

## Section II Canada Impact Report

### *The William J. Spence Memorial Foundation continues humanitarian efforts post pandemic*

The ICD Section II Canada's William J. Spence Memorial Foundation was established in 2003 as a charitable board with the purpose of giving grant monies to humanitarian dental missions regulated by the Canadian Charities Registration Agency. Worthy humanitarian dental missions in underserved areas, such as the Philippines, Zimbabwe, Honduras, Guatemala and Haiti, have been supported with dental materials. However, in 2020 most of those missions were canceled because of the cessation of travel abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In the past two years, the foundation has focused on charitable work in Canada.



**(Left photo) Volunteers of the NorWest Access Dental Screening Clinic hold up the ICD Flag during a day of clinical work in Winnipeg. (Right photo) A patient receives services at the London Community Dental Alliance in Ontario.**

In the past year of 2022, the foundation board awarded funds, in part, for dental materials and supplies, including personal protective equipment (PPE), to humanitarian efforts in Canada. Two worthy charity organizations of dentists in London, Ontario, and in Winnipeg, Manitoba, received the support. The London Community Dental Alliance treats indigent patients, many of whom have no dental insurance coverage. The Wright Dental Clinic, in East London, Ontario, opened in September 2022 and is supervised by Fellow Ken Wright. In Winnipeg, the charity group In Company of Friends recently completed a triage screening and treatment of a large group of patients, including children, over the course of two weekends. They also supplied denture prosthesis, as required. The NorWest Access Dental Screening Clinic, spearheaded by Fellow Aaron Kim, has plans for two more weekend-volunteer treatment clinics in 2023.

The funds that the Spence Foundation can award each year come largely from taxable contributions from Canadian ICD Fellows. Other benefactors also aid in our dispersal of available funds within a yearly budget. The board will continue to do its due diligence in assessing each application for humanitarian missions, whether abroad or in Canada. Members who support the Foundation by a financial contribution through the ICD Canada website are helping to support one of the aims of the College.