



UNIVERSITY
OF ALBERTA

Mike Petryk School of Dentistry

Our Community, Our Patients

A Legacy of Excellence and Care



Spring 2026



Where innovation meets practice.

Our clinic started in 1921 with seven chairs. Today, we have 134 chairs located in the Kaye Edmonton Clinic.



Quality Education. Modern Facilities. Community Care.

We provide our students with the highest standards of education and modern learning environments so that, in turn, our community receives the quality oral health care and the innovative research that it deserves.

Partnerships allows us to maintain a high-volume clinic where students deliver essential care while becoming skilled oral health-care professionals.

By the Numbers

On average, over 500 people apply per month to become a patient at the clinic.

Last year, we served over 15,000+ patients.



Did You Know?

You can fit **three NHL-sized hockey rinks** in the Oral Health Clinic.



Joan's journey

A clinic that can offer a wide array of services and access to specialty providers

When Joan Ditlof first walked into the Mike Petryk School of Dentistry in 2008, she was looking for an affordable alternative to private practice because her employer at the time did not offer a dental plan. What she found, however, was far more than just a cost-effective solution; she discovered a community that would become her "one-stop shop" for oral health.

Joan's journey began in the dental hygiene program, where she received dedicated care for two years. But the true value of the school became clear when her needs grew more complex. Instead of being referred to multiple offices across the city, Joan was able to access a variety of specialized care all under one roof. From having a root canal completed in the dentistry program to receiving a crown lengthening procedure in the periodontology graduate program, the seamless transition between programs allowed her to stay within a system she already trusted.

Treat you like family

Beyond the clinical efficiency, it is the profound sense of belonging that has kept Joan coming back for nearly two decades. "The clinic staff, faculty, and students treat you like a family member," Joan explains. She describes a level of care so gentle and attentive that she can close her eyes and remain completely relaxed, knowing she is in expert hands.

It is the small, human gestures that define the "family" atmosphere for Joan. Whether it's a student noticing she is chilly and bringing her a blanket for the chair, or receiving a warm hug at the end of an appointment, these moments of connection have erased any dental anxiety.

To Joan, the students aren't just learners; they are thorough, foundational experts who haven't lost the "heart" of patient care. She often tells those in the community that they are missing out on a hidden gem—a place where clinical excellence and familial warmth live under the same roof.

**"The clinic staff,
faculty, and
students treat
you like a
family member."**



**"Because I know
exactly what
goes into the
care we provide,
there is nowhere
else I would trust
more with my
own oral health."**



