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Death of Dr. Barry Dolman The Ordre des dentistes du Québec mourns the passing of a man who made an impact on the profession

The Ordre des dentistes du Québec (ODQ) was deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Dr. Barry Dolman, a man who marked the history of his professional order during his tenure as President.

Dr. Dolman was born on April 10, 1950 in Montréal and became a dentist in 1975 after obtaining a doctorate of dental medicine at Université de Montréal and a Bachelor of Science at McGill University, his second alma mater.

After being licensed as a dentist, Dr. Dolman started in private practice and was greatly appreciated by his clients, who were loyal to him from one generation to another. He was known for delivering his professional opinion with clarity and advising his patients well to allow them to make informed decisions. Always ready to challenge the status quo, he communicated his ideas with tact, transparency, honesty and a touch of humour.

Committed to his profession, Dr. Dolman was a member of the Board of Directors of the Association des chirurgiens-dentistes du Québec from 1985 to 1998 and of the Canadian Dental Association, of which he was elected President in 1996. During this period, he also served as National Secretary of the World Dental Federation.

In 2011, he became the first president of Jewish and English-speaking origin in the history of his professional order, a position he held until 2019, after two terms in office. During this time, Dr. Dolman also served as President of the International Society of Dental Regulators and as President of the Canadian Division of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, an international organization that honours dentists from all backgrounds for their contributions to the practice of dentistry.

"Dr. Dolman has had an undeniable impact on our profession," said Dr. Guy Lafrance, President of the ODQ. Faithful to his convictions, he never hesitated to leave his comfort zone and make room for new ideas and ways of doing things. His untimely departure will leave a great void in our community."

As an advocate for improved access to oral care, Dr. Dolman was at the forefront of efforts to promote a patient-centred system. He used every forum, both federally and provincially, to make a case among policymakers for the importance of providing universal care coverage for the mouth, teeth, gums and other surrounding tissues, just as we cover physical health. Under his leadership, the federal government created a tax credit for Canadian small business owners who wished to offer dental insurance to their employees.

It was also during his tenure as President that the ODQ secured provincial government funding for programs that allow seniors to receive comprehensive oral health care in nursing homes and young cancer patients to have access to restorative oral healthcare.

Dr. Dolman was also heavily involved in his community as an active philanthropist. Through the Fondation de l'Ordre des dentistes du Québec, he contributed to the care of the most vulnerable Quebecers. He also supported patients with Alzheimer's disease by making a generous donation to a local long-term care centre.

His many contributions earned him a number of honours, including the title of Fellow awarded by three prestigious organizations – the Académie dentaire du Québec, the Pierre Fauchard Academy and the American College of Dentistry.

"A caring health professional, esteemed colleague, loyal friend, loving father and grandfather, Barry will be remembered by an entire community as an inquisitive, hard-working and compassionate man. On behalf of the members of the Board of Directors, our Executive Director, the Executive Committee, our employees and our fellow dental professionals, I would like to offer our most heartfelt condolences to his wife, Colette, as well as to his children, grandchildren and all his loved ones," said Dr. Lafrance.

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