



National Dental Care Day Foundation is a Canadian public-awareness and community-impact initiative dedicated to improving access to oral healthcare, promoting preventive dental education, and restoring dignity through compassionate care.

National Dental Care Day mobilizes volunteer dental professionals, students, clinics, educators, and community partners across Canada to provide free essential dental care to underserved individuals and families — without cost, barriers, or judgment.

What began as a local act of service has evolved into a growing national movement grounded in compassion, accessibility, volunteerism, and health equity. The initiative emphasizes the importance of oral health as an essential component of overall health and well-being.

The initiative has received recognition from municipalities, academic institutions, members of the dental profession, and public leaders across Canada for its contribution to community wellness, preventive healthcare awareness, and access-to-care initiatives.



National Dental Care Day

*Dignity begins
when pain ends.*

A national movement restoring oral health,
dignity, and hope across Canada.

National Impact Report | Canada | 2025

One Chair. One Day. One Nation.

Why This Report Matters

This Impact Report documents the national outcomes of National Dental Care Day 2025 — a coordinated, volunteer-powered day of care delivered across Canada.

It reflects the collective efforts of dentists, hygienists, students, partners, and communities who came together on one day to remove barriers to essential oral health care and restore dignity to those who needed it most.

The data, stories, and insights that follow represent real people, real clinics, and real outcomes — captured to learn, to improve, and to demonstrate what is possible when compassion is organized at a national scale.

All care was provided at no cost, without judgment, and with dignity at the center.

Inside This Report

- The need for National Dental Care Day
- Our model and theory of change
- National impact and insights
- Stories of dignity and care
- Recognition, partners, and the road ahead

THE CANADIAN CALL TO COMPASSION

Across Canada, pain still silences too many people.

Dental pain is not just a health issue —
it is a barrier to dignity, confidence, and opportunity.

On National Dental Care Day, something different happens.

Clinics open not for profit, but for people.

Professionals give not because they must,
but because they believe no one should suffer in silence.

On one day, across one nation, compassion becomes action.

National Dental Care Day exists to remove barriers to essential oral health care by mobilizing the dental profession, students, partners, and communities across Canada in a single, coordinated day of care. It is a model built on trust, professionalism, and the belief that dignity is restored when pain ends.

One Chair. One Day. One Nation.

A national movement restoring dignity through care.

A Note to Canada



*This movement began with a simple belief:
no one should live with preventable pain.*

Dr. Raj Khanuja; OMC, DDS

Visionary • Advocate • Citizen of Compassion

Across Canada, I have witnessed how untreated dental pain quietly erodes dignity, confidence, and opportunity.

A hurting mouth affects far more than physical health — it disrupts sleep, work, nutrition, and mental well-being. Too often, this suffering is endured in silence, driven by cost, fear, stigma, or lack of access.

National Dental Care Day exists to interrupt this cycle — **not with debate or delay, but with immediate action.** By opening dental clinics across the country on one coordinated day, we replace barriers with access, and delay with dignity.

What began as a single day of service has grown into a nationally coordinated movement grounded in **compassion, professionalism, and trust.** Each year, thousands of dental professionals, students, and volunteers come together: **with one shared purpose:** to care for those who have been living without options.

On National Dental Care Day, clinics open their doors at **no cost.** Pain is relieved. Infections are treated. Smiles are restored. And for many, it is the first time in years they are seen — truly seen — within the healthcare system.

National Dental Care Day proves that when care is **coordinated, it scales.** Our responsibility now is to protect what works, strengthen what can be **improved,** and ensure that dignity through care becomes a national standard — not an exception.

Why National Dental Care Day Exists

The Need

Canada's health system is a source of pride — yet oral health remains largely excluded. For millions of Canadians, dental care is still inaccessible due to cost, fear, geography, or circumstance. Pain is often endured quietly until it becomes impossible to ignore.

This is not a failure of individuals.

It is a gap in the system.



Access

Many Canadians delay or avoid dental care altogether due to cost or lack of coverage.



Pain

Untreated dental pain affects sleep, nutrition, employment, and mental health — far far beyond the mouth.



Silence

Those most affected often suffer quietly, navigating stigma, fear, or competing priorities.

National Dental Care Day exists to interrupt this cycle — not with policy debate, but with immediate care.

By opening clinics across Canada on one coordinated day, NDCCD creates a moment where access replaces barriers, and dignity replaces delay.

This is where compassion becomes action.

From One Free Dental Day to a National Movement

National Dental Care Day did not begin as a national initiative.

