



Dear

The Nova Scotia Dental Assistants Association (NSDAA) is an organization representing over 800 Dental Assistants in the province. The fact that our profession does not fall under the mandatory occupation for workers compensation is of great concern to me.

There are numerous ways that dental staff can be injured in the workplace. Injury may occur while working with chemicals for x-ray development and sterilization. Even general exposure to a number of materials used in the dental office has the potential to cause illness or injury. We also risk being injured by sharp instruments and needles daily which can cause infections and serious disease. For these reasons I seek your support to make this a priority to advocate for the dental profession to be included under mandatory occupation for workers compensation

The dental world has changed greatly over the last number of years. Many years ago dentists worked by themselves in small offices with minimal staff. Today many offices are in large group practises. Staff duties now include many tasks involving sterilization, x-ray exposure and development as well as working in labs where chemicals and grinders are used frequently.

I am sure many of our over 800 members do not receive sick time or compensation if they were to be injured at their workplace and unable to work. This loss of pay could create a hardship if I had to be out an extended length of time. This fact makes it doubly important that we have the ability to be able to rely on workers compensation if needed. We put ourselves on the front line everyday serving the public in a health care profession. We should be able to obtain compensation should anything happen while at work.

Once again I ask that you take this matter to government and advocate for our professions inclusion under the mandatory occupation for workers compensation. We deserve to be protected.

Professionally yours,

Nova Scotia Dental Assistant Member