FOREWORD:

Dear colleagues, the IFD continues to work for Denturists world-wide to assist in providing information to empower Denturists to get recognition. We all need to brand the profession, by promoting the advancement of the profession globally. All of our country representatives work hard for the recognition of the profession. We appreciate support received from our members to fulfill our mandate and to generate income to fulfill our mission statements. The IFD is also pleased to announce that the Republic of Mauritius, which is a country off of the eastern coast of Africa, is now a member of the IFD. The IFD are investigating the logistics of becoming involved in small outreach opportunities to provide denture care to poor communities, in partnerships with our partners in the Dental industry and Humanitarian Organizations. We feel this outreach program will spotlight the compassionate nature of Denturists and continue to build the branding of our professional character.

The IFD has modernized our logo and redesigned the Website to also include links to member country’s websites. Our editorial team requires the assistance and input from all Denturists to improve communication to all member Countries. With communication comes a strong and vibrant Newsletter that will continue to be a source of inspiration for all of us.

The IFD are promoting International Accreditation through affiliation with the Curriculum Advisory Committee of Canada. Two new Denturist education centres NESDT (New England School of Dental Technology) and ADC (American Denturist College) have been established in the USA and received IFD approval. They presented their programs at our World Symposium. On behalf of all members of IFD, I would like to express my gratitude to the NDA and our American colleagues for their hospitality and for hosting the wonderful 9th World Symposium recently.

Tony Sarrapuchiello
IFD President

Delegates to the IFD Board meeting at the Hilton Alexandria, USA during the 9th World Symposium from 14-19 September
EDITORIAL – I Have a Dream!

By Duffy Malherbe

The monumental figure of Dr Martin Luther King Jr walking out of a block of granite at his Memorial, has a dedicated inscription: “Out of the Mountain of Despair, a Stone of Hope”. I marvelled at the legacy of his anti-oppression movement of 50 years ago and stood in awe at the steps of the Lincoln Memorial from where Dr King delivered his speech: “I HAVE A DREAM!” Commemorated as one of the most famous speeches of the 20th century, the foundations of an irreversible civil movement was laid, which deeply changed not only the American psyche, but also greatly influenced and changed all relations globally by proclaiming HOPE! Dr King referred to the abolition of slavery, he invoked the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation, and the United States Constitution. He called for the practical abolition of Racism and all forms of abuse enforced by one group over another and presented a radiant Vision of freedom for all.

Another parallel message are portrayed on video by a Russian Astronaut at the Smithsonian Space Museum. During the late 1960s he observed how small our planet seemed to be, when viewed from outer space! Despite opposing ideologies, his astute logic was for the superpowers to bridge their internal issues for the sake of global survival. During 1975 two manned spacecraft were launched into Earth orbit - one from Kazakhstan, the other from Florida. The Apollo-Soyuz rendezvous in orbit fulfilled an agreement between the superpowers to participate in a joint venture in space, which changed history. Heralding the end of the Cold War, agreements was reached to build a space station and pursue other joint ventures in space. A jealous contest that began in fear and hostility, had become a partnership to serve mankind.

The IFD was birthed in 1956 in Zurich, motivated by a dream to establish an independent international association of Denturists to reach out to the Profession, a specific focus was placed on the relationship between Dentists and Denturists. That relationship, or the lack of freedom in various locations, to attain inter-professional autonomy for all purposely-trained members of the OHCT, remains topical! As the Russian Astronaut and the American Humanitarian presented their similar visions, we also have a vision, an attainable dream, shared by many….. the liberation of the OHCT, in a quest to serve, for the benefit of the Patient!

I have a dream that the striking words captured in Human Rights Declarations, which is entrenched by national Constitutions and worldwide Treaties, will become more than just mere words in forgotten documents……. It is recognized that the level of civilization and progress achieved by any democratic society are measured by the extent to which it looks after, and the dignity afforded to the vulnerable groups within those communities. “The essence of humanity is our capacity to help others; it is what separates us from the animals. We care for each other; we look after the weak, the young, the sick, the old”- Fred Hollows, famous Australian Humanitarian. The natural leaning of Denturists to reach out to denture patients in need, are demonstrated worldwide, i.e. in Cambodia, Nunavut, Canada, Appalachia and various programs in the US, innumerable locations in the EU, the Australian Outback, the homeless of Cape Town, etc. Denturism have a long-established reputation as an altruistic profession of compassion. Monopolistic restraints prohibiting people in need, from the opportunity to choose the compassionate efficient services of Denturists are reprehensible, because large numbers of the old and the poor have unmet oral prosthetic needs. Denturists are specifically trained to only serve patients in need of dental prosthetics. Denturists change lives; unsung heroes who change people’s lives by restoring their human dignity and giving them new confidence. Every person deserves the ability to eat, talk and smile!