Its roots trace back to 2012, when a single Free Dental Day was launched to respond to the urgent, unmet dental needs of individuals suffering in silence. What began as a local act of service became an annual commitment — delivered **year after year**, without interruption.

Over the next thirteen years, thousands of hours of volunteer care were provided, communities were served, and a clear truth emerged:

The need was persistent, widespread, and systemic.

Each year reinforced the same reality — one day of care could restore dignity, relieve pain, and change lives. But the impact deepened and multiplied when clinics, professionals, and communities acted **together**.

As participation grew and lessons were learned, the initiative evolved. What began as a single-clinic effort expanded into a **coordinated model** — aligning dental professionals, students, partners, and institutions around one shared day of service.

In 2025, after thirteen consecutive years of free dental care delivery, this evolution culminated in the launch of **National Dental Care Day** — a nationally coordinated movement grounded in experience, trust, and over a decade of proven service.

National Dental Care Day is not a new idea.

It is thirteen years of compassion, refined into a national model.

2012 → 2025

From one Free Dental Day to a national movement of coordinated care.

The NDCCD Model

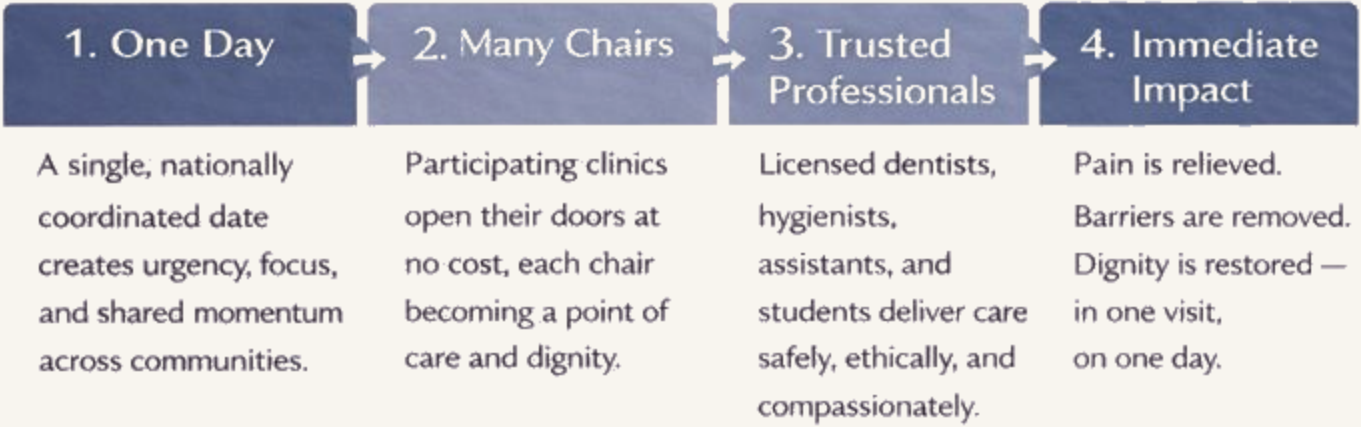
How One Day Works

Longitudinal Context

This model is grounded in thirteen consecutive years of free dental care delivery, refined through real-world practice since 2012. It reflects what has been learned through sustained service — not theory or pilot projects, but repeated delivery across communities year after year.

National Dental Care Day is built on a simple but powerful idea: when care is coordinated nationally, its impact multiplies locally.

By aligning clinics, dental professionals, students, partners, and communities around one shared day, NDCCD transforms individual acts of generosity into a collective national response.



This model does not replace long-term solutions. It meets people where they are — immediately — while building momentum for broader change.

