



## **International College of Dentists** **Section II Canada**

### **The First New Section**

Gordon Thompson, Vic Lanctis, Garry Lunn and Donna Brode

At a meeting of the Executive Council of the College-at-Large, held in Chicago, September 12th, 1948, autonomy for Section II Canada was authorized. The Executive Council of the ICD at its meeting on February 6th, 1949 voted to confirm autonomy for the Canadian Section and to confirm the slate of officers along with the provincial regents. As the first autonomous section outside of the USA, it was also assigned jurisdictional responsibilities for Bermuda, New Providence (Nassau) and the West Indies, thus further enhancing its international contribution to the College.

The September 1951 issue of the ICD Newsletter noted that: "the development of the Canadian Section of the College has been ideal in all respects. There has been no spontaneous and uncontrolled outburst of enthusiasm of the part of our Canadian members. They took their time, deliberated carefully and made their plans with deep study. Their framework is excellently prepared and they are bringing into the College, the finest members of the profession in Canada." This issue devoted five pages which included pictures of all the Canadian Section Fellows.

The reflection on the activities of the Canadian Section and the contributions to the College by the Canadian Section, predate the creation of Section II.

The College administrative reorganization and the constitution were expanded in 1930 to provide for Special Chapters. Consequently the 30 districts into which the world was divided were broken down into sections with the U.S.A. designated as Section I and Canada as Section II. In 1934 the U.S.A. Section was given autonomy and included Section II in Canada. The College remained as before although most of the officers and executive members were Americans headquartered in the U.S.A. There was always at least one member from Canada, the first of whom was Frank Lott, the Regent representing Canada. Brigadier-General Lott's PhD thesis at the University of Toronto resulted in the formal re-establishment of what eventually became the Royal Canadian Dental Corps. He was appointed as the first Director General of the Corps as well as its first Colonel Commandant.

Among noteworthy pioneers of the fledgling ICD and its founding Officers in 1928, was John S. Bagnall of Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada who served as its first Treasurer. Although ultimately claiming residence in Minneapolis, Dr. Elmer Best, who famously served as Registrar and Secretary-General of the College-at-large for almost two decades, was instrumental in not only creating the USA Section but also in expanding the College worldwide. He was a native of Belleville, Ontario, who began his dental career in Canada at the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario and later at the Faculty of Dentistry of the University of Toronto.

Other Canadian dentists of note who are regarded as noteworthy ICD founders include J. V. Gentilly who served as President of the organization in 1938 at a time when, for contemporary administrative purposes, Canada was still considered part of USA Section I. Dr. Gentilly oversaw a re-write of the Constitution, the first listing of College Objectives, and established the various categories of ICD membership, as they are known today, i.e. Masters, Fellows, Honorary Fellows and Life Members.

The Canadian Section was, in fact, quoted as a model for future autonomous sections, with allowances to accommodate local conditions and circumstances. In particular, it was noted that the induction ceremony devised and carried out by Section II at its inaugural convocation was so moving and impressive that the USA Section as well as others adopted it. That advice was obviously followed over time, with the result that present induction ceremonies around the world are largely outgrowths of the original format. The annual Convocation and Dinner became the first cornerstone program of the Canadian Section.

In 1952, Ernest Charron was the first Section II International President. He was instrumental in designing the original Fellowship Certificate, finalizing the official College colours, and fulfilling other critical requirements to move the College forward. Dr. Charron was a visionary innovator who, among other noted national and international achievements, was a professor and Dean of the Faculty of Dental Surgery at the University of Montreal from 1944 to 1957. He is the first dean at the Faculty to be accorded Emeritus status and his outstanding contributions are still recognized to this day through a prestigious annual award in his name and an active research and education foundation perpetuating his memory.

The second cornerstone program of the Canadian Section was the establishment of the Scholarship Fund in 1954. This program originated in Alberta where the District had already provided a \$100 Scholarship to a University of Alberta student. The Scholarship program initially provided \$100.00 to a student in each of the five dental schools in Canada. This program has continued in Canada where annually a student in each of the ten Canadian dental schools receives \$1,000.

The awarding of annual student scholarships is significant now internationally as illustrated in the recently announced ICD-WUDAA Scholarship Program designed to help recipients during their dental studies as well as assist them with incurred financial debt after graduation.

Frank Martin of Toronto, who served as Section II Registrar for many years, followed Dr. Charron's exceptional example by becoming the second Section II Fellow to accede to the International Presidency in 1958. A progressive and staunch internationalist, he was instrumental in obtaining autonomous status not only for the Canadian Section but also for the European as well as the Japanese Section, thus contributing most significantly to the growth and expansion of the College around the world.

