

COLLEGE

Briefings

February 2021 Edition

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College Office

The College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA) continues to operate a virtual office with the ability to take appointments at the physical office as necessary.

- The College is accessible by phone or email each weekday (Monday-Friday) from 9:00am to 4:00pm. If we are unable to assist you when you call the main office number 780-448-0059, please leave a message or send an email. We will address all questions or requests as soon as we can. We thank you for your patience.
- The College office location in downtown Edmonton is open **by appointment only** on Tuesdays and Thursdays, until further notice.
- Please contact Lisa Omerzu to discuss options for mail/delivery.

For General Inquiries & Registration Questions, please contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator at execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca

For Practice Questions & Continuing Competence Questions, please contact Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice at ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca

For Complaints & Concerns, please contact Doug Cook, Executive Director & Registrar at registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca

Making sure you receive CDA emails

The College office primarily communicates with regulated members through email and through information provided on the College website. To ensure that you are receiving all important communications from the College office in a timely manner, please ensure that you have added **CDA Administration** (office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca) to your safe sender list or address book.

You may be able to complete this process on your own through your email account or, should you have an email address tied to an organization, you may need to contact your I.T. department to ask them to put the College email on your "whitelist", "safe" or permitted email sender list.

What is a "Whitelist" or "Safe Senders List"?

Adding our sending domain (collegeofdietitians.ab.ca) to your list of accepted email senders (often referred to as a "whitelist", "safe list", or "list of privileged senders") will ensure that you receive College communications from all College email addresses.

Failure to receive emails from the College does not excuse missed deadlines or requirements for maintaining your registration.

Registration Renewal 2021

All regulated members on the General Register will be required to complete the annual registration renewal process in March 2021.

- If you intend to renew your registration with the College for 2021/2022, you will be required to Apply for Registration to the General Register (renewal). Completion of the Profile Update, Continuing Competence Program and Renewal Form will be required before submission of the practice permit fee (\$598.50).
- If you wish to resign your registration in good standing effective April 1, 2021, you will be required to Apply for Registration to the Inactive Register (resignation). Completion of the Profile Update and Resignation Form (along with upload of resignation letter) will be required before submission and approval.

The College emailed all regulated members on the General Register on February 22, 2021 with further information on completing registration renewal. If you have any registration questions in the meantime, please contact Lisa Omerzu at 780-448-0059 or execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca.

Contacting the College Office

The College continues to operate a virtual office and will do so throughout the registration renewal period. We ask that if you need to contact the College with questions or any issues that may arise, please do so by phone or email. Please leave a message if we are unable to answer your call and we will respond by phone or email as soon as possible. We thank you for your patience as we continue to operate a virtual office.

To ensure a timely response, please contact the appropriate individual directly to assist you:

For any registration questions or issues including with the online registration portal, please contact Lisa Omerzu, Registration Coordinator by phone at 780-448-0059 or email at execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca.

For any Continuing Competence Program or practice related questions, please contact Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice directly by phone at 403-669-7435 or email at ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca.

Continuing Competence Program (CCP)

Registration renewal is upon us in March, and with renewal comes completion of CCP records and learning plans, including online documentation.

At this time, learning activities are now completed for 2020/2021 Learning Plans, and regulated members are reflecting on the impact of learning to overall practice. As many registrants changed positions and/or roles over the past year, learning activities may not have been traditionally dietetics related, but related to activities requiring new knowledge or skill development. In this case, regulated members will be reflecting on the impact of learning those new skills in a more general way. To help you with your reflection writing, ask yourself questions such as: *How did my new learning enhance my competence as a health professional?*, or, *How did the new activities and learning influence my thinking as a dietitian?*, or, *How am I a more well rounded professional as a result of my learning?*

Reflections are about how your own specific competence (knowledge, skills, attitudes, and/or judgments) has been enhanced over the last year as a result of your new learning. Please refer to the [Online Submissions](#) page on the College website for information on how to complete your reflection.

In preparation for registration renewal, you may wish to review your Continuing Competence Program (CCP) learning plans and complete any revisions to your submissions. You can access your online CCP by clicking on [Login for Regulated Members](#) and going to My Learning.

Resources and Information for the College's CCP can be found on the College website under [For Dietitians – Registration Renewal – Continuing Competence Program](#).

Dietetic Practice Hours declared in 2020/2021

The College has received many calls from regulated members asking what can be counted towards annual practice hours. With renewal coming up, you will recall that you are required to declare your dietetic practice hours over the past year. As you also know, in order to maintain currency to practice, 600 practice hours are required over the past three consecutive years (registration years). The College's Statement on Current Practice can be found on the website under [Regulated Member Resources](#).

Generally, any hours of work (i.e. performing tasks for pay or as a volunteer) in the areas of dietetics, food, nutrition, health, wellness, public/population health, health leadership/management, etc. are counted towards dietetic practice hours. Another way to look at it: if your status as a regulated health professional (RD) lead to you being hired in a given position, these hours count towards your declared practice hours.

