

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Notice of Vacancies Spring Elections 2026-2027

Kimberly Figueira

Elections 2026-2027

Get involved on an ODA committee or the Board of Directors and make a difference for the profession! ODA committee members collaborate on events, programs and projects such as the Annual Spring Meeting and continuing education programs; they advocate for the profession and enhance membership services, component society activities, and environmental sustainability in dental practices. Volunteering is a proven way to expand your knowledge of dentistry, hone leadership skills and broaden your professional contacts.

The Call for Volunteers outlines the positions available for 2026-2027, and includes brief descriptions of the committees with openings. If you would like more

information, please write to Kimberly Figueira at nominations@oda.ca

Committees and their commitment level

Read the committee descriptions below for information about candidate eligibility, committee mandates and the estimated time commitment for each committee. Time commitments vary for each committee. Some meet four times a year with additional ad-hoc meetings as needed, and others meet once or twice a year. There may be reading material and other preparation time needed in advance of committee meetings. If you have questions or would like more information about a committee, please contact Kimberly Figueira at nominations@oda.ca.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

ODA Committees and Vice-President: Deadline to apply is January 26, 2026. (Election date: March 26-27, 2026.)

Board of Directors and Chair of General Council: Deadline to apply is March 22, 2026. (Election date: May 22-23, 2026.)





Left to right: Dr. Daniil (Daniel) Subbotin, Dr. Rasha Al-Taweel, Dr. Sherif Elsaraj, Dr. Gerald Smith, Fardad Asghari Zadeh, Dr. David Stevenson, Dr. Navreet Sidhu, Dr. Wayne Lord and Aditya Sharma.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, complete an online Volunteer Information Form, attach a curriculum vitae, and ask three active members to submit a Nomination Form in support of your nomination. The forms are available on the ODA member website under Member Resources – Volunteering and Awards – Elections 2026-2027. Links to access the forms to be completed will also be sent via The Composite electronic newsletter during the election period.

All committee positions and the Vice-President position are elected by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors and the Chairs of General Council are elected by General Council members. If there is one or only a sufficient number of candidates, the Board will hold a ratification vote, which may or may not ratify the candidate(s) to the position. All terms begin June 1.

Typically, committee and Board meetings are held at the ODA offices unless otherwise stated. Travel and accommodation expenses are reimbursed for all volunteers based on the Guidelines for Allowable Expenses.

When reviewing available positions, candidates should reflect on how many meetings are held annually and factor in the time required to prepare for meetings (e.g. reading the materials provided).

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Kimberly Figueira by email at nominations@oda.ca or by phone: toll-free 1-866-739-8099 or 416-922-4162, ext. 3326.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE AND COMMITTEE DESCRIPTIONS

Chair of General Council

- The Chair of General Council ensures that appropriate rules of order are followed and performs the duties of the Chair at General Council meetings.
- The Chair of General Council manages the verbal “traffic” during General Council meetings, seeing that the meeting discussions remain focused on the

issues at hand and keeping the meeting and agenda on track.

- The role ensures there are clear and open discussions on the matters at hand.
- The Vice-Chair of General Council provides support to the Chair to ensure that appropriate rules of order are followed, and to perform the duties of the Chair in the Chair’s absence.
- General Council meets twice each year. Meetings are two days in length (Friday and Saturday).

Board of Directors

- Board of Directors — Role & Responsibilities
Directors oversee the governance and stewardship of the Association. Day-to-day operations are delegated to the CEO. Core oversight areas include financial reporting and disclosure, strategic planning, risk management, CEO performance and related employment matters, as well as governance structures and practices. Directors act honestly, in good faith, and in the best interests of the ODA, exercising care, diligence, and skill in all Board matters.

• Why serve

Directors help shape the Association’s long-term direction and protect its mission on behalf of Ontario dentists and their patients.

• Board culture & conduct

We’re looking for professionalism, collaboration, and mutual respect. Directors engage in open, well-informed discussion at the table, maintain confidentiality, and support collective decisions. The President is the Association’s official spokesperson.

Directors participate in periodic peer/Board evaluations, aligning their conduct with ODA values (Excellence, Teamwork, Honesty, Inclusiveness, Compassion, Accountability, Leadership). Directors disclose conflicts of interest pursuant to bylaws and avoid situations that may impair independent judgment.

- **Training & onboarding**

All elected Directors complete mandatory governance training within 12 months of election (six online modules covering governance fundamentals, ethical leadership and conflict resolution, strategic oversight and risk management, and Board culture/professionalism).