The people-serving outcome of both these legacies sadly reminded me of the parallel reality of the ongoing conflict between Dentists and other members of the Oral Health Care Team (OHCT) and the work still needed to achieve all-round recognition of professional standing to best serve the patient. As with other allied health professions, where the relationship between those with a historically defined role and those with an emerging role, collides over concerns about standards, patient care, and control; Dentists and Denturists have been subject to inter-professional rivalries and struggles for mutual respect and understanding. In contrast to the emerging global pattern in Oral Health legislation, which increasingly place the focus on Patient-centred Dentistry, Organized Dentistry still insist to present Dentists as Managers of the Business of Dentistry, and continuous to undermine their partners in the OHCT. In the previous Editorial, titled Branding of the Profession, a specific focus was placed on the relationship between Dentists and Denturists. That relationship, or the lack of freedom in various locations, to attain inter-professional autonomy for all purposely-trained members of the OHCT, remains topical! As the Russian Astronaut and the American Humanitarian presented their similar visions, we also have a vision, an attainable dream, shared by many….. the liberation of the OHCT, in a quest to serve, for the benefit of the Patient!

The IFD was birthed in 1956 in Zurich, motivated by a dream to better serve the needs of denture wearers, than through the limitations of a prescribed communication barrier with consumers and dominated by the inefficiency of a go-between system. Today more than ever, the future vision of the IFD represents hope and justice, as an icon of progress to improve service-efficiency! When you believe in your dreams, they become your life goals. This is also true for the International Federation of Denturists: we exist as a group, not to be a social club, but to progress, to move forward for the benefit of the profession globally, to serve with compassion for the benefit of edentulous people wherever they are located. We understand the importance of solidarity to bring our vision to fulfilment. Our objectives and goals are transparent and elaborated extensively on our website. As the IFD work collectively in achieving those objectives, we all share the same Dream!
In 2005 our colleagues in the UK achieved their Dream, following the examples set throughout all the states and territories of both Australia and Canada, also in Denmark, Finland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Switzerland, and 6 of the United States of America. Towards the end of 2008 our Irish colleagues followed their example and are also now legally recognized. With 40 pieces of legislation worldwide, regulating those jurisdictions where the profession is regulated, Denturist is certainly the fastest growing emerging health category and rapidly becoming a globalized profession. Denturists have a dream to one day have the option of relocating anywhere on the planet and continue to serve in the profession of their calling!

There is much scope for health reform to include Denturists in many locations of the USA. With 5 legislated states in the northwest and Maine in the East, and the whole of Canada, bordering to the North with established normalized Denturism practice throughout, many American denture wearers are practicing Denture-Tourism, to attain denture services of their choice. In many parts of the USA, the ADA had Denturism-practice criminalized: many practitioners serving in Dentists’ monopolized market are jailed for committing a felony! There is an outcry for justice by deprived denture wearers in the USA: Is it justice when a decent single parent of 10 is forced into unemployment because of his compassion for competently serving the elderly in his community? Is it justice when a good family man, in high regard of his peers, with 7 years post-school education and 40 years’ experience is handcuffed-to-jail for providing caring service to the poor? Is it justice when a 62 year old dedicated man with a lifetime of appreciated experience of serving his community are forced to leave his State or go to jail for doing just that? Is it justice to prevent these communities from access to the very services these professionals were prosecuted for, (a procedure for which the monopoly-holder is no longer sufficiently trained themselves) when there is already a shortage crisis for their services throughout the USA? A degree in dentistry is not the only qualification-criteria for assessment of competency to provide oral health services, because several non-dentist categories have sufficient skills, knowledge and the professional attitude to efficiently serve public oral health needs. Dental services have evolved into a highly specialized team of professional experts working co-operatively to best serve all the oral health needs of the community. Denturists frees the hands and time of Dentists to focus on more pressing Oral Health priorities and advanced procedures only a Dentist is qualified for, to provide for efficient utilization of Oral Health Human Resources. We have a dream for justice and common sense!

