

COLLEGE

Briefings

Fall 2016

Protected Titles

On September 9th, the College notified members the Alberta government amended part 10 of the *Health Professions Act* and in doing so, added "Nutritionist" to the list of protected titles reserved for use by College members. The release to members is below for those who may not have seen it. Following the release is a FAQ section to provide further information to members on this issue.

Government of Alberta Reserves Title "Nutritionist" For Use by Regulated Members of the College of Dietitians of Alberta

The College is pleased to inform members that a recent amendment to the *Health Professions Act* effective earlier this summer expands the professional titles previously reserved for the use of regulated members of the College to include "Nutritionist", "Provisional Dietitian" and "Dietetic Intern".

While regulations expressly authorizing regulated members of the College to use these new titles have yet to be proclaimed, regulated members continue to be authorized to use titles such as "Registered Nutritionist", "Dietitian", "Registered Dietitian" and "R.D."

The amended *Health Professions Act* now prohibits unregulated individuals and organizations from using the title "Nutritionist", alone or in combination with other words such as in "Registered Holistic Nutritionist", "Clinical Nutritionist" and "Natural Nutritionist".

The College will be contacting unregulated individuals and organizations using the word "Nutritionist" alone or with other words as a professional title to advise of the recent amendments and to provide them with an opportunity to comply voluntarily. Following a grace period to allow those unlawfully using Nutritionist to re-brand, the College will pursue legal action where necessary against individuals and organizations that do not comply.

The College will notify members when the regulations authorizing members to use the title, "Nutritionist" are proclaimed by government. If you have questions about the amendments to the *Health Professions Act*, the pending amendments to the *Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists Profession Regulation* or about the enforcement of these amendments you may contact the College office.

The College forwarded a press release on September 8. You may view the press release by [clicking here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions regarding the Addition of Nutritionist to the List of Protected Titles

1. Can you explain what the Alberta government did with the title of "Nutritionist"?

The Alberta government amended Part 10 of the Alberta *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, which includes the protected titles used by health professionals. By amending the *HPA* the government has added "Nutritionist" to our list of protected titles that already includes "Registered Nutritionist" and "Registered Dietitian". The titles "Provisional Dietitian" and "Dietetic Intern" were also protected with this amendment.

2. How does this affect me as a Registered Dietitian?

At this time, the regulation amendments that would allow members of the College to use "Nutritionist" have not been proclaimed. However, with the amendment to Part 10 of the *HPA*, "Nutritionist" is now a protected title and the College can enforce misuse of this title. While regulations expressly authorizing regulated members of the College to use these new titles have yet to be proclaimed, regulated members continue to be authorized to use titles such as "Registered Nutritionist", "Dietitian", "Registered Dietitian" and "R.D." Simply put, members do not yet have the right to use "Nutritionist" but the College has the authority to protect the title.

3. How will the College enforce title misuse?

The College will be contacting unregulated individuals and organizations using the word "Nutritionist" alone or with other words as a professional title to advise of the recent amendments and to provide them with an opportunity to comply voluntarily. Following a grace period to allow those unlawfully using "Nutritionist" to re-brand, the College will pursue legal action where necessary against individuals and organizations that do not comply. There are a significant number of people currently using the title "Nutritionist", and enforcement will take some time, we appreciate your patience on this matter.

4. When will the regulations allowing College members to use "Nutritionist" come into effect?

There has been no definitive date set for the regulation amendments to be proclaimed. The College is working with government to move the regulations forward. The College will notify members when the regulations authorizing members to use the title, "Nutritionist" are proclaimed by government. If you have questions about the amendments to the *Health Professions Act*, the pending amendments to the *Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists Profession Regulation* or about the enforcement of these amendments you may contact the College office.

Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Earlier this year, Council for the College of Dietitians undertook a strategic planning session led by consultant Linda Wood Edwards. The session was very productive and council is pleased with the outcomes. The new strategic plan focuses on regulatory and operational initiatives in allowing the College to fulfill its mandate of public protection. Strategic objectives of the plan are enhancing public protection through expanded scope of practice and protected titles, ensuring members demonstrate competency and compliance with CDA

standards, ensuring resources are in place to fulfill regulatory mandate, striving for efficiency and effectiveness in operational and governance practices and use of resources, and advocacy by leading and partnering in improvement in Albertans' health. The College currently regulates the practice of over 1,260 Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists.

As part of the session, Council revised the College's Mission, Vision and Values. They are:

Mission

Protecting Albertans by regulating the competent practice of Registered Dietitians and Registered Nutritionists.

Vision

Excellence in evidence based food and nutrition practices through innovative leadership, regulation, and collaboration for the health of Albertans.

Values

As the College's governing body, each Council member upholds these values:



Annual Report, Recognition and Council

Annual Report 2015

The College has posted the Annual Report for 2015/2016. You may access the report online by clicking on [this link](#) (under Resources).

Recognition Awards

The Dietetic Intern Bursary Program was introduced to support current dietetic interns who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism in practice while studying dietetics at the University of Alberta with the intention of becoming a Registered Dietitian. The recipients of the Dietetic Intern Bursaries for 2016 are Lauren Doskoch, Haley Pomreinke and Erika Rodning. The College wishes the recipients all the best as they embark on their careers.