Walking the Talk

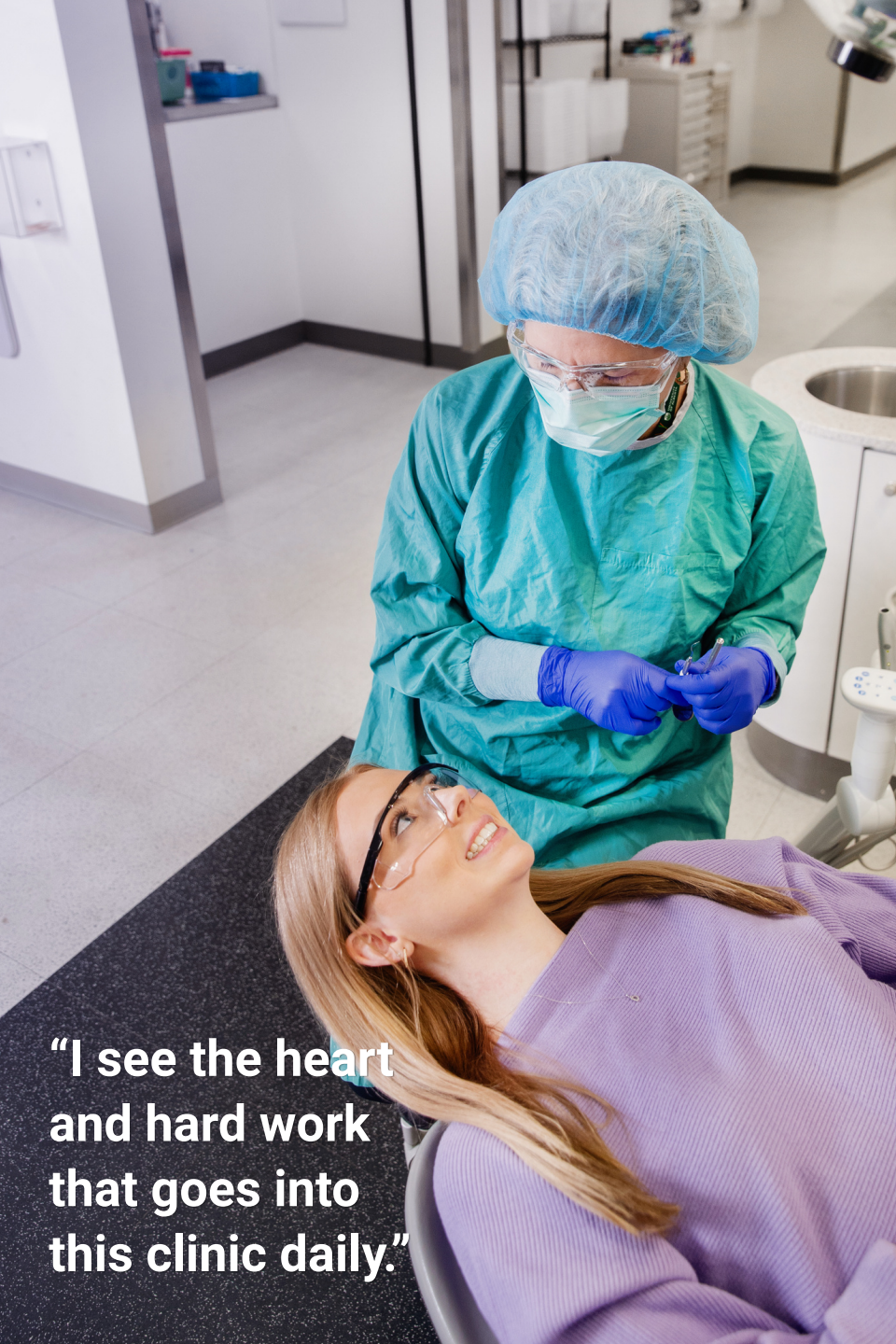
An Employee's Journey into the Chair

There is perhaps no greater endorsement for a health-care institution than when its own staff chooses to trust their care to the colleagues and students they work with every day. For one employee at the Mike Petryk School of Dentistry, a sudden dental emergency transformed their professional perspective into a deeply personal one.

"I broke my tooth and was in a lot of pain," says Darby Caddick. "In that moment, I wasn't just a staff member; I was someone in need of urgent help."

The transition from the office to the clinic floor was seamless. The employee was seen as an emergency patient, and the administrative staff moved quickly to coordinate care, finding a student practitioner ready to assist. Despite the urgency, the school's commitment to the highest standards never wavered. The student conducted a meticulous exam and took digital x-rays to create a comprehensive treatment plan, ensuring that no "bad habits" or shortcuts interfered with the clinical outcome.





**“I see the heart
and hard work
that goes into
this clinic daily.”**

The Team Behind the Treatment

The experience also highlighted the operational excellence that happens behind the scenes. Before the first instrument was even lifted, the staff verified insurance coverage, ensuring the patient—their colleague—understood the costs and felt secure in the process.

"Working here, I already get to see how all the different units work together," Darby reflects. "But experiencing it as a patient was different. I saw firsthand how everyone works as a team to ensure patients are booked on time and fully understand their treatment."

A Culture of Care

This "insider's" experience reaffirmed the positive environment that defines the school. It wasn't just about fixing a broken tooth; it was about the empathy, clear communication, and collective dedication to helping people.

"Everyone made a stressful situation into a positive experience," Darby said. "It makes me proud to be part of a team that truly cares. We aren't just providing a service; we are making a difference in people's lives—including our own."



A Critical Need for Care

MEL AND HARMONY'S STORY

For Mel and her daughter, Harmony, the journey to a healthy smile didn't begin in a dental chair—it began in a long line in downtown Edmonton. Their story is a powerful testament to the Mike Petryk School of Dentistry's mission: providing quality service and truly helping people in the community.



A Critical Need for Care

Before finding the school, Mel was facing a painful reality. She had a chipped tooth that had become infected, but like many, she found herself in a position where she simply could not afford a regular dentist.

Following a doctor's recommendation, Mel and Harmony sought help from Shine Dentistry (a student-led initiative). Mel still remembers standing in that long line, completing paperwork while the students and their preceptors performed priority assessments to determine who needed urgent intervention. Because of the severity of her infection and their financial barriers, she was seen and then referred to the Oral Health Clinic in the Kaye Edmonton Clinic located on the University of Alberta Campus.

"Life Saver" for the Next Generation

While Mel received the urgent care she needed, her daughter Harmony received care in pediatric dentistry at the Oral Health Clinic. For Mel, the impact on her daughter's life has been profound:

"This program is a life saver for Harmony's oral health," Mel says. "She truly loves coming here, and loves her oral health care team... everyone is friendly and happy".





Through the program, Harmony has received essential cleanings and a necessary tooth extraction, ensuring her dental health is back on track.

The "Learning Environment" Advantage

Many patients might be nervous about visiting a dental school, but Mel found the atmosphere to be a major benefit. She describes the clinic as:

- **Bright and safe:** The physical environment is clean, well-laid-out, and welcoming.
- **Less intimidating:** Because it is a learning environment, the "young energy" of the students makes the experience feel safer and more comfortable.
- **Rigorous quality:** The school uses consistent ways of operating with numerous "checks and balances".

Mel acknowledges that while these educational standards mean appointments might take longer, the highest quality care they receive makes the extra time well worth it.



A National Blueprint for Health Care

Mel's gratitude extends beyond her own family. She views the school's model as a "national blueprint for health care" and encourages anyone accepted into the school as a patient to never let the opportunity go.

Today, Mel looks forward to a future where she can express her thanks through a donation to the Mike Petryk School of Dentistry—a final gesture of gratitude for a service that changed her family's life.



Patient Testimonials

"I had outstanding and professional service by the students and their supervisor. I appreciate the step-by-step explanation and information sharing/teaching to improve my overall dental hygiene and care. I have had two visits so far and each time I walked out feeling that I've learned new things that were never explained in private dental clinics. I've been sharing my experience with all my friends and family encouraging them to try the clinic."

"I like the very thorough care, strong instructor oversight, state of the art facility, patient education, cost saving and calm, respectful environment."

"The staff and students have wonderful bedside manners. I have a lot of anxiety around dentists and they were all super calming, comforting and made the experience as enjoyable as possible."

"After singing the praises of the school for a few years now, my wife finally started going here and she couldn't be happier. Everyone from the front desk to the students to the instructors from top to bottom do a great job!"

"My dentistry student and the young lady that assisted him due to her patient cancellation were both so competent and worked excellently as a team. If I had to grade them they both deserve an A+ for the excellent care and education I received. Both very personable and caring."

"I was scared and had a lot of anxiety because I am new to going to the dentist and getting dental work. The student that took care of me made me feel so comfortable and was so gentle and patient with me. It was a huge relief and I am so happy to finally be getting the dental work I need. I can't recommend this clinic enough to others who are struggling with going to the dentist to get work done."

Leading with Purpose.

