



# Groundbreaking News

## AS THE SOCIETY CELEBRATES FIRST ANNIVERSARY

On December 17th, The Community Dental Access Centre Society (CDAC) celebrates its first anniversary as a non-profit society. Along with this milestone we are extremely excited to share the news that we are moving forward on capital renovations of our dental clinic for low income populations.

Shockingly, 30% of North Okanagan residents cannot afford to go to a dentist. CDAC was formed to address this critical need. Soon all these individuals will have access to much needed dental health care services including the 400 children, adults and families on our waitlist.

The Centre will have many positive outcomes for our communities such as:

- alleviating pain and suffering,
- improving overall health,
- preventing serious oral health outcomes, particularly in children,
- ensuring employability by improving unsightly teeth, and
- relieving some of the physical and financial strain on the acute care system.

On December 8th, CDAC Board of Directors made the decision to begin construction based on strong community support and the fact that sufficient funds have been raised to move forward. Our existing leased space located at 3107C 31st Avenue will be renovated to accommodate a 4-chair dental centre. It is anticipated that construction will take approximately three months.

The entire project, including equipment and start-up costs is budgeted at \$450,000. In just over one year CDAC has already raised \$340,000 of that total. The generosity of this community has been overwhelming and we are confident that in the next few months we will raise the remaining \$110,000. Contributions have come from individuals, groups, foundations and grants - all recognizing the importance of dental care to overall positive health outcomes. During construction, we will continue to operate our Urgent Care Program to help those who are in critical need.

If you have any questions, or would like to know how you can contribute to this project, please don't hesitate to contact Chris Turner (250 308 4613) or Lesly McMillan (250 308 7163) or any Board member.

Website: [www.communitydentalaccess.ca](http://www.communitydentalaccess.ca)

***Create a Smile – Change a Life***