**What happens when this model comes to life
across Canada is measurable.**

National Impact Snapshot – 2025

NDCD's reach across Canada in one coordinated day

219 Canadians Served



16
Clinics



550
Volunteer Hours



\$121,000
In Free Care



\$553
Avg. Value per Patient

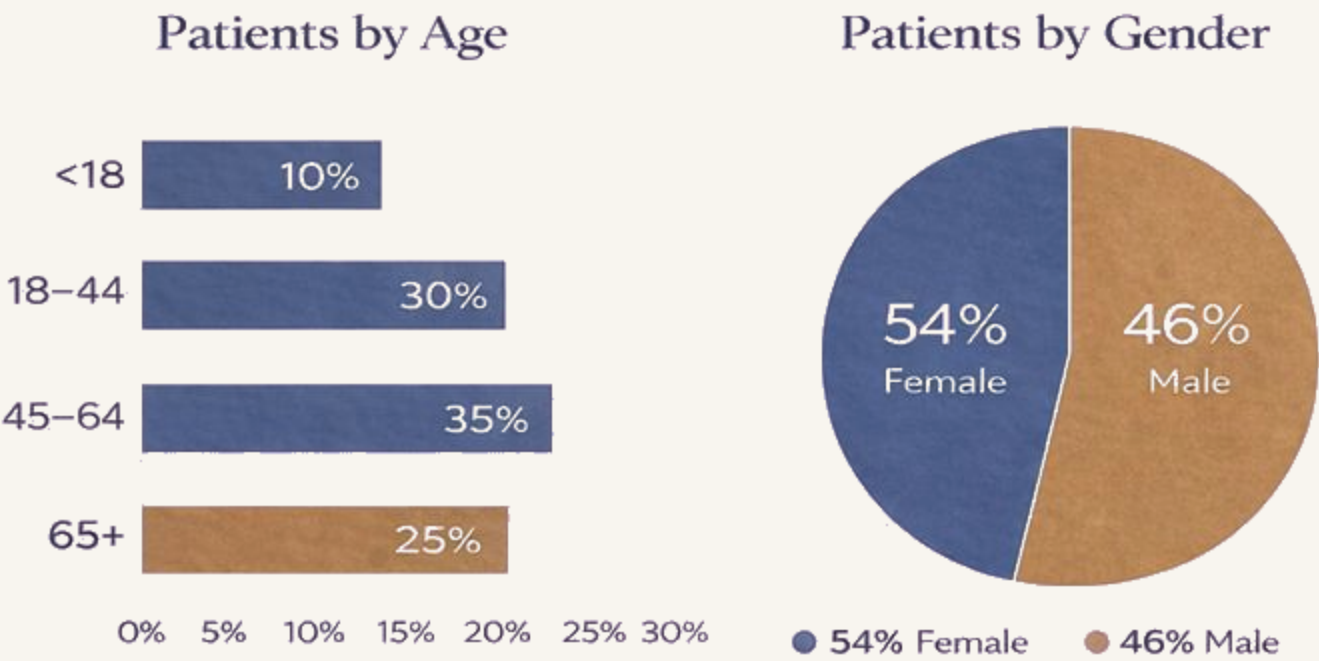
One National Day. 219 Lives Touched.

Who We Served – 2025

A national breakdown of the Canadians we cared for through NDCD.

One chair, one day. Nationally diverse Canadians experiencing dental vulnerability.

Here is a demographic profile of those who received care.



Over half of our patients were adults 45 and older, highlighting that dental needs do not diminish with age.

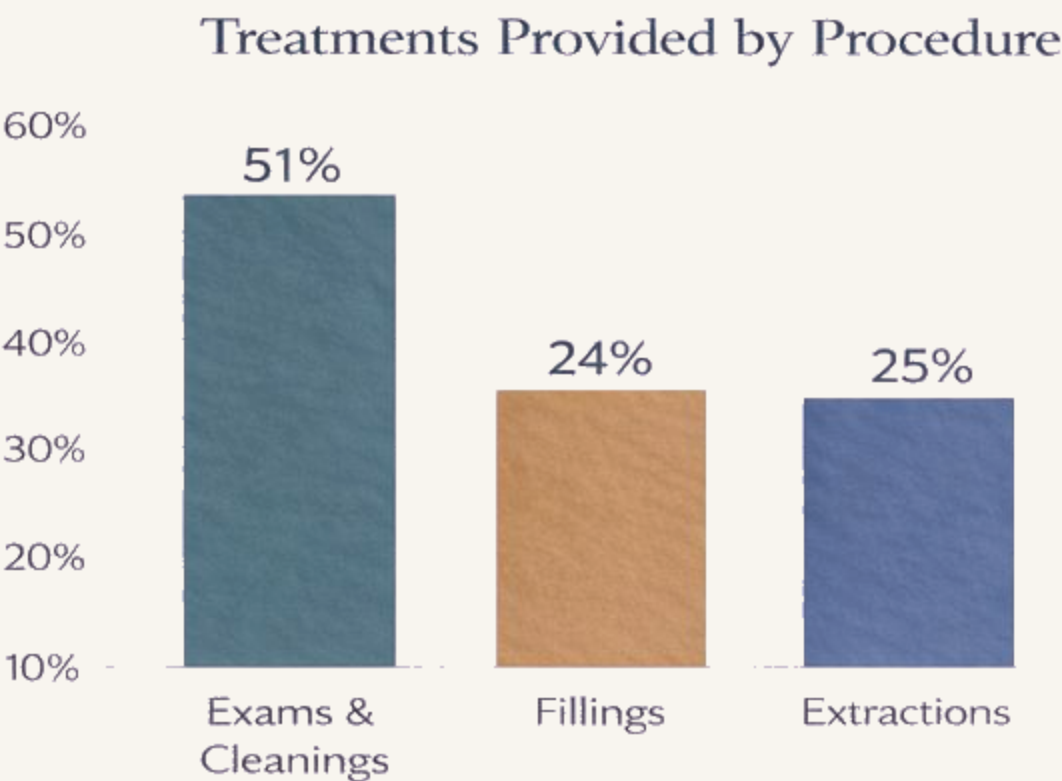
Meanwhile, 54% of those served identified as female, reinforcing the importance of gender-responsive healthcare even in dental care.