We have a dream that the ADA, who have managed to uphold their monopoly by blocking all attempts for introducing any new Denturism-legislation through their expensive lobby of Congress since 1994, will cease to oppose the repeated endorsements of the Federal Trade Commission! The aspirations of duly qualified denture-providers serving the denture crisis in the USA legitimately, is a reality, it is a just cause! After 21 years of waste, it is TIME to listen to the paying customer, the consumer! We have a dream that Organized Dentistry worldwide will one day cease to spend fortunes annually opposing the development of the OHCT and rather invest those funds towards serving the OH needs of all communities! The OHCT needs the expertise of all its members, each with their own intrinsic value, to jointly serve the patient’s oral health needs. Service efficiency suffers when business concerns artificially interfere with common sense and challenges patient-centred Dentistry. American denture wearers cries out for freedom of choice! That cry also echoes from various locations in Europe and Africa. It is a dream – partially frustrated and unfulfilled!

As “Doctors of the mouth”, Dentists care for and conserve natural teeth, and to prevent, diagnose and treat oral diseases and its consequences. After patients have lost their natural teeth, Denturists has an explicitly defined role in terms of construction, fitting, patient aftercare and care of artificial teeth, as denture-dedicated Prosthetists. They specialize solely in removable oral appliances and do not perform invasive procedures, or modification of live tissue. The monopoly to sell dentures as a go-between retailer was initiated, funded and created by Dentists, to serve their own vested interests and have never been motivated by altruistic considerations. Why are dental technicians, oral hygienists, dental therapists and dental chairside assistants not also accused of illicit practice, when they also carry out procedures that are included in the broad definition of Dentistry? Quite simple – these categories provide services that enhance Dentists’ income, while Denturists are perceived by Dentists as being opposition, competing with them for the business of patients, which they have proclaimed one-sidedly as their own exclusive market. I have a dream that Dentists will one day stop seeing Denturism as professional encroachment, and refer the bulk of prosthetic work to these expert Prosthetists and in return accept the referrals from them for oral examinations, fillings, occlusal rest preps and extractions, which more than offsets the potential loss of income from seeing less denture patients. Denturism practice is not about taking work away from Dentists, but rather to allow a patient to make a free choice of service provider! In many countries Denturists are the only denture services available in rural areas due to their flexibility and mobility. This is especially also the case for institutionalized and geriatric patients in retirement homes or patients with mobility issues, who needs to be served at home. I have a dream of qualified Denturists deployed globally as regulated professionals, supplying patients directly with accurate, aesthetic, and functional dentures, achieving patient satisfaction and optimal prosthetic rehabilitation.

I have a dream of a Team of Oral Health Care experts serving the patient jointly and purposefully, with inter-professional referral protocols when required, to achieve the noble goals of good Oral Health and General Health, by restoring the patient’s self-esteem and ability to eat, talk and smile with confidence!
The Annual Board meeting of the IFD and the 9th World Symposium on Denturism was hosted by the NDA/USA at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Centre just minutes away from the historical landmarks in Washington DC, from 14 – 19 September 2015. Denturists and other dental professionals from the USA and Canada as well as representatives from 11 other countries attended. Kudos to the organizing committee for the months of careful planning and all their efforts in putting together this world class conference, which was a resounding success.

From the moment the Town Crier rang the welcoming bell and announced: “Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Welcome friends from far and near!” the welcome mat was laid and fellowship began. These warm greetings offered the taste of true Southern hospitality and we were not disappointed. The venue was perfect, the hotel was lovely, the hotel staff was gracious and accommodating, the food delicious and the fellowship priceless. It was enriching to discuss issues with fellow Denturists from across the globe. Personal interaction elevates relationships to a new level, enhancing our initiatives, whether it is about raising the bar in an established professional capacity, or as would-be Denturists.

