Administration of the 2011 National Dental Hygiene Certification Examination (NDHCE)

1. Starting in 2011, the NDHCE will be administered **exclusively in electronic form** in computerized testing centres across the country. The exam will be shorter (200 items vs 265 items) and will be administered over two 2-hour sessions with a compulsory 15 min. break (10 min. break + 5 min. to log back in) between sessions. The busier or more popular testing centres will offer multiple sessions on the same day and/or over a couple of days in order to meet the demand. ProExams, a division of Yardstick Software, a Canadian-based company, will deliver and administer the exam. This shorter electronic version is still psychometrically sound and statistically equivalent to the discontinued paper & pencil version of the exam.

2. ProExams has secured a number of computerized testing centre locations within a 1-hour drive (or 100 km) of every accredited Canadian DH school that has students writing the exam (see the list of writing centres at www.ndhcb.ca/files/WritingCentresCities.pdf). The exam will also automatically be available to every candidate in both English and French (same as to the 2 prep tests).

3. You are encouraged to access at least one of the two **online prep tests** currently hosted by ProExams and available through our website at www.ndhcb.ca/en/prep_test.php. The format of the prep tests is almost identical to the new computerized NDHCE (i.e. you can skip items, go back to them, bookmark them for later review, etc.) and will greatly help familiarize yourself with the new format of the NDHCE.

4. The cost of registration for the NDHCE has been increased by $35.00 (+ tax) in 2011. Candidates attempting the exam for the first time will pay **$535.00** (+ tax) and those registering for the 2nd, 3rd or 4th attempt will pay **$435.00** (+ tax).

5. The preferred means for eligible candidates to register for the exam is to use our secure **online** exam application service. You can fill an application directly on the Web, upload a recent digital picture of yourself and pay by credit card directly from our Website, in a secure environment. You will also receive an immediate confirmation of payment as proof that we have received it. Although we will still maintain the printable version of our exam application form for those who don't want to pay online, it is our hope that most will use the online service as it minimizes errors and speeds up the process.

6. Most candidates who apply online will also choose to have their program director electronically confirm that they are indeed students or graduates of their specific school. Following the application deadline, Canadian Program directors will receive an electronic notice to login to a password protected area of our Website to certify that you are within 4 months of completing your DH program at application deadline or that you have already graduated. We typically give Program Directors a **maximum of 9 days** to login and confirm eligibility for their applicants.

Following Program Director approval, you will receive an email confirming your registration. This email will include your **candidate ID #** and a link to a website you will need to access in order to **select the specific Computerized Writing Centre and the time period** where you want to take the exam. This process will also serve to **verify your login information** to ensure you will be able to access the exam at the Writing Centre on exam day.

Good luck to all!

Sincerely,

Doris Lavoie, B.Sc., MSW, MSOD, CAE
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