In a similar manner, another outstanding Canadian Fellow, Lloyd Grose, who served as President of the Canadian Section in 1963, assumed the International Presidency in 1966 and continued to foster College expansion through his tireless efforts and countless initiatives, which ultimately resulted in the establishment of the Australia, India, Philippines and Middle East Sections. College documents also proudly record the fact that Lloyd presented Council with a gavel made of Canadian bird's eye maple, bearing the coat of arms of Canada and including the "Rose of England, the Shamrock of Ireland, the Thistle of Scotland, and the Lily of France" --- added testimony to the Section's unwavering commitment to strengthen the ever-expanding international character of the College!

William (Bill) Spence of Toronto, Ontario, who was involved in humanitarian programs, became International President in 1985. He contributed his extensive experience and limitless energy toward the establishment of additional Autonomous Sections in South America, Korea and Taiwan, the annual publication of a College journal (The Globe), early computerization of the Central Office, the creation of an

International Section comprising all existing non-autonomous districts, and the creation of the Ottofy-Okumura Award as the highest honour bestowed by the College. Dr. Spence was also the well-recognized and respected Registrar for the Canadian Section from 1976 until his death while serving in office in 1995. His contributions to the Canadian Section as well as to the College-at-large remain legendary and are still highly regarded worldwide.

The Canadian Section hosted the first International Executive Council meeting to be held outside of the USA. The meeting took place in Montreal, Quebec on April 1984. It reflected the high esteem in which the Section was held.

The Canadian Section received a proposal from Brigadier-General Vic Lanctis to include a humanitarian component within the formal Objectives of the Section which was endorsed and ultimately approved by the Board of Regents. The humanitarian programs became the third cornerstone program of the Canadian section.

As early as 1987, attempts were made to secure outside funding for Fellows of the Section to carry out dental services for people in under-privileged areas of Central America. The question was how does an honour dental society add this goal to its many earlier aims? The answer was through a lot of time and effort of the Registrars and committee work of the various members of the Canadian Section Board of Regents.

By 1989 talks had progressed so far as to pass a motion to form “a pilot project to send a Fellow or Fellows to a Third World Country to provide free dental services where there is a proven need”. Fellow Keith Morley, who was also the new interim Treasurer, was designated to institute the project because he had considerable experience in this area. A maximum of \$3000 was set aside to underwrite expenses for the humanitarian project. In 1990, Brigadier-General Begin, Regent, offered to explore the possibility of using Armed Forces mobile dental equipment in the designated “College Honduras Project”. The Canadian Section was to insure the equipment and Fellows Morley, McCallum and Brogan would provide the services in March 1992 in Honduras.



Roy Thordarson, who was Canadian Section President in 2000 recently noted, “In order to provide for funding of our projects, in 1995 we established through the Dentistry Canada Fund, the ICD Humanitarian Projects Fund, so that Fellows of the ICD and others could make donations and receive income tax receipts. Over time, the fund grew to \$50,000. The decision was made in 2002 to create our own charitable organization and in 2003 the William J. Spence ICD Memorial Foundation (in recognition of Master Fellow William J. Spence who passed away on October 11, 1995 after serving as Section II Registrar for nineteen years), was registered with the Charities Directorate of the Canada Revenue Agency. This is a Public Foundation, which allows us to issue tax-deductible receipts, to a service organization with a similar Charities Directorate registration.

The Canadian Section has been actively involved in supporting dental care in the third world, by providing more than \$412,500.00 in grant support of 56 different applications, some missions returning more than 9 times to the region. Free dental services and education have been rendered in; Honduras, Guatemala, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Latvia, Paraguay, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Philippines, Zambia, Myanmar, Brazil, North Korea and Haiti. Many different NGOs, four Universities and two individuals with NGO alliances have received funding.”



Irving Siegel, who served as President of the Canadian Section in 1987, was an International Councilor from 1979 to 1996 and became International President in 1993. He served an extended term in that capacity, as he had to step in to replace his predecessor in the position, who sadly passed away on the very day of his scheduled International Council meeting. Irving helped organize the Second International Induction, which took place in Vancouver, BC in 1994 with candidates from Mexico, South America, Europe, Japan, Australia, Korea, Taiwan, USA and Canada. He assumed a leadership role in the formation of a Vietnam Chapter and contributed to the creation of a Projects and Funding Committee designed to expand the College’s involvement in educational and humanitarian undertakings internationally.

In September 1994, the Canadian Section was selected as a recipient of the Ottofy-Okumura Award --- the first section of the College to be so honored. This was yet another tribute to the significant contributions offered over the years by the “fellows from Canada [who] distinguished themselves in service to the College”, read the formal citation.

The conduct of a formal opinion poll as part of the fellowship validation process is a practice that has been favorably considered by some sections and emulated in different forms by others. As well, the Canadian Section was ostensibly the first to use military portable dental equipment supplied and transported by the Canadian Armed Forces to carry out humanitarian efforts in difficult to access areas of the world. Likewise, Section II has been singled out as one of the first sections to conduct educational programs for healthcare workers in various developing countries.