As we all know, the future of the profession is in our own hands. At the IFD Board meeting various initiatives were discussed to ensure that our profession thrives worldwide. Matters on the Agenda included amendments to IFD “By-laws”, Regional issues and Country Reports, continuous and new business. The format of reporting provides for the discussion of support required and how the structure of IFD can assist member countries to progress. Education had a special focus with presentations of their programs by the American Denturist College, as well as New England School of Dental Technology, both recently introduced and recognized in the USA. The Education Committee embarked on a new initiative in co-operation with the Curriculum Advisory Committee to set criteria for international accreditation. In attendance at the AGM was the IFD Chief Executive Camille Bourbonnais with country representatives John Rogan (Australia), Matthias Luypaert (Belgium), Daniel Robichaud, Michael Vout, Jamshid Zehtab-Jadid, Benoit Talbot, Tony Sarrapuchiello (Canada), Ilkka Garaisi (Finland), John Salamone-Reynaud (Malta), Colum Sower (Ireland), Duffy Malherbe (South Africa), Urban Christen-Mendez (Switzerland), Tad Burzynski, Paul Levasseur, Wanda Anderson, Bruce Anderson, William Buxton, Todd Young, Shawn Murray, Joseph Kingston (USA) and observers. Regrets were received from the United Kingdom, Netherlands and New Zealand; we look forward to seeing them this year in Switzerland.
The world class speakers and topics presented at this Symposium were outstanding and fulfilled every expectation of excellence. The variety of topics and exceptional speakers made this learning experience one to remember. The areas of expertise included precision implant design and theory, modern articulation methods and occlusion techniques, thermoplastic flexible partials and immediate dentures, specialized office systems and practice management, radiographic interpretation and oral cavity disorders, cranial nerve function, asepsis, removable prosthetics and gingival customization and professional ethics.

Feedback from the participants was very positive and appreciative. The Table Talk presentations by Trade exhibitors together with exhibiting their products for all to see, also offered practical tips and technical savvy, including valuable advice to be remembered. Appreciation is in order to the many sponsors who made this Convention possible. Unfortunately the list of Companies are too long to mention.

Although the Symposium program was full, there were also time in the evenings to socialize and one full day set apart for sightseeing to experience something of the vast scope of worthy attractions, historic and War Memorials, Smithsonian Museums and places of interest in the Capital City of Washington DC. One evening the IFD Board were the guests of the NDA Executive at a joint dinner at the 1785 Gadsby’s Tavern in picturesque Old town Alexandria, frequented by George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. The Convention presented ample opportunity to have in-depth one-to-one conversations with individuals and group-socializing.

The highlight of the beautiful Gala Dinner was certainly the fellowship, accompanied by gorgeous cuisine. An inspiring person attending was Senator William Rayborn, a staunch supporter of the NDA, who has dedicated his career seeking national recognition for Denturists, so every citizen of the USA will have the freedom to choose a Denturist for their prosthetic dental needs in every state. The Keynote speaker was vivacious Janice Wheeler, who never ceases to inspire!

A wonderful atmosphere of kinship prevailed and everyone was pleased in the honours received. No honour was more deserving than that given to Michael Vout who was presented the Sterkenburg medal and inducted into this prestigious fellowship. Congratulations also goes to Bill Disantis (NDA Denturist of the Year), Jan Rosenberger (Rayborn Award – NDA outstanding person of the year), Clayton Sulek and Carlo Zanon (NDA Distinguished Presidents Awards) for their dedication and sterling services to the profession. All these individuals are selfless servants and team builders, who inspire others to greatness.

Our next AGM will be in Lucerne, Switzerland during September this year and the next World Symposium will be in Montreal Canada during 2017.
Denturists took advantage of the 9th International Denturist Symposium location in Alexandria, VA and went to meet with several members of Congress in Washington DC. The opportunity to take the Denturist message to Congress is even more important as the National Denturist Association seeks greater recognition nationwide for the profession.

Most of the meetings were with representatives from Washington state, since Washington Denturist Association (WDA) lobbyist Carolyn Logue has worked with many of them at the state level. WDA President Bill Disantis, NDA Vice President Joe Vize, Eric Hansen and Val Charron were among those who met with members of Congress, including Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Dan Newhouse, Congressman Derek Kilmer and Congressman Rick Larsen. In addition, Robyn Balcom was able to meet with a staff representative of Montana Congressman Ryan Zinke.

The Washington State NDA Delegation was also able to have an impromptu meeting with Congressman Dave Reichert of Washington state in the hallway outside the House Ways and Means Committee meeting. Attempts were made to meet with others but with many Congressional Representatives just returning from a long August recess and budget negotiations ongoing, schedules were very difficult.

Although there is no active legislation before Congress and licensing battles are under the purview of the states, just the ability to introduce our profession and talk about what we do was important. Many members of Congress are unfamiliar with the battles we have faced at the state level yet they hear from the National Dental Association on a regular basis. In addition, we were able to talk with them about how we interact with programs such as Medicaid/Medicare, and the importance of ensuring Denturists are recognized as health care providers in future discussion surrounding the Affordable Health Care Act and other federal insurance laws.

It is important that we make sure our Congressional representatives know the profession as much as our state representatives. We should, as Denturists, take every opportunity to meet with those who represent us whether in DC or in our home states. Thanks to these recent NDA efforts, we now have some new friends in Congress.