How We Helped – 2025

A national breakdown of the essential dental procedures provided to Canadians in need.

NDCD delivered immediate relief across Canada for those suffering silently without care.

Here is a breakdown of essential dental services provided to those in need.



Over half of all procedures were preventive exams and cleanings, addressing immediate pain and long-term oral health.

Meanwhile, one quarter of all treatments entailed extractions, emphasizing the urgent need for dental intervention.

What the Data Tells Us

A look at comprehensive national patient demographics.

To understand who needed our help, we present one focus chart highlighting the demographics of patients treated.



Oral Health Needs Span All Ages

Patients from all age groups were represented, highlighting the universal need for accessible dental care, from the elderly to children and teenagers.



Caregivers and Women are Prominent

The patient demographics skewed female and showed significant needs among working-aged adults. This reflects the caregiving roles that many women play, who often put others' health before their own.



Preventive Care Was Critical

Over half of all treatments provided were **preventive exams and cleanings**, demonstrating the importance of maintaining oral health to prevent future complications.



High Demand for Urgent Care

A significant portion of care was dedicated to urgent needs, such as extractions, due to prolonged dental neglect and untreated decay.

Voices of NDCD

Real experiences from Canadians who received free dental care.



Flo (Ontario)

With permission. In loving memory.

“ Now I can be in the pictures.

– Flo, Ontario

“ My teeth really are part of my dignity.

– Lisa, Nova Scotia

“ I am grateful to see my mother smile again.

– Leila, Ontario

“ I will sleep tonight for the first time in months.

– Patient

“ I will sleep tonight for the first time in months.

– Patient

“ The pain is gone. Thank you.

– Senior

“ I felt seen today.

– Youth

Stories of Dignity

Every smile restored through National Dental Care Day represents more than dental care — it represents dignity, relief and compassion.

These stories reflect the people NDCD serves across Canada and the human impact behind a single day of coordinated care.

Story 1 — Flo (Ontario)

“Now I can be in the pictures.”

Flo used a wheelchair and lived for years without access to dental care. She dreamed of being able to smile at her daughter's wedding.

After receiving care through **National Dental Care Day**, she looked at her dentist and said with a shy smile. *“Now I can be in the pictures.”*

In her final months in hospital, nurses shared that her restored smile brightened the entire room.

Flo's story lives at the heart of NDCD — a reminder that restoring a smile restores dignity.

Story 2 — Lisa (Nova Scotia)

“My teeth really are part of my dignity.” *A Daughter's Gift*

Lisa grew up being bullied for her teeth. As though our oral health had fallen to the bottom of basic health priorities.

“I never thought my teeth were part of my dignity — but they are.”

Lisa's story is at the heart of NDCD — expanding access and restoring confidence. One restored smile restores dignity.

Story 3 — Leila (Ontario)

Leila gave up her own appointment so that her mother — shy, in pain, and suffering from long-ignored dental issues — could be treated first.

Once the infection was removed, her mother smiled for the first time in months.

Leila said quietly. *“I'm grateful to see my mother smile again.”*

This is the heart of National Dental Care Day: One Chair. One Day. One Act of Compassion.

One restored smile restores dignity.

Recognition & National Endorsement

National acknowledgement of leadership, service, and impact

Provincial Recognition

“National Dental Care Day reflects the spirit of those who step up for others. By ensuring access to essential dental care, it helps build a stronger community — one grounded in kindness, unity, and shared responsibility.”

— The Honourable Edith Dumont, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario
October 10, 2025



Municipal Proclamation – Birthplace of a National Movement

City of Brampton

“Position Brampton as the birthplace of a national movement rooted in compassion, dignity, and healthcare equity.”

— Mayor Patrick Brown, City of Brampton



City of Brampton

Professional Regulation



Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario

RCDSO Connect, Spring 2025

“Because when we choose to serve, we don’t just *change the world* – we *elevate the profession*, *uplift communities*, and become the very best version of ourselves.”

Academic Leadership



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY of DENTISTRY

Academic Leadership

“Your leadership in launching National Dental Care Day is both timely and deeply impactful.”

— Anil Kishen, B.D.S. M.D.S. Ph.D,
Dean, Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto



Academic Leadership

Training the Future Dentists of Canada – *with Compassion*

On June 25, 2025, the Flower City Institute received official approval from the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) Program Approval for Continuing Education (PACE), confirming the Institute as a nationally recognized provider of high-quality continuing dental education.

This approval positions the Institute as a trusted educational body shaping the future of compassionate dental practice.

RCDSO Category 1 Core Course Approval (2025–2028)

“A Profession with Purpose: Compassion, Accessibility and Service.”

On November 10, 2025, the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario approved the Institute’s course, *“A Profession with Purpose: Compassion, Accessibility and Service,”* as a Category 1: Core Course for the maximum three-year period.

Category 1 Core Course Name	Category 1 Core Course	Competency Area of Focus	Delivery Format	Presenter(s)	CE Points
A Profession with Purpose: Compassion, Accessibility and Service	2025-LV-1745	Access to Care	Live	Dr. Raj Khanuja	2

This course strengthens professional understanding of dignity-based care and advances NDCD’s mission through formal education.

Why We Volunteer

Clinicians, students, and clinic teams share why they choose to give back.



“By offering free care, we honour our belief that no one should be denied a confident smile.

Dr. Aparna Narvekar, General Dentist



“NDCD is my way of honouring my grandfather’s legacy — restoring dignity, not just teeth.

Dr. Madhavi Kolli, General Dentist



“Participating in NDCD brings personal fulfillment, connection with peers, and direct impact in the community.

Dr. Jaspreet Bhalla, General Dentist



We want our careers to begin with compassion.

Dental Students

Learning dentistry means learning responsibility — to patients, communities and dignity.



For one day, our clinic became a community.

Clinic Teams

From reception to sterilization, every role mattered.

Partners & Supporters

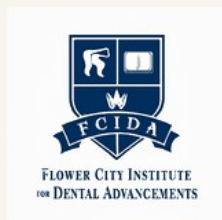
Organizations who stood with National Dental Care Day.



University of Toronto Faculty of Dentistry



CDSPI



Flower City Institute for Dental Advancements



Lotus Plaza



Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship



Canadian Business Excellence Award



CDMS Dental Supplies



City of Brampton

Looking Ahead: 2026–2030

Our vision for the future of National Dental Care Day across Canada.



Expanded Reach

Increase the number of participating clinics nationwide, ensuring every province and territory is involved, so that no Canadian is left behind in accessing essential dental care.



Broader Services

Extend the range of dental services offered, addressing not only urgent needs but also preventive and restorative care to support long-term oral health.



Youth Engagement

Inspire the next generation of dental professionals by strengthening partnerships with universities and dental schools, and creating meaningful volunteer opportunities for students.



Sustainable Funding

Secure stable, ongoing sponsorship and public-sector support to ensure National Dental Care Day can continue delivering free dental care year after year.



Accountability & Learning

Looking ahead, National Dental Care Day will continue to measure reach, participation, and patient experience to inform future growth, strengthen coordination, and ensure the movement remains responsive to community need.

Join the National Movement

Let's build a future where no Canadian goes without dental care.

Let's build a future where no Canadian goes without dental care.

Whether you're a dental professional, a student, a potential sponsor,
or a community member, there's a role for you in ensuring
brighter smiles for everyone.

Get involved, spread the word, make an impact for those in need.



Volunteer



Advocate



Donate

Connect online and be part of the movement:

website: www.nationaldentalcareday.ca

email: info@nationaldentalcareday.ca

National Dental Care Day | Impact Report 2025



National Recognition

“But it does more than treat teeth.

It restores dignity, builds trust,
and reminds us all of the power of service.”

— Senator Mohamed-Iqbal Ravalia, Senate of Canada

Parliamentary Record

On October 8, 2025, National Dental Care Day was formally recognized in the Senate of Canada and entered into the Hansard Record—Canada’s official parliamentary archive.

This moment marked National Dental Care Day not only as a day of service, but as a matter of national public record, affirming that:

- Oral health is not a luxury
- Compassionate care is a shared responsibility
- Volunteerism has a place in Canada’s highest institution

This is what happens when a nation
chooses to restore dignity with compassion.

Senate of Canada, Debates, 45th Parliament, 1st Session (October 8, 2025).

ONE CHAIR. ONE DAY. ONE NATION.