Brigadier-General Victor Lanctis of Ottawa, Ontario became International President in 2002. He expanded the humanitarian activities of the College to bolster relevance and garner additional international acknowledgement and prestige for the College. This was an effort that he started when he was Canadian Section President in 1993. He authored the College motto still in use “RECOGNIZING SERVICE AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE” as well as the College Mission Statement which are both used today.



As a result of timely and diligent presidential intervention by President Victor Lanctis, the humanitarian initiative was carried forward at the International Council where it received unanimous ratification as a constitutional objective for an international application. Today, ICD sponsored humanitarian engagement around the world has become a characterizing feature of College activities and an important part of its overall purpose.

After impassioned and protracted debate on improvements to ICD International communications and initial defeat of the motion, President Lanctis prevailed as it was finally approved and ultimately produced what, by all accounts, has since become one of the most active and valuable Committees of International Council, with profound and far-reaching impacts on every facet of contemporary College operations. Included in this lasting contribution was the introduction of a novel concept for the production and

distribution of "The Globe" --- one designed to make it more timely, relevant and less costly to produce. The suggested changes included increased reliance on digital technologies, greater involvement by Section editors, more appealing and meaningful content, and a suggested bi- or tri-annual e-newsletter/communiqué, among other innovative ideas. While considered outlandish and somewhat controversial at the time, it is gratifying to note just how many of the options proposed have since been adopted and are considered as standard practice today --- the all-digital Globe being a stellar example.

The introduction of strategic planning as an annual activity of Council was an initiative that began with President Lanctis. That key function has since morphed and been incorporated into the Projects Committee, but nonetheless remains a dominant activity of Council to this day. Other programs he was involved with included rewriting the College Objectives to more accurately reflect contemporary circumstances, the development and expansion of Regions in Africa, the re-write of criteria for the Ottofy-Okumura Award, assistance with the publication of a College History, the dissemination of guidelines and motivational articles in various media such as the Globe or Section Newsletters, and the re-introduction of the President's Citation.

It was the sense at the 2005 Council meeting that each Section should support at least one humanitarian or educational project.

It was during the 2007 meeting that a commitment was made by Garry Lunn, Chair of the Communications Committee to create an Orientation and Leadership Manual for the Council. The concept had been considered previously Council but no headway had been made.

The concept was to have it as a working document that would provide orientation for the College Councilors on issues of the College, an introduction by photos of the Councilors and partners along with a short biography, the background of the administration, understanding Fellowship, Core Values and Mission, Honours and Awards, Projects, Committee structure and Constitution and Bylaws along with a comprehensive directory of each Region and Section contacts. Each year it has continued to expand and remains a vital internal communication document.

The year 2008 saw the start of the movement to have the International College set out on its own and create a separate office and Registrar distinct from the USA Section, which at the time shared personnel and office space. Canadians were again involved in the search, interviews and logistics of this move in 2009. Canadians were participants in the search for a new Secretary General and in 2010 a new International College office was opened with the Secretary General and staff.

The fourth cornerstone program of the Canadian Section was the creation of the ICD tartan. The International College of Dentists tartan, designed by Fellow Carol Martin Beaverlodge, Alberta was accepted by voting on six possible designs at the Halifax Council meeting in August 2011. It was subsequently registered by Carol in the Scottish Register of Tartans in Edinburgh. It is now a design copyrighted and owned by ICD Canada.



Sample swatches were woven by D.C. Dalgliesh Tartan Mill in Selkirk, Scotland to Carol's design in silk and in wool and presented as gifts, (bow-ties and scarves by President Glen Zenith), in Saskatoon in September 2012. A "Dress Version" of this tartan, (in which white is substituted for a portion of the green), was also created, registered and woven into wool scarves.





The purpose and mission of the ICD tartan project is to bring people together, create feelings of kinship and camaraderie, raise interest and enthusiasm within as well as outside of the ICD. It is the opinion of a protocol expert in the ICD, that ICD tartan items can and should be worn by anyone and at anytime. The green and gold in the tartan are the colours of the ICD and the “houndstooth” part is made up of fifteen lines to represent the fifteen sections of the College. Carol also designed the official tartan of The Office of the Governor General of Canada who is the Queen’s representative in Canada and has now become the Principal Custom Tartan Designer for D.C. Dalgliesh Artisan Tartan Weavers.

The Worldwide Convocation Sashes (black) were redesigned with the tartan. These sashes were used at the September 14, 2019 Convocation in Saskatoon. The sashes incorporated the International College colours and the ICD tartan. The sashes added to the festivities and heraldry of the College Convocation.