- **Eligibility & commitment**

The Board typically meets six times per membership year (one to two days each) plus a three-day planning session in June. Directors also serve on one or more Board Committees (about four to six meetings per year, four to eight hours each) and commit time to pre-reading; additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. Directors act as liaisons to component societies, specialty sections, and special interest groups, and may represent the ODA at related events.

To ensure regional balance, no more than three Directors may be elected from any one of the eight ODA Regions. While not required, prior service on a component society executive is strongly encouraged for the grounding it provides in Association governance. Directors serve two-year terms and may stand for re-election.

- **What great candidates tend to bring**

Strategic judgment, professionalism under pressure, the ability to build consensus across diverse views, and strong preparation/time discipline.

Vice-President

- Elected from among the members of the Board of Directors, the Vice-President provides support to the President and serves as Chair of the Articles and Bylaws Sub-Committee.
- Upon ratification, the Vice-President moves through the ranks to President-Elect, President and Past President in subsequent membership years.
- Nominees must be current Board members with at least two complete years of Board service.

Board Committee

Articles and Bylaws Sub-Committee

- To prepare, along with legal counsel, on behalf of the Governance and Nominating Committee any amendments to the Articles and Bylaws and Board Policies as requested by the Board of Directors.

Advisory Committees

Mentored Committee Members (MCM)

- The goal of the Mentored Committee Member position is to provide members who are new to ODA committees an opportunity to become involved so

they can make informed decisions in future about whether to apply to be active committee members.

- MCM terms are one year and non-renewable.
- Candidates cannot have previously served on the committee to which they are applying for an MCM position.
- Preference will be given to candidates with no prior ODA committee experience.
- The MCM positions have full voting rights and privileges.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION	Number of Openings
Chair of General Council	1
Board of Directors (dependent on the outcome of election of Vice-President)	5 or 6
Vice-President	1
Articles and Bylaws Sub-Committee	3
Benevolence Committee	1
Honours and Awards Committee	1
Mentored Committee Member (MCM) Positions (one MCM position is available on each of the committees listed below)	10
Component Society Committee	4
Economics Advisory Committee	4
Education Advisory Committee	3
Environmental Sustainability Committee	3
Health Policy and Government Relations Advisory Committee	3
Indigenous Oral Health Committee	2
Insurance Committee	2
Membership Services and Programs Advisory Committee	3
Political Action Committee	5
Student Services Committee	3

Economics Advisory Committee (EAC)

- Oversees the development of practice management resources such as the *Suggested Fee Guides*, *Economic Report to the Profession*, *Dental Personnel Wage Report* and *Dental Benefit Plan Handbook for Dental Offices*.
- Advises the profession on matters that may affect practice economics, the Annual Economics Survey and private dental benefits industry relations.
- This committee schedules two meetings each membership year, one in June and one in the fall. Additional meetings are conducted by online collaboration tools as needed.

Education Advisory Committee (EdAC)

- Identifies the membership's professional development needs and works with the ODA's professional staff to deliver the programs that meet those needs. Four primary examples of these programs are the Annual Spring Meeting (ASM), the New Dentist Symposium (NDS), online learning (ODA Education Hub) and the continuing education (CE) events held around the province throughout the year.
- Participates in on-site logistics and assists attendees and exhibitors at the ASM, including course logistics, trade show floor and related special events.
- Attends North American dental conferences to scout speakers and ideas for event logistics. Each committee member is generally expected to scout one to two conferences per year, for three to four days per conference, and prepare written reports and presentations to the committee about their scouting missions.
- This committee traditionally meets four times each year, plus there are four or five days of attendance at the ASM (Tuesday or Wednesday to Saturday), and on-site meetings at scouted conferences.
- Additionally, committee members serve on task-oriented sub-committees that meet online for approximately one hour every one to two months and conduct offline work between meetings, including reviewing speakers, exhibitor booth floor plans and other elements of the ASM and CE sessions, as well as attend events.

Health Policy and Government Relations Advisory Committee (HPGR)

- Addresses and monitors issues such as scope of practice, clinical standards and self-regulation.
- Advises and lobbies all levels of government on their oral health policies.
- Oversees the activities of sub-committees.

- This committee typically meets in person four to five times during the membership year. Members are also asked to submit feedback on a range of initiatives between meetings.

Membership Services and Programs Advisory Committee (MSPAC)

- The mandate of the MSPAC is to understand the needs and requirements of the membership and potential members; to identify ways to continually increase the value of ODA membership; and to effectively market membership to achieve and maintain the highest possible number of members. This includes introducing and evaluating new member benefits and member discount programs.
- Creates and promotes the ODA's Oral Health Month activities, public advertising campaigns and other initiatives related to public awareness.
- This committee typically meets three times each year, plus has one to two issue-oriented one-hour meetings per year online.

