Update on “Getting a Seniors” Dental Plan

Dr. Sneha Abhyankar
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ICOH, St. John’s
Dental Diseases Prevention

• Early intervention
• Preventive procedures
• Timely treatments
Dental Plans for Vulnerable Populations

- Children’s Plan now in place: up to age 17
- No plans for Seniors (except Social Assistance Recipients)
Seniors

- Changing Demographics in NL
- Death rate exceeds Birth Rate
- Median age: 41.3 years
- Baby-boomers turn 60
- By 2017, 1 in 5 would be over 65
Healthy Aging

• “Healthy Aging”: Blue-print for future
• Comprehensive plan for next 5 years
• Best possible Physical, Emotional, Social
• Mental and Spiritual Health
• Oral Health is an integral part of Overall Health
• Promoted under
• Oral Health Strategy for the Province
Barriers to Good Oral Health in Seniors

- Financial Barriers
- 2004 annual income (50%) : $15,700 or less
- National figure : $ 19,400
- Lack of private insurance
- Pay from own pockets
Access

• Small Remote Communities
• No dental Clinics in Long Term Care Facilities
• 2500 seniors in LTCF
• 1900 personal and community care homes
• 6.6% of all senior population
Oral Health Strategy for the Province

• Supported by NLDA
• Why NLDA proposed Seniors’ Dental Plan?
• Targeted to low-income seniors
• The Minister was supportive
• Healthy Aging and Poverty Reduction
• Budget Restrictions could not support it
MOU

To include dental suites in long term care facilities

This is still an ongoing project and negotiations are underway for Corner Brook facility.
Petition

- To obtain support for the plan
- Petition to identify needs
- Initial response: Good
- Media coverage on local CBC
- Local Newspapers
- Will be presented to the Minister ASAP
Seniors have worked hard all their life and Deserve the assistance in their “Golden Age”
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