

COLLEGE

Briefings

Spring 2015

College Office Move

The College of Dietitians of Alberta office is moving! Our new mailing address will be:

College of Dietitians of Alberta
1320-10123 99 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3H1

In August of this year, the lease for the College office is expiring. In deciding whether to renew our lease and stay in our current office or to explore relocating, we needed to consider present and future needs for the College. In the ten years the College has been in its current location, our membership has grown by over 35%. In that time, College membership has grown significantly from 777 to over 1,200 members currently. With increased membership comes increased work load and to this end, the College has added a new staff member to assist in fulfilling our mandate.

Looking to the future for the College, there were deficiencies in our current office, most notably the lack of space for a proper boardroom and a dedicated reception area. In exploring options for a new office space we were fortunate to find a location that is actually smaller than our existing office but is configured in such a way as to provide a boardroom capable of hosting Council meetings in house as well as a dedicated reception area to better serve our members and stakeholders. We were also able to take advantage of aggressive lease rates in anticipation of the looming supply of new office space downtown. We found this to make sound economic sense while still maintaining accessibility for the public and members by remaining centralized in downtown.

The official move date for the College office will be Monday, June 22. We will begin transferring our communication and I.T. services on Friday, June 19. Please be advised that the College will have limited communications on Friday, June 19, Monday, June 22 and Tuesday, June 23. The College of Dietitians of Alberta website will be temporarily down on Tuesday, June 23. We intend to have all services, including phone and email, back up by Wednesday, June 24 and we will respond to all messages at that time.

If you have any questions, please [contact the College office](#) prior to the office move or afterwards.

Welcome to Chelsey

The College would like to introduce Chelsey Capri, Administrative Assistant and Continuing Competence Coordinator. Chelsey joined the College staff in March and is looking forward to working with members throughout the year.

Judgement in Legal Action (RHN)

In December 2013, the College of Dietitians of Alberta notified members that we were taking steps to have the Federal Courts expunge the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition's federal trademark title registrations. The College argued that the trademark registrations were invalid. Professional titles are hallmarks of a professional's qualifications to offer safe and effective health services and the College will do what is necessary to protect the public and ensure the public can rely on professional titles when they see them.

The Canadian School of Natural Nutrition (CSNN) had registered the marks and purported to license them to their graduates so they could advertise using terms such as R.H.N. and Registered Holistic Nutritionist. Despite several letters from the College to both the CSNN and its graduates in Alberta requesting they cease and desist from using such titles contrary to the *Alberta Health Professions Act*, they continued to rely on the registrations under the Trademarks Act as authority to use these titles and in doing so created confusion amongst the general public about who is a regulated nutrition professional and further, confusion over which practitioners' services are covered under extended health insurance plans.

In December 2014, the College's legal counsel appeared in Federal Court to seek to expunge marks registered by the Canadian School of Natural Nutrition under the federal *Trademarks Act*.

In April 2015, the College received judgement in our legal case against CSNN. The College was successful in having all marks expunged. The result of this is that the College and all of its counterparts in other provinces can enforce restricted title provisions under their provincial legislation. The College will monitor the changing of titles used but we also encourage all members to [contact the College office](#) should you come across any individuals misusing protected titles.

Registration Update

The College thanks all members for submitting their registration and CCP on time, bringing to a close our sixth year with online registration renewal. The College reminds all members that practice permits and official tax receipts are available on the Online Profile under "Permits & Receipts". The College archives previous year's permits and receipts.

As of April 1, 2015, the College of Dietitians of Alberta had 1,160 members complete their registration renewal. The College also had 34 members on the Temporary Register for a total of 1,194 registered members.

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 address, employment information or name changes. You may update your contact information online by logging onto the Online Profile link found on the members section of the College website. Please [contact the College office](#) for information on changing your name.

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.

CCP Review and Audit

Now that renewal is behind us, it's time for the annual Continuing Competence Program review and audit process to begin. Remember that every member should expect to have their CCP submissions reviewed a minimum of once every three years and that a portion of those members reviewed will be asked to submit documentation as part of an audit.

The CCP audit involves submitting supporting evidence of your participation in the Continuing Competence Program including verification of activities completed. The audit also includes a mandatory review of liability insurance coverage, confirmation of which must be submitted as part of the audit documentation. Those members selected for CCP audit for 2014/2015 were contacted by mail in April outlining audit submission requirements. The review and audit process will be completed over the summer months; those who have been selected can expect to receive feedback from the College by the end of August, 2015.

Please note all members are eligible for random selection at any time.

New Resources on Member Website

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

Nutrigenomics:

In response to questions and comments from members related to the emerging field of nutrigenomics, and specifically to the topics of ethics and privacy, the College has developed a resource entitled *Nutrigenomics in Dietetic Practice: College of Dietitians of Alberta Position Statement*. This document has been added to the Resource section of the members website for your interest.

Contact the College:

1320, 10123 99 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3H1

Phone: (780) 448-0059
Toll Free: 1 (866) 493-4348
Fax: (780) 489-7759
Email: office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca