

Reception for the Leadership Team of The Toronto Academy of Dentistry
At Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
On the Occasion of the Cheque Presentation for the Proceeds of the 2016 Toronto Academy of
Dentistry Golf Tournament.

September 27, 2016

This evening, Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital wishes to acknowledge with gratitude this gift from the Toronto Academy of Dentistry, and to acknowledge the longstanding partnership we have shared over many years of *campaigning through golf* to demonstrate our deep commitment to making a difference in the lives of children with disabilities.

We have earmarked the proceeds from this year's Golf Tournament for two initiatives: First, as a continuation of our mission to develop a fully digital dental workflow at Holland Bloorview's dental department, we intend to roll out the final stage of our dental practice management software - a dental recordkeeping module – and affiliated hardware support, to complete the move to paperless. Second, we intend to replenish the reserve in our Family Support Fund that families of limited means may access to help cover a part of the co-payment required to access funding through the Ontario Cleft Lip and Palate Program.

If you've been involved with the Toronto Academy of Dentistry for long, you'll know how deeply committed the Academy and Holland Bloorview are to raising awareness about childhood disability and breaking down barriers to dental care associated with disability. Even today, there are still dental offices where children with disabilities encounter barriers to care - these barriers include inadequate physical access, scheduling complications, inadequate reimbursement, and inability to deal with behavioral problems, onerous paperwork, and even an indifference or reluctance to treat children with disabilities.

Most children with disabilities will seek dental care in the community, and whether their dental home is a pediatric or general dental practice, a hospital out-patient clinic or an emergency room, they will encounter various barriers to services the rest of us take for granted. The dialogue that the Toronto Academy of Dentistry and Holland Bloorview started over 15 years ago has gone a long way to eliminating these barriers. We want to continue this dialogue because together we have the opportunity to lead the advance to disability equality in oral health care in Ontario, and in doing so, make a big difference in the life of kids with disabilities.

Our CEO, Julia Hanigsberg said it best in her most recent blog...*"Picture the best future you could expect for anyone you love... That's the life we picture for EVERY child with a disability."*

Thank you, once again, for your commitment and your collaboration. Please call me or e-mail me if you'd like to discuss how together we can make a difference in delivering oral health care to kids with disabilities.

Robert Carmichael
Chief of Dentistry
Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
rcarmichael@hollandbloorview.ca