

led the way in 1958 for government-funded dental programs. It was the ODA that partnered with government to provide dental care to children under 16 years of age who qualified under the *Mothers' and Dependent Children's Allowances Act*. Despite both new and recurring obstacles, our profession, through significant advocacy help from public health and the scientific community, continues to lead the way in efforts regarding community water fluoridation. We can do it again.

To make first tracks, we need to look for challenges. *Canadian Dentistry 2032*, the report from the Canadian Dental Association on the future of the profession, could be viewed as an excellent guidebook for organized dentistry. It encompasses issues and responsibilities ranging from developing technologies, access to care, career opportunities, business models, mentorship, continuing education, and many others. The initiatives necessary to face the challenges identified in the report are worthy of the ODA's attention and worthy of our resources.

As your President this past year, I would like to thank you for allowing me the opportunity to leave tracks to so many of our component societies and on many of the issues facing our profession. The footprint I left behind

was nowhere near as big as I wanted it to be, but I will be forever grateful for the backup I had — and that begins with every member of the ODA. Never has working *with* someone and *for* someone been so much the same thing and so enjoyable. This thank you extends to our volunteer dentists on ODA committees and to all our ODA staff. Your tracks are everywhere throughout the story of our association and they have so often pointed us in the right direction. But I must offer a special thank you to my fellow Board members and executive staff. Your footprints are clear and your understanding of the need to lead the way will serve the ODA well into the future.

In closing, I would like to extend a warm welcome to our incoming President, Dr. Kim Hansen. Kim is an avid downhill skier. I know he truly understands and enjoys making first tracks, and I look forward to following them. 



Dr. David M. Stevenson is the President of the ODA for 2018-19. He practises in Carleton Place, Ont., and may be contacted at ODAPresident@oda.ca.



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