In 2012 International President Garry Lunn of Vancouver, British Columbia launched the utilization of the newly minted ICD logo. During his travels, he shared ICD logo hats with his colleagues around the world, which today remain a popular item with many spinoffs, such as umbrellas and other tartan and logo items. That year saw the start of the Diamond Sponsor campaign. Commercial enterprises were asked to join and financially sponsor the ICD in its global initiatives. Councilor Donna Brode was front and centre and pivotal in bringing a major sponsor from Modern Dental to the table as a supporter of ICD.



President Lunn was committed to raising the visibility and awareness of the ICD around the world. There were great stories to tell and he wanted to inspire Fellowship and inform the public and profession of the many activities by ICD Fellows globally.

The College was marketed on many successful platforms via the web, electronic emails called “The College Today” and our flagship Globe magazine. These were very successful internal communications but a bigger audience was needed. He then ventured into social media by creating our own International Facebook page. By travelling to the various Sections as President he created a network of personal connections and documented his travels through photography which became the basis to start our page. We have grown from no exposure, to close to 4,000 followers worldwide. Fellows and non fellows have a way to connect and see our accomplishments in a timely manner. We have a surprising number of public which view our

page asking questions regarding ICD. The profession in general has become interested and curious regarding our undertakings and how they might become involved. We continue to grow our audience and look for ways to communicate with the public, the profession and Fellowship.

In recent years, Section II began to have a vision on how to have the ICD stand out as an organization from other professional groups. Donna Brode along with others have been involved with developing an interactive map which is updated by head office with data sent from each section, to highlight where Humanitarian Missions were being held and where Education Clinics could be seen.



Ian Doyle chaired the Projects Committee in 2019. The International projects included the Global Visionary Fund and its support of humanitarian endeavors, the GetSmart about Antibiotics program, Dental Safety and Infection Control and the continuation of the work of Donna Brode and her committee on the worldwide ICD humanitarian interactive-map project. Constitution and Bylaws Committee Chair Jack McLister and his committee spent many hours in 2019 updating and modernizing the ICD Constitution and Bylaws. International Councilor Ian Doyle continues on the Projects Committee, and International Councilor Gordon Thompson has been appointed to the Awards Committee and Membership Committee.

This Section and individual Canadian Fellows since the College's beginning have consistently provided significant support for the Section and ICD International. In particular, the Registrars including Frank Martin, D. Tanner, William (Bill) Spence, Fil Cappa, Robert (Bob) Baker and Gordon Thompson) as the humble servants of the organization, assisted in the development of the organizational fabric. Further chapters will be chronicled as we enter the second Centennial!

The year 2020 was a challenging one for the College around the world. In the setting up of the Standing Committees, Canadian Councilor Ian Doyle was appointed to the Projects Committee and Canadian Councilor Gordon Thompson was appointed to the Registration Committee, Awards Committee and Online Content Committee.

The Canadian Section was to celebrate the Centennial on April 4, 2020 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The 2020 Convocation and Gala was to be held at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights.

From the moment you enter the Museum through its massive stone roots, to the time you emerge in its light-filled Tower of Hope, one is moved by the power of human rights. The Museum takes one on a journey of inspiration unlike anything experienced before. This national museum rises from the prairies earth in Winnipeg at the Forks, where the Red and Assiniboine rivers meet on Aboriginal Treaty One Land - a historic meeting place for thousands of years. It is the only museum in the world solely devoted to human rights awareness, education and the evolution, celebration and future of human rights. It stands as a beacon for visitors from around the globe. Ramps of glowing alabaster crisscross galleries that are designed to challenge, motivate and uplift. Multi-sensory exhibits explore human rights concepts with an international scope, but through a uniquely Canadian lens.





This was to be a unique opportunity for the International College of Dentists to celebrate a historical event in a most historical environment! However, the world quickly changed with the Covid-19 Pandemic. Along with the Olympic games and other international, national, and local events, the International College Worldwide Gala was postponed from October 2020 to September 22, 2021 in Nagoya, Japan. The Centennial Gala was subsequently cancelled.

The Dec 9, 2020 08:00 pm ET ICD Worldwide Online Webinar featured an exclusive conversation with Honorary ICD Fellow Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, member of US President Biden's Covid-19 Advisory Board and author of the New York Times Best Seller "Deadliest Enemy: Our War Against Killer Germs". He discussed infectious disease prevention and control in dentistry and public health during a global pandemic with ICD Fellow moderator Ontario Regent Dr. Lisa Bentley of Canada. The program learning objectives were developed by the ICD Worldwide Ad Hoc Online Content Committee which is chaired by International Councilor and ICD Canada Registrar, Dr. Gordon Thompson. The webinar program was well received by ICD members and notably the job done by Fellow Lisa Bentley.



The 2021/22 International Committees included Canadian Councilor Ian Doyle on the Nominations Committee and Projects Committee and Canadian Councilor Gordon Thompson on the Membership Committee and ICD Online Content Committee.