Carolyn Logue, Lobbyist
Washington Denturist Association
CA Logue - Public Affairs
Dutch Denturists first started their education and training for professional status during 1971 at the Sterkenburg Castle, in the Netherlands. The Castle became their weekend school and home for two years! Because of their comprehensive training, Denturists retained their right to educate themselves and pressured government for legal status. After official recognition, a brotherhood of Denturists was formed from those original pioneers, to honour those who were committed to Denturism and education. The Sterkenburger philosophy is to help and support the education of Denturists and honour those who have shown an unyielding commitment to the Denturist profession worldwide.

During the Gala Dinner at the 9th Denturism World Symposium, Michael Vout from Ontario, Canada, was honoured for his lifetime of dedication to the profession, when he was inducted into this prestigious fellowship. Tony Sarrapuchiello, President of the IFD, presented Michael with his medal, depicting the turret tower of the Sterkenburg Castle, observed by fellow Sterkenburgers; Carlo Zanon, Austin Carbone, John Salamone Reynaud, Paul Levasseur and Bruce Anderson. Nobody was prouder than Michael’s vivacious wife Glenda, who graciously shared the joyful celebration.

Michael worked with utmost dedication for decades, advocating for the profession and constantly raising the bar to improve standards. His rise through the ranks of the DAO, DAC, CDO and the IFD is legendary, where he served in almost every conceivable capacity. His professionalism and commitment has made him a valuable Team-builder, not only as an asset for Ontario and the whole of Canada, but his passion ripples out to set examples internationally. An excellent public speaker; some of Michael’ skills include volunteer management, coaching, leadership development, and event planning. Michael Vout is a gifted professional who combines empathy, chairside manner and clinical and technical efficiency into an exemplary professional combination to serve his patients with dedication and compassion.

Michael is modest with a genuine kind-hearted nature and indisputable integrity. We are most fortunate Michael chose to serve as a Denturist. His honorable example and service truly deserve our respect and our recognition. We are grateful that Michael continues to serve the profession through the Editorial Board of the IFD Newsletter and for taking on the challenge of setting international criteria for accreditation of Denturism education.
The European Committee continues to meet regularly to strategise for the promotion, practice and recognition of Denturism through the various structures and initiatives of the EU, such as the Medical Devices Directive (MDD) and the freedom of movement of workers. Various ongoing initiatives focus on the exposure of monopolies, which restrain the progress of Oral Health Care, especially the potential of Denturism.

Denturists already established in various EU member states, already have partial access to the profession of Dentistry, in the provision of dentures directly to the public and have practiced safely for many years. The profession is recognised separately from Dentists and independent regulatory bodies of Denturists do recognise third country Diplomas for Denturists, for those meeting the IFD Baseline Competencies. Denturists are required by law to issue ‘custom made device descriptions’ when prescribing dentures to patients and when supplying the denture to patients/end-users, provide them with the ‘statement of manufacture’ or ‘conformity statement’ as required by the MDD. The Directive requires that custom-made devices conform to European standards and CE approved materials are used during manufacture. These prescriptions are by law supplied to patients, as being ‘authorised by virtue of their professional qualifications’.

Although the profession is not recognised in all member states, the Professional Qualifications Directive and the Medical Devices Directive supports Denturists to provide goods and services in all EU member states. This also allows for the freedom of movement of workers as specified in the Treaty of Rome.

EW Engelbrecht
European Committee

On 12 January 2016 it was announced that the whole Belgian Oral Health Care system is being reconstructed, with the introduction of regulations for Dental Hygienists/Assistants and Denturists, to work in the oral cavity. The Minister of Health, Dr Maggie De Block, have taken a formal decision to introduce Denturism, following a workshop with a delegation of the Belgian Union of Denturists and other stakeholders during November 2015. The Scopes of Practice is still to be defined.

Belgium have a well-established Denturism training system and have qualified a group of clinicians every three-year cycle, since 1973, with some 133 already qualified and serving. Other EU constituencies where the profession is already recognized, includes Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland as well as the United Kingdom comprising England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and the Channel Islands.

This anti-monopolistic breakthrough is indeed progressive news for Oral Health Care in the EU. The President of the UBDD, Matthias Luypaert, promised that more news about protocol is to follow soon.

