

BCDA Statement

April 7, 2022

National Dental Care Program in Federal Budget 2022

The British Columbia Dental Association (BCDA) is pleased to learn of the federal government's intent to address gaps in access to oral health care for British Columbians, as outlined in the 2022 Federal Budget on April 7. Along with our national counterparts, BCDA looks forward to collaborating closely with government and welcomes any improvements in access to care for lower-income and vulnerable British Columbians.

For many years, BCDA has advocated to government for targeted dental programs providing comprehensive care for BC's most vulnerable people, such as low-income seniors.

Although the *Healthy Kids* program for children under 19 and another for persons with disabilities exist to provide basic dental care in BC, they are severely underfunded. Additional funding will ensure these programs are comprehensive and meet the needs of financially vulnerable British Columbians.

BCDA continues to work with the provincial government to ensure that the specific needs of the approximately 35% of British Columbians without dental care coverage are addressed.

The BC Dental Association is the voice of BC dentists. We advocate for our members and promote access to dental care for all British Columbians.

-30-

Media Contact:

Cary Chan

Manager, Corporate Communications & Public Affairs British Columbia Dental Association 604-714-1988 cchan@bcdental.org

