



# **CHILDREN'S ORAL HEALTH INITIATIVE (COHI)**

# COHI OVERVIEW



The Children's Oral Health Initiative (COHI) is a prevention based dental program that targets children aged 0-12, prenatal women, and childcare providers.



COHI is delivered by FNIHB-AB employed community dental health practitioners (CDHPs) who are either dental therapists or dental hygienists, and First Nation employed COHI aides.



COHI services include fluoride application, sealants, silver diamine fluoride and oral health promotion. Services are conducted at daycares, pre-schools, schools, Head Start, immunization clinics and health fairs.



# COHI SERVICES

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DENTAL SCREENINGS

FLUORIDE APPLICATIONS & SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE (SDF)

SEALANTS

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION REGARDING ORAL HEALTH






# DENTAL SCREENINGS

- Checks the health of teeth, gums and mouth
- Identifies
  - Existing dental treatment (e.g. fillings and extracted teeth)
  - Dental care that can be provided by COHI (i.e. sealants, fluoride varnish applications)
  - Issues that may require referral for care
- Provides a fun, gentle and easy way for children to be introduced to dental care





# FLUORIDE AND SILVER DIAMINE FLUORIDE (SDF)

- **Fluoride**

- A protective coating that is applied to teeth
- Easy and quick to apply
- Safe to use with young children and pleasant tasting

- **Silver Diamine Fluoride**

- An antimicrobial liquid that is applied to cavities to slow down or stop tooth decay in both primary(baby) and permanent teeth.
- Safe and easy to use

- Note: SDF stains areas of decay





## SEALANTS

- Thin plastic coatings that are applied to the chewing surfaces of primary (baby) and permanent teeth
- Simply to apply
- Creates a protective barrier on the teeth
- Effective in preventing tooth decay

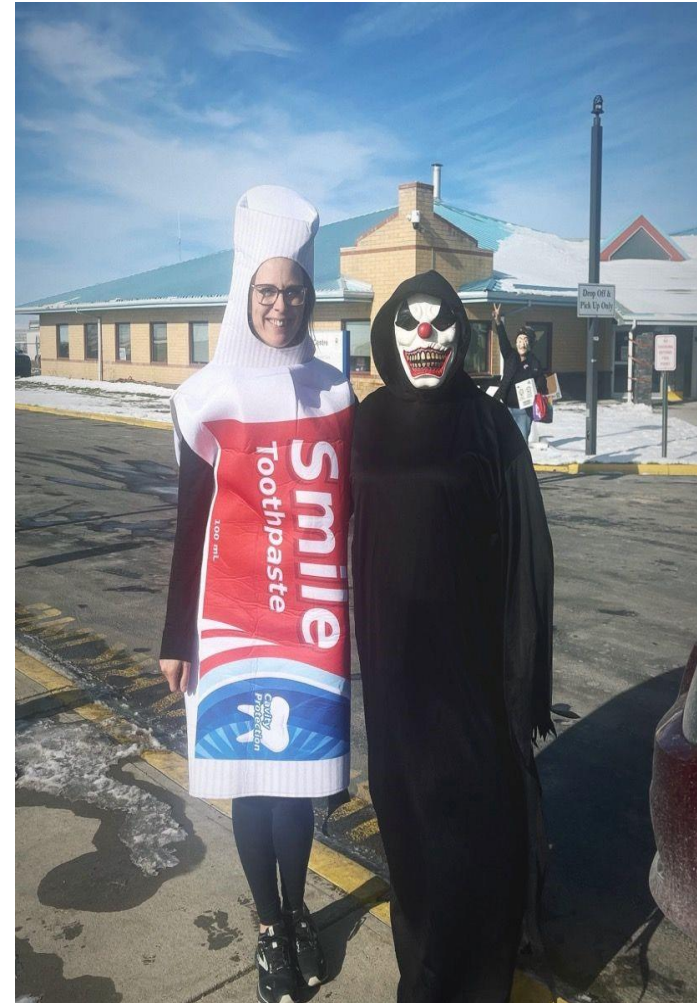


# TARGET AGE GROUP

- COHI's target population is children aged 0-12, and the program supports parents and caregivers of children, as well as pregnant women

# SERVICE DELIVERY LOCATIONS

- COHI team travels to 40 Nations with portable dental equipment and chairs to provide services in various work sites: schools, health centers, Head Starts, daycares etc.



# COHI AIDES' ROLE IN COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

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**COHI Aides are members of the community who:**

Liaise with the community to support oral health prevention services

Promote COHI program and oral health

Are trained and qualified to provide some of the Government of Canada COHI services

Provide administrative, promotional and general support







# PROGRAM CHALLENGES

- Obtaining authorization and consent is challenging
- Treatments depend on follow-up by parents, who are sometimes reluctant to follow up
- A challenge for our team is reaching the **0-4 age group!**
- Inadequate workspace for practitioners

\*Photo Credit: BTDH Communications

# ELIGIBLE FUNDING ACTIVITIES?

- Funding provided through the COHI Program may be used to support:
  - Hiring a COHI Aide
  - Program Coordination and delivery within the community
  - Community engagement
  - Supplies, program educational and promotional resources
  - Training and development

# REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

- DCI number / Fiscal year: HC-P012 (2025-2026)

Program reporting requirements: The recipient shall submit to the minister on a bi-annual basis, the completed forms, which must include:

- 1. Completed Oral Health Services Daily Records (OHSDRs);
- 2. Completed Oral Screening Records (OSRs), if applicable

## Timelines:

1st submission: September 15 (covers April 1 to August 31) 2nd submission: April 15 (covers September 1st to March 31)

\*COHI Aides' responsibility to submit OHSDRs monthly to COHI Regional Office (ISBE-COHI@sac-isc.gc.ca)

