



October 15, 2023

Dear CSDH Members:

These have become unbelievably disturbing times in our present global history. The Ukrainian invasion with all its on-going destruction and the indiscriminate loss of human life is now overshadowed by the shocking and heartbreaking attacks that have led Israel to declare war. Hourly televised news coverage leaves us fearfully on tenterhooks and once again praying for a meaningful and lasting peace around the world, in so many places.

On a more positive note, CSDH has continued to advocate, in a number of key areas, for people in Canada who are living with disabilities. Following is a summary of recent activities and accomplishments.

- Official letters from our organization have been carefully prepared and sent to the Honourable Mark Holland, Federal Minister of Health and the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Procurement and the Receiver General for Canada, which ask them individually for meetings to allow continued discussion on the Canadian Dental Care Program.
- Earlier this summer, we met virtually with Mr. Kareem Elmahdy, who is in charge of fund allocation for the Oral Health Access Fund. Following that meeting, he asked us to submit our top five recommendations for effective uses of the Fund to lessen or eliminate barriers to oral health care for persons with disabilities in Canada. We sent our response letter to him on October 3rd. He replied with sincere appreciation for our thoughtful and insightful recommendations, and we followed up expressing our hope to meet with him again to review the recommendations in more detail.
- Both Clive Friedman and Olaf Plotzke participated on multiple panel discussions at a joint meeting of the Canadian Academy of Paediatric Dentists (CAPD) and the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry (AAPD) in Montreal on September 22nd and 23rd. The theme of the talks was “Embracing Facial Differences by Harnessing the Power of Interdisciplinary Teams.”
- On September 27th, CSDH board members Olaf Plotzke, Joan Rush and Steve Lipinski had a zoom meeting with Dr. Lindsay James, Ms. Shauna Hachey (also on our board), and Dean Ben Davis from Dalhousie University, Faculty of Dentistry. Their conversations focused around the new Operating Room facility at their dental school which is to be used for People with Disabilities.
- On September 28th, Olaf and I went to Toronto where Olaf gave an excellent lecture to the University of Toronto dental students involved in the Student Professional and Ethics Association (SPEA). His message, “How will you fit ethics, professionalism, compassion and social responsibility into your busy work schedule after graduation?” was well received.
- On October 5th, in Orlando Florida, CSDH member Joan Rush from Vancouver was given the most prestigious recognition of Honorary Membership in the American College of Dentists (ACD). That same day, CSDH member Chantal Czerednikow from Montreal was honoured by being inducted as a Fellow into the American College. Congratulations to both Joan and Chantal.

Many more important things are slated to happen in November. Let me just highlight that our CSDH Annual General Meeting by zoom is on Saturday the 18th. We will send the invitation and zoom registration information very shortly. See you there!

Kindest personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Romanson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "P".

Dr. Paul Romanson
President