

# Niagara Region Dental Health Intervention Tool

Last Updated in January 2017



This resource is designed by the Niagara Dental Health Coalition to help Niagara region residents navigate the publicly-funded dental health programs, as well as charitable and lower cost dental services available in our community. This resource also provides an opportunity for people to advocate for access to dental care for all.

When 1 in 5 people do not have dental insurance coverage, and 70% of those people can't afford to pay for dental health services, we know change is needed. This is where we need your help.

## BE AN ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE



**Why are they living with pain and infection?**

Between two to three million people living in Ontario do not visit a dentist, mainly due to cost barriers. Many are adults working in low wage jobs with no health benefits and seniors living on low fixed incomes. 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 must do better.**

**Take a moment to send an e-petition and message to Ontario's Health Minister, Dr. Eric Hoskins - to access a direct link to the e-petition, visit <http://niagaradentalhealthcoalition.weebly.com/>**

To learn more about the Niagara Dental Health Coalition visit <http://niagaradentalhealthcoalition.weebly.com/about.html>

## PUBLICLY-FUNDED DENTAL PROGRAMS, AFFORDABLE DENTAL SERVICE OPTIONS, AND CHARITABLE DENTAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE IN NIAGARA REGION

### FOR EVERYONE:

**Niagara College:** Dental services provided by students and supervised by faculty at the Welland Campus. For more information, call **905-735-2211 x 7758** or visit

<http://www.niagaracollege.ca/employers-community/community-services/dental-clinic/>

**Gift from the Heart:** Every April for one day, many Registered Dental Hygienists (RDH) open their clinics to the public who may be financially unable to receive dental hygiene care. Visit [www.giftfromtheheart.ca](http://www.giftfromtheheart.ca) for more info.

**Brushed 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 region. Call **905-688-5050 ext. 101** for more info.

**University of Toronto, Faculty of Dentistry, Reduced Cost Dental Clinic:** Full range of dental services offered by dental students under the supervision of trained dentists. For more info, call **1-416-979-4927** or visit [www.dentistry.utoronto.ca/patient-clinics/about](http://www.dentistry.utoronto.ca/patient-clinics/about)

**Find a Dentist:** To find a dentist near you accepting new clients, visit [www.oda.ca](http://www.oda.ca). Some dentists may allow for service payment plans.

**Find an Independent Dental Hygienist:** To find an independent dental hygienist near you, visit <https://odha.on.ca/independent-dental-hygienists-hamilton-niagara-area/> Some may allow for service payment plans and some may provide mobile services.

**FOR FIRST NATIONS AND INUIT:** Health Canada provides eligible First Nations and Inuit people 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](http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng) or call **1-866-522-2122** for more info.

**FOR ALL FRANCOPHONES:** **Centre de santé communautaire Hamilton/Niagara** offers dental hygiene preventive dental services to French speaking residents without dental insurance. Services include dental hygiene exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, pit/fissure sealants, and oral hygiene instructions. Call **905-734-1141 or 1-866-885-5947** for more information.

**FOR QUEST COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE AND SOUTHRIDGE COMMUNITY CHURCH SHELTER CLIENTS:** Quest CHC's Volunteer Dental Program provides preventive, restorative, and emergency services including cleanings, fillings, extractions, and referrals. Call **905-688-2558** for more info.

### FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH 17 AND UNDER:

#### Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO)

HSO is a publicly funded program that pays the cost of dental services including urgent and emergency dental issues.

- Your family must meet the income eligibility requirements
- Your household is automatically enrolled in the program if you or your child receives benefits through Ontario Works, Temporary Care Assistance, Ontario Disability Support Program and Assistance for Children with Severe Disabilities

For more information or to apply:

- Visit [Ontario.ca/healthysmiles](http://Ontario.ca/healthysmiles)
- Call Service Ontario INFOline toll-free at 1-844-296-6306 (TTY toll-free at 1-800-387-5559)
- Call Niagara Region Public Health Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or visit [niagararegion.ca/health](http://niagararegion.ca/health)

#### Preventive Dental Clinics (birth - 17 years of age only) – Niagara Region Public Health

- Provides free dental services such as cleanings, fluoride and dental sealants
- Call the Dental Health Line at 905-688-8248 or 1-888-505-6074 ext. 7399 or visit [niagararegion.ca/health](http://niagararegion.ca/health)

### FOR ONTARIO DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAM (ODSP)

**ADULT RECIPIENTS:** ODSP adult recipients and their spouse are entitled to **Disability Health Benefit** 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 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 Case Manager, or call your local ODSP office at **905-688-3022** for more information.

### FOR ONTARIO WORKS (OW) ADULT RECIPIENTS:

OW adult recipients and their spouse may be eligible to receive **discretionary dental benefits** for emergency dental work (coverage is limited to \$136 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 have 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 by calling **905-984-6900** for more information.