Benevolence Committee

- For approving grants or loans to dentists, dental students or dependents of dentists who, because of sickness or other difficulties, are in need of assistance.
- Ensures that the Benevolence Fund is sufficient to provide financial assistance in current and future years.
- Cases can be received at any time, making workload difficult to predict.
- The committee meets as required using online collaboration tools.

Component Society Committee (CSC)

- Reviews and considers all aspects of component society activity, including an ongoing review of increasing participation levels and volunteer activity.
- Members should have either current or past experience serving on the executive of an ODA component society.
- Meets approximately four times each year and organizes the annual Component Society Leadership Summit in the fall, which members are expected to attend. Each member of the committee represents an ODA Region.
- The available positions this year are for representatives for Regions 1, 4, 6 and 8. If you live or practice in these regional areas, you are eligible to serve on the committee for that Region. View which societies belong to these regional areas on the member website at Member Resources – Component Societies.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

A Celebration of Our Member Volunteers

On May 7, volunteers gathered at The Rec Room in Toronto to attend the annual Volunteer Appreciation Reception. This night out is hosted by the ODA in appreciation of our member volunteers.

Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC)

- To recommend education, products and services to support members and their teams to implement environmentally sustainable practices with a low carbon footprint.
- To liaise with experts and stakeholders to inform and develop best practices that promote optimal oral health within an economically viable framework, including advocacy to the dental supply industry to reduce packaging and come up with waste management solutions.
- Inform the ODA's advocacy to the regulatory authorities to ensure regulations promote evidence-informed dentistry that is environmentally responsible and maintains the safety of patients, dentists and the entire dental team.
- This committee meets during the work week and may arrange additional issue-oriented one-hour meetings online.

Honours and Awards Committee (H&A)

- Determines suitable categories and degrees of awards to recognize outstanding service to the profession.
- Reviews, at suitable intervals, the honours and awards

system of the ODA.

- Recommends the granting of honours and awards to the Board of Directors.
- There is one position on this committee, Citation Writer, whose primary role is to research and prepare the citations for award recipients.
- It is preferred that the majority of members be past ODA Presidents. The Committee usually meets twice each year.

Indigenous Oral Health Committee (IOHC)

- Provides advice to the HPGR Advisory Committee regarding existing and potential ODA-led initiatives to improve the oral health of Indigenous people and other Ontarians in remote and isolated communities through the Remote Areas Program.
- Liaises with stakeholders and groups representing Indigenous Ontarians under the oversight of the HPGR Advisory Committee.
- Promotes the Remote Areas Program, advocates for optimal and sustainable oral health care in Indigenous communities and ensures that the scope of practice of dentists and dental specialists is appropriately leveraged.



Insurance Committee (INS)

- Provides oversight to ODA members' Extended Health Care (EHC) Insurance Plan.
- Reviews the ODA's participation in the provision of group insurance programs, including CDSPI's investment and insurance products and services.
- This committee schedules two meetings per year, one in spring and one in fall. Additional meetings are conducted by online collaboration tools as needed.


Political Action Committee (PAC)

- Oversees the work of a network of dedicated, well-trained and motivated Political Contact Dentists (PCDs) who will represent the interests of the public and the dental profession in each constituency by liaising with provincial and federal legislators.
- It is comprised of six regional representatives, including the Chair, with responsibility for all PCDs within their Region, plus one Mentored Committee Member.
- Organizes the ODA's Lobby Day, an event that brings the ODA's leadership and PCDs to Queen's Park to advocate and meet with provincial legislators regarding publicly funded dental programs in Ontario.
- The committee meets in person once per year and

then online approximately every second month or as needed. Attendance at the Lobby Day is expected.

- This year, the positions open for election are for representatives in the Southwestern, East, Central, North, and Toronto ridings. If you live or work in associated political ridings, you are eligible to serve on the committee for those Regions.

Student Services Committee (SSC)

- Provides support and resources to Ontario dental students to inspire them toward lifelong membership in the ODA.
- Committee members serve as mentors and campus representatives at the two faculties of dentistry in Ontario, working directly with representatives from all classes of the dental faculties to achieve their mandate.
- The committee typically schedules one meeting each year, in the fall. 



Kimberly Figueira is the Elections and Governance Co-ordinator and she coordinates the annual ODA elections. For more information, please email nominations@oda.ca or call 416-922-4162, ext. 3326.