Since its origin around 1800, dental services has grown at various locations globally from the ranks of the Barber Surgeons and diversified into many branches and specialties. Amongst others, the Denturism-discipline of Prosthodontics emerged, which is essentially specialization in the field of removable oral prostheses. As Dentistry developed from the era of the tooth puller and became a learned profession, the right to make dentures were also added to their domain. This international phenomenon was established by customary practice and not by logical association. It was a well earning procedure and was soon monopolized, and any denture-maker who did not have the school training to qualify as a Dentist, was prosecuted for a crime. Making dentures used to be the most lucrative part of dentistry and “reasons” were therefore created, to justify the monopoly.

Instead of recognizing Prosthetic Dentistry as another speciality field, technical work was separated from the clinical procedures. Dentists conducted only clinical measurement procedures as a go-between. As the manufacturing process has always been time consuming, it became profitable to hire “back room boys”, who worked under deplorable circumstances, as the rubber-vulcanising process was most unpleasant. Denture-makers without dental school training were forced into a submissive role of subcontractor, and became solely dependent on Dentists for their income. They were underpaid, with no security or paid vacations or scope for a career path.
Direct Service Pioneers:
During the 1920-30s rural Canada was sparsely populated. It was pioneer country. The world economy was in the grips of the great depression after World War 1. William Lees was a small man, crippled from an accident in the cotton mills, and ended up working as a Dental Mechanic, making dentures for a dozen Dentists, at $3 for a set of dentures. Dentists were charging patients about $45. Suddenly, the work dropped off and on investigating, he was told that competition was undercutting his price by 15%. William could not make a profit at that fee. As a consequence of the depression, large numbers of people were unemployed, many were starving. There was a huge demand for dentures. Many patients could not afford the price of dentures through a Dentist go-between. Thus William decided to serve the public directly. The first time he was caught, the fine was $50. He just went right back to practice again, because there was such a huge need. Patients were queuing up. Harry Courtney, also emigrated from England to Canada and ended up in Edmonton, Alberta. He met William Lees and started working for him as an apprentice denture-maker. They were only serving the public and the Dentists were upset with the competition and tried to close them down. William and Harry were very creative in trying to circumvent the law. They tried having the patients taking their own impressions. That wasn’t very successful, but they got away with it for a while. They then employed a Dentist to work for them to take impressions and do the try-ins. That worked for a year or two until he was fined $400.

After every court case, their business would boom due to the publicity; the public rallied behind them. The Dental Association had new regulations passed to close down all loopholes in the law. The last time William Lees was caught, the fine was $1200. He had to sell his house and everything he owned, to prevent going to jail. William Lees and Harry Courtney served with dedication and commitment; they made good dentures and the public was very happy with their service. It was a safe, efficient service at an affordable fee. When the Dental Association got an injunction to close down their business altogether, the public rallied behind them and started a petition. It was in the middle of the depression, people were out of work, the per capita income of Alberta dropped by 65%. People in their thousands came forward to sign up in support of the Dental Mechanics. The Legislator listened to the arguments from both parties and eventually decided to amend the law in favour of Dental Mechanics - to serve the public directly! The 1933 Dental Association Amendment Act first allowed non-Dentists, Dental Mechanics to construct dentures directly to the public. After World War II this arrangement was replaced by the 1961 Denturist Act of Alberta, which was specifically designed to regulate the profession of Denturists working independently. The next year the neighbouring Canadian province of British Columbia also instituted a law to recognise Denturists doing all the procedures independently from Dentists.

The Canadian experience:
In Northern America Denturists provided an essential denture-dedicated service at a reasonable fee and with the specialized attention in both the clinical and laboratory setting that the patient requires. This contrasts with Dentistry, which provides a wide range of dental services. In various parts of Canada dentists started prosecuting them for “practicing dentistry”, forcing Denturists to campaign for recognition. Denturists stressed the price differential and the issue of freedom of choice. Dentists stressed health and safety issues. The public perceived the Dentists’ campaign as negative and self-serving and eventually denturists prevailed, as one province after the other legalized this popular trend. Alberta was the first province in North-America to legally recognize Denturism in 1933 and completed the puzzle with the 2004 Prince Edward Island initiative, with all 10 provinces and 2 territories of Canada having independently on their own merits achieved legal recognition for Denturists.

Modern Times:
Denturism has evolved from an unregulated movement of dental technicians, whom many considered to be renegades, into a more widely accepted, reputable profession based on accredited discipline-dedicated training. Since those early humble years the profession have grown into a highly-specialized globalising profession, with the development of international baseline competencies, first-rate formal education, along with upgrading opportunities, Continuous Professional Development and having matured to come of age. Denturism continues to take up its standing amongst other universally recognized and valued health care professionals.