



**Ontario Component Report**  
**Dr. Girish Deshpande**

**May 15, 2024**

- The Ontario Association of Orthodontists (OAO) has been working diligently on behalf of our members on several issues that affect orthodontists across Ontario. Right now, the OAO is focused on getting work duties expanded for dental assistants in the province and has made great strides so far with the Ministry of Health. To achieve this, the OAO has partnered with the AAO, through Dr. Michael Sherman while working closely with OAO President (Dr. Joel Schacher) and me, the Immediate Past President. The AAO has committed its support for this undertaking through the AAO Component Legal Support Fund. Through the AAO legal support team, we have hired a prominent law firm in Ontario which is working hard to get the duties expanded for the dental assistants. If successful, this will be a monumental achievement for Ontario orthodontists.
- The OAO Biennial Scientific Session is scheduled for May 31 – June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 in Niagara on the Lake. It is a spectacular event combining exceptional CE and social events in Ontario's wine country. Dr. Richard Marcus always organizes an amazing event. Don't miss this opportunity to see Dr. Neal Kravitz lecturing on clinically relevant and current topics. All GLAO members are encouraged to attend. More Information on this and other OAO meetings can be found here: <https://www.oao.on.ca/news-events>.
- Canada is in the midst of creating a national dental care plan ( CDCP ) to serve the oral health care needs of disadvantaged Canadians. The OAO is monitoring the development of this program closely with the Canadian Association of Orthodontists to ensure that orthodontists interests in serving the public are well represented.
- The OAO is striving to improve its value to the membership. We recently completed refurbishing of the website, with an improved member section highlighting mentorship opportunities and job postings. The OAO is looking to institute a mentorship program and increase our presence with orthodontic residents by meeting with them to review the importance and benefits of being a part of the membership in our professional orthodontic associations. Keeping it green with a view to protecting the environment, the OAO is beginning work on a recycling program for clear aligners.

As an Ontario director to GLAO, I look forward to contributing positively to this amazing organization.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Deshpande', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Girish Deshpande  
GLAO Ontario Director

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