The bursaries were presented at an award recipient luncheon at the College's September Council meeting. The deadline for nominations and applications for the 2017 awards is June 1, 2017.

New Council for 2016/2017

The College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to introduce the 2016/2017 Council. The College welcomes three new members to Council, Kenton Delisle, RD, Diane Hoy, RD and Jillyan Jay, RD. Council biographies can be found on the Member's section of the College Website under Resources.

Lorna Driedger, President
Jody Brudler, President-Elect
Gwen Bentley, Past-President
Carole Micholuk, Councilor
Robin Anderson, Councilor
Anna Farmer, Councilor

Kenton Delisle, Councilor
Diane Hoy, Councilor
Jillyan Jay, Councilor
Robert Audette, Public Member
Stephen Donaldson, Public Member

Updates to Profile Information

The College reminds members that as regulated professionals, RDs have a duty to update their profile within 30 days of any change in the information required for the College's Register. This includes changes to your contact information (phone and email), mailing address or employment information. You may update your profile information online by logging onto the Online Profile (<https://cda.alinityapp.com/webclient>).

Your practice permit is your license to practice dietetics in Alberta. Therefore, the name on your practice permit **must** match your legal name. If you have changed your legal name, you

must officially change your name with the College of Dietitians as soon as possible. To officially change your surname with the college, we require a notarized copy of the original document (marriage certificate, divorce decree, etc). As notarized copies can be difficult to get, you can also send (or deliver) your name change document to us, and we will make a notarized copy and Express Post it back to you the same day it is received. Along with the original or notarized copy of the name change document, we require a photocopy of government issued ID that has the name change.

Not receiving correspondence from the College because your contact information has not been updated is not an acceptable excuse for missing a deadline or for not complying with College requirements such as registration renewal. All important notices are sent to members in several formats well ahead of deadlines and critical information is communicated in email blasts and on our website. It is important to pay attention to College communications and members should visit the website regularly to be informed of changes to College requirements affecting your practice.

Registration and Continuing Competence Update

The College reminds all members that practice permits and official tax receipts are available on the Online Profile under "Permits & Receipts". Previous years permits and receipts have also been archived. The College does not mail or email practice permits and receipts.

CCP Review and Audit

The College completed its annual CCP reviews and audits in July of this year: 406 members had their online reflections reviewed and 40 had their entire program for the 2015/2016 year audited by the Continuing Competence Committee.

Each member is randomly selected for review and/or audit, but should expect to be reviewed once every three years.

We encourage members to utilize the CCP workbook/worksheets available online and to keep these in the case of an audit. Please review the information posted on the members section, on the **Continuing Competence Program** page on the left side, for more information on the program and submissions.

If at any time you have questions about completing the online aspects of the CCP, about verifying completed activities, or any other questions about the Continuing Competence Program of the College, please do not hesitate to contact Shannon Mackenzie, RD, Director of Professional Practice.

New Resources on Member Website

The College has posted the following resource on the members section of the College website:

Guidelines for Self-Employed Dietitians and Nutritionists:

To assist members who are thinking about going into Private Practice, the College has developed a resource entitled *Guidelines for Self-Employed Dietitians and Nutritionists*. The document is intended as a starting point with considerations for entering private practice. This document has been added to the Resource section of the members section of the College website for your reference.

Events & Employment Information: The College posts current events and job postings on the members section of the College website. Please logon to the members section and click on the **Events & Employment Information** page on the left side to view current opportunities. The College encourages you to check back frequently for any updates.

Learning Centre: The College posts Nutrition Resources for Dietitians on the members section of the College website. Please logon to the members section and click on the **Learning Centre** page on the left side to view current resources.

- Dysphagia Learning Opportunities – Dietitians of Canada
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Complaint Summary

The College of Dietitians of Alberta received a complaint with regards to regulated member #1627 in June 2015. The complaint was investigated by the College and proceeded to a Hearing Tribunal in early 2016.

The charges against the member were unprofessional conduct based on the following allegations: the member failed to provide adequate, or any care to a client, transferred to the member's care; the member failed to adequately address one or more referrals for nutrition clients, or to document adequate reasons for the member's failure to do so, or both; and, failed to conduct an adequate assessment, or intervention, or both for a client.

Following the Hearing Tribunal a written decision was rendered in May 2016. Member #1627 was found guilty of unprofessional conduct concerning the three charges outlined in the Statement of Allegations.

In the Hearing Tribunal's Penalty Decision rendered in September 2016, the Tribunal ordered the member's practice permit be suspended until they have provided the Complaints Director, within 3 years and 6 months of the decision on sanction: evidence they have completed the

College competency assessment and any and all components of the Alberta Internationally Educated Dietitian Bridging Program; and, successfully completed a university-level professional ethics course. Upon successful completion of the preceding sanctions and reinstatement of practice permit, the member shall be subject to a condition of supervision under a practice supervisor equivalent to one year of full time work, to be completed no later than 5 years after the decision on sanction. Lastly, the member shall be responsible for paying 75% of the costs of the hearing in this matter.

Contact the College:

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