

Dental Health Intervention Tool



Why?

This resource is designed to help people navigate the patchwork of publicly-funded dental health services, as well as the charitable and most cost effective dental services available in our community.

When 1 in 5 people do not have dental coverage, and 70% of those people cannot afford to pay for dental health services, we know this is hardly enough. This is where we need your help.

If you support the expansion of publicly-funded dental programs for low-income adults and seniors, go online and sign the e-petition. Or, join the Niagara Region Dental Health Coalition. Together we can make a difference.

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE



More than 2.3 million people living in Ontario – one of the most affluent places on earth - cannot afford to visit a dentist or dental hygienist. Most are low-income seniors and adults. The good news is that in 2014 the Ontario government promised to extend public dental programs to low income adults and seniors.

But, not until 2025.

We can do better.

Take a moment to send an e-petition and message to Ontario's Health Minister, Dr. Eric Hoskins. You can also visit www.bridgeschc.ca to access a direct link to the e-petition.

Interested in becoming involved in dental health advocacy?

Join the Niagara Dental Health Coalition. Or, sign-up to be on our mailing list so you can stay up-to-date with actions and developments.

Contact Rhonda Barron at 905-871-7621 ext. 2226 ▪ rhonda.barron@bridgeschc.ca or
Lori Kleinsmith at 289-479-5017 ext. 2445 ▪ lori.kleinsmith@bridgeschc.ca

WHEN IT COMES TO DENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, KNOW ABOUT YOUR ENTITLEMENTS, AND THE AFFORDABLE OPTIONS AND CHARITABLE SERVICES AVAILABLE IN YOUR COMMUNITY.

FOR EVERYONE:

Niagara College: Dental Services provided by students and supervised by faculty. Call **905-735-2211 x 7758** for more info.

Trillium College: Dental services provided by students and supervised by faculty. Call **289-438-1918 ext. 323** for more info.

Gift from the Heart: Every February for one day, Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) open their clinics to the public who may be financially unable to receive dental hygiene care. Visit www.gifffromtheheart.ca for more info.

Brush Aside: With support from the Niagara Prosperity Initiative, the United Way of St. Catharines & District works with agency partners to provide interest-free loans to adults in need of dental treatment for relief of pain/infection or dentures. Open to eligible clients in Niagara. Call **905-688-5050 ext. 104** for more information.

University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, Reduced Cost Dental Clinic: Dental services offered by students under the supervision of trained dentists. Call **416-979-4927** or visit www.dentistry.utoronto.ca/patient-clinics/about for more info.

Find a Dentist: To find a dentist near you accepting new clients, visit www.oda.ca.

FOR ALL FRANCOPHONES : Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara offers dental services to French speaking residents without dental insurance. Call **905-734-1141 or 1-866- 885-5947** for more info.

FOR ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT RECIPIENTS (ODSP): ODSP recipients are entitled to **Disability Health Benefits** basic dental services, including preventive and restorative work. If you are no longer eligible for the ODSP because your income is too high, and you and your family have high health costs, you and your family may be eligible for **Extended Health Benefits**. If you are leaving the ODSP for paid work, and you do not have comparable health coverage from your employer, you and your family may be eligible for the **Transitional Health Benefit**. Talk to your caseworker, or call your local ODSP office at **905-688-3022** for more info.

FOR CHILDREN WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES: If you are a parent caring for a child (under 18) with a severe disability at home, you may be able to receive between \$25 and \$440 a month to help with costs, such as dental services, depending on your family's income. Call **1-866-221-2229** for more info.

FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 17 AND UNDER

Niagara Region Public Health Dental Program (NRPH) provides a variety of free programs and services to eligible children and youth. Parents/caregivers can see if their child qualifies by calling the Dental Health Line at **905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399** or visit www.niagararegion.ca/health (SEARCH "dental programs")

Ontario Works (OW) dependent children and children in temporary care (17 years and younger) are eligible to receive Mandatory Basic Dental Care. Call **905-641-9230 or 1-866-627-1110** for more info.

Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) provides basic dental care for children 17 years of age and younger. Parents, caregivers or recipients should contact their OW or ODSP case worker for more information. Call **905-688-3022** for more info.

FOR FIRST NATIONS AND INUITS: Health Canada provides eligible First Nations people and Inuit with a specified range of dental services not covered through private insurance plans or provincial/territorial health and social programs. Call **1-800-640-0642** for more info.

FOR VETERANS: Coverage for basic dental care and some pre-authorized comprehensive dental services. Visit www.veterans.gc.ca/eng or call **1-866-522-2122** for more info.

FOR QUEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE AND SOUTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SHELTER CLIENTS: Basic dental services for clients only. Call **905-688-2558** for more info.

FOR ONTARIO WORKS RECIPIENTS: If you are receiving Ontario Works (OW), you may be eligible to receive **discretionary dental benefits** for emergency dental work (coverage is limited to \$135 per month and applies to emergency situations only). If you are experiencing dental issues that pose a significant risk to your health and safety and are requesting costs which exceed the approved maximums of the Adult Emergency Dental Program, a further review may be requested to determine eligibility for additional coverage. You will need to be assessed by your dentist and bring a predetermination (treatment plan) and details regarding the extenuating circumstances and risk to health and safety to your Case Manager for consideration. If you started working, or have increased earnings and are no longer eligible for assistance, you still qualify for health related discretionary benefits for six months. Talk to your Case Manager or call **905-641-9230 or 1-866-627-1110** for more info.