Smiles4Canada is a public health goodwill program of the Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Orthodontics (CFAO) in conjunction with the Canadian Association of Orthodontists (CAO).

The CFAO was formed in 1978 as the charitable arm of the association.

The Foundation was established to:

- Promote the advancement of the science and art of orthodontics and dental-facial orthopedics
- Encourage and assist scientific and clinical research in educational institutions
- Support the dissemination of scientific and clinical knowledge and improved technical skills
- Further the public awareness of the benefits of orthodontic health care rendered by certified specialists in orthodontics
- Encourage others to contribute to the advancement of orthodontics

Smiles4Canada is a national, not-for-profit program administered by a central team of staff and regional volunteer directors and committees. The participation of orthodontists in the program is completely voluntary and they are not reimbursed for providing treatment. It is one way they give back to the community.

For more information on:

- The Canadian Foundation for the Advancement of Orthodontics, visit www.cao-aco.org/CFAO
- The Canadian Association of Orthodontists, visit www.cao-aco.org.

Putting smiles on deserving young people across Canada
Children from low income families can apply to Smiles4Canada before their 14th birthday and, if they qualify, participating orthodontists will provide all diagnosis and treatment free of charge.

Candidates must submit an application package available on the website www.Smiles4Canada.com. The package includes a personal statement, references, information about the family’s financial situation, a dental evaluation and a set of digital photographs of the applicant. The combined family income after tax must be below the Federal Low Income Cut-Offs.

The applicant pays a $500 administration fee, however the orthodontist receives no financial compensation for providing treatment. The fee helps cover the cost of administering the program, maintaining the website, and promoting the program to orthodontists and the general public.

Applications are evaluated by a regional committee. Candidates who meet the program criteria meet with a local orthodontist to discuss treatment options.

Applicants should appreciate that successful orthodontic treatment requires a significant amount of patient cooperation and self-discipline.