

## GENERAL

Every person is entitled to competent and ethical care when they entrust themselves to a health care provider, and in most cases that is exactly what you receive. In British Columbia, virtually all health care professionals are accountable to a regulatory College.

Under provincial legislation (the *Health Professions Act* 1996) they are responsible for **“serving and protecting the public”**. The professionals themselves along with members of the public provide this service and protection. The public is directly involved by having government appointed members who serve on the organization’s Board of Directors. The College of Dental Technicians of BC has the government delegated responsibility and authority for regulating anyone who fabricates dental appliances for the public, based on a prescription from a qualified dentist. This is a responsibility that the College Board takes very seriously, and its members give many hours to fulfilling their duty and obligations under the Act.

In BC, only dental technicians registered with the College of Dental Technicians of BC can use the title ‘Dental Technician’, ‘Registered Dental Technician’, or ‘Certified Dental Technician’. There are approximately 330 dental technicians, 460 assistants, and a number of students currently licensed to provide laboratory services in approximately 300 dental laboratories in British Columbia.

## WHO ARE DENTAL TECHNICIANS?

Dental technicians are considered to be the “artists” of the dental health team, and are the ones who actually fabricate the appliances or restorations that your dentist might prescribe for you. Dental technicians usually work in commercial dental laboratories of varying sizes, which can be found in cities all over the province. Occasionally a dentist may employ someone directly in their own office for the exclusive use of their practice, and these employees are not required to be registered with the College. Most often it would be an orthodontist who would do this. Dental technicians are highly skilled and have been trained to make complete

dentures, partial dentures, crowns, bridges, inlays, implant restorations, orthodontic appliances, and many other devices used in dentistry. A dental technician works closely with your dentist to help you to keep, or to create, a beautiful smile!

Because dental technology is a regulated profession, you can be assured that your appliance is being fabricated by a health professional who:

- ◆ has been trained in an approved dental technology program
- ◆ has been tested and registered by the College of Dental Technicians of BC
- ◆ is required to take continuing education courses
- ◆ must maintain practice standards
- ◆ must adhere to a professional code of ethics.

## WHAT IS THE MANDATE?

The mandate of the College of Dental Technicians of BC states that:

**It is the duty of this college at all times to serve and protect the public, and to exercise its powers and discharge its responsibilities under all enactments in the public interest.**

The College does this by ensuring that everyone providing the services of a dental technician is registered with the College, and is qualified and competent to provide those services. Both dentists and members of the public can be sure that the person providing their dental technology services is registered by calling the College office during regular business hours. The Public Register is available for viewing on the College website, and the office staff is also available to answer questions about the current registration status of its registrants.

## WHAT ARE THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COLLEGE?

The College Board must govern, control and administer the affairs of the College according to the Act, the Regulation, and the Bylaws. The College is responsible both to the public and to the provincial government, and must submit an annual report to the Ministry of Health on its activities.

The College Board is made up of 5 elected dental technicians, 1 elected dental technician assistant, and 3 government appointed public members. Some of the College’s responsibilities include:

- ◆ setting entry qualifications
- ◆ registering qualified dental technicians
- ◆ investigating complaints
- ◆ disciplining registrants
- ◆ communicating with the general public and the professional community.

The College has set standards of practice, a code of ethics, and continuing education requirements for its registrants and is continually monitoring its standards to ensure they are current with present trends in the field of dental technology.

The various committees struck by the Board conduct much of the business of the College while the registrar manages the daily operation of the College office and staff. In some instances the Board delegates its authority to a specific committee, and in others, the Board will receive recommendations from a particular committee.

Registrants may forward their written comments to any Board or committee member by addressing their concerns to the member c/o the College office. All material received, related to committee matters, is forwarded to the attention of the appropriate committee.

## LOOKING FOR A CAREER?

A career in dental technology is one that is continually evolving, with new products and services being developed practically on a daily basis. The need for properly trained individuals in the work force is growing, and a well-trained dental technician has the potential for a career with a great future.

If you enjoy doing fine work with your hands and possess a good eye for detail, a career as a dental technician may be for you. There are a number of colleges, both in Canada and the US, that offer a program in dental technology, including Vancouver Community College.

If you would like more information about becoming a dental technician or assistant, you can visit the College website at [www.cdtbc.ca](http://www.cdtbc.ca) and click on the "Interested in Becoming A Dental Technician?" button, or you can call or write to the College at the address on the back of this pamphlet.

## COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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***"IT IS THE DUTY OF  
THIS COLLEGE AT ALL TIMES  
TO SERVE AND PROTECT THE PUBLIC,  
AND TO EXERCISE ITS POWERS  
AND DISCHARGE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES  
UNDER ALL ENACTMENTS  
IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST."***

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## COLLEGE OF DENTAL TECHNICIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## THE BASICS

- ◆ Mandate
- ◆ Role
- ◆ Responsibilities

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