- Maintaining a public registry of regulated members who are licensed to practice the profession of Dental Technology in Alberta
- The CDTA is **NOT** permitted to advocate for the profession.

Association

Advocating for the Profession

An association advocates on behalf of and promotes the interest of its members. Membership in an association is voluntary and the association is *accountable to its members*. There is no dental technology association in Alberta. Examples include the Association of Dental Technologists of Ontario and the Dental Technicians Association of BC. The functions of an association include:

- Acting in the best interests of its members
- Advocating for the interests of the profession to the government, employers, and other healthcare organizations
- Promotion of the profession to the government, the public, employers, and other healthcare organizations
- Developing and promoting continuing education and career opportunities
- Providing networking opportunities and social activities
- Promoting or forming collegial relationships between members of the profession
- Providing recognition and achievements awards to members of the profession