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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CDAA supports access to oral health care for low-income Canadians as recently announced by the Prime Minister

March 31, 2022 (Ottawa, ON) – The Canadian Dental Assistants’ Association (CDAA) is encouraged by the recent announcement of an agreement that prioritizes oral health care for low-income Canadians.

The CDAA applauds actions that result in increasing access to oral health care and reducing barriers to oral health care for all Canadians.

“Reducing barriers to oral healthcare is an important component of improving overall health for all Canadians, but it is especially critical for those who are the most in need.” said Dianne Hennig, President of the CDAA. Children, Indigenous Peoples, individuals with disabilities, low-income families, seniors, racialized Canadians and residents of long-term care facilities all need improved access to professional, oral health providers to help them improve their overall health through improved oral healthcare.

The CDAA will continue to advocate for improving access to oral health care. We were pleased to see oral health care included in the draft national standard for long-term care facilities recently issued for public review by the Health Standard’s Organization. We will continue to provide feedback on this document and others as the government prepares to table the *Safe Long-Term Care Act*. It is our goal to see the skills of licensed dental assistants put into practice in long-term care settings to positively impact the delivery of oral health care in these facilities and improve the oral health of the residents.

The CDAA provides national leadership for the dental assisting profession, furthering the interests of its member organizations and advocating on oral issues that have a national impact. For 77 years the organization has placed itself at the forefront of issues such as labor mobility, occupational analysis and workplace health and safety while advancing the profession of dental assisting through its three core values of advocacy and policy influence; knowledge and research, and capacity building for its members.