This past year, many regulated members underwent job changes. Some were deployed to positions unrelated to dietetics, however, were qualified to hold those positions because of

their dietetics/RD background and related knowledge and skills. Some were hired into positions as contact tracers, and some were hired to perform throat and/or nasal swabbing for COVID-19 testing. Regardless, hours accrued for any of these positions within the healthcare system will count towards practice hours.

As noted in the above article regarding CCP, these hours of work and the learning you have undertaken to perform the work, enhance your competence as a regulated health professional.

For any practice related questions including practice hours, please contact Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice directly by phone at 403-669-7435 or email at ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca.

IMPORTANT DEADLINES for Learning Module Requirements

March 2021: Jurisprudence Learning Module

Prior to Registration Renewal in March 2021, regulated members should confirm whether the Jurisprudence Learning Module will be a requirement for continued registration. All regulated members are required to complete the module every 5 years therefore, you can determine when you will be required to complete the learning module by adding 5 years to the date of your last Jurisprudence record (found under My Exams).

For regulated members who are required to complete the Jurisprudence Learning Module, when you login to the registrant database (<https://cdav6.alinityapp.com>) on the Home Page under My Exams, you should see a Jurisprudence Learning Module exam with “Available” beside it. It is the responsibility of each regulated member to ensure that you are completing the requirement when available; you will not receive an individual notification for completion. If you do not see an available exam record, you may not be required to complete the learning module at this time.

Further information on the Jurisprudence Learning Module can be found on the College website under the [For Dietitians section](#).

Ministerial Order: Nasopharyngeal Swabs

In conjunction with the Ministerial Order, the College Council has approved regulated members to administer nasopharyngeal swabs for the purpose of COVID testing, as long as training and competence have been met. Regulated members may contact the College office by email at execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca to request the required forms for authorization to perform nasopharyngeal swabbing for the purposes of COVID-19 testing in Alberta. Regulated members must submit the “Notification and Supervision Consent Form” prior to beginning training, and submit the “Completion of Nasopharyngeal Swabbing Training Form” at the conclusion of training, in order to receive authorization by the College.

Regulated members with the restricted activity of Nasopharyngeal Swabbing will not be required to submit a Continuing Competence Program learning plan during registration renewal 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the Ministerial Order, please contact Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice by email at ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca or by phone at 403-669-7435.

Council 2021

The Alberta government introduced legislation last year that mandates regulatory colleges have at least 50% public members, effective April 1, 2021. This is a change from the current requirement of 25% public members. This is also a change in model, going from self-regulation to a model of co-regulation, giving the public a stronger voice in health regulation. Moving forward from April 1, all council committees and hearing tribunals will also be required to have a minimum of 50% public members.

In anticipation of this change, the College Council made the decision to downsize council from 12 to 10 council directors; five professional members and five public members appointed by government. To achieve this, three members of council will be stepping down early to accommodate the incoming public members and to achieve the 50/50 balance.

Council would like to thank Robin Anderson, Anna Farmer and Shannon Rendall for their service to the College as professional members of council.

As of April 1, 2021, the Council of the College of Dietitians of Alberta will be:

- Jillyan Jay, RD (Chair)
- Kathryn Taxbock, RD (Chair-Elect)
- Kenton Delisle, RD
- Kelly Anne Erdman, RD
- Raelyn Baker, RD
- Geoff Rabbie (Public Member)
- Julie Davis (Public Member)
- 3 Public Members to be appointed by government

Bill 46: Health Statutes Amendment Act (2020)

In the Fall of 2020, the Alberta government introduced *Bill 46: Health Statutes Amendment Act*. Bill 46 is the largest change to the *Health Professions Act (HPA)* since its introduction in 1999. Some of the changes include separation of colleges and associations for combined organizations, a review and change in legislation for Restricted Activities. A major change will be moving items from the HPA to the College's *Standards of Practice* and to *Bylaws*, requiring revision of these guiding documents.

These changes will allow colleges to be nimbler in carrying out their public protection mandate. Regulated members will not be affected in their daily practice by these changes. However, the College will have significant work to do in complying with the new legislative changes and regulated members will be kept informed.

Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP)

Call for Applications: PDEP Accreditation Council Deadline March 19, 2021

The complete Call for Applications is available on the College website under [For Dietitians – Regulated Member Resources – Volunteer Opportunities](#).

The Partnership for Dietetics Education and Practice (PDEP) is seeking applications from volunteers wishing to serve on the PDEP Accreditation Council for a three-year term (beginning October 2021, renewable once). We are seeking one Dietitians of Canada Representative and one Recent Graduate Representative.

Please use the application form to express your interest in serving on the Council, and the experience and assets you bring to the role. The application form is available on the PDEP website www.pdep.ca and can also be accessed by [Clicking Here](#). The application form may be completed in French if desired and the form is available by [Clicking Here](#).

Please email your application to secretariat@pdep.ca by Friday, March 19, 2021.

Opportunities for Dietitians

The College posts events and opportunities on the website, under [News & Events](#). Please check back often for new postings and any updates.

- AgeCare SE Calgary, AB - Dietitian - Regular part time (0.60 FTE)
- Essence Wellness Clinic is a multi-disciplinary clinic in Calgary

Ensuring your Profile is Current

The College reminds all Dietitians that as regulated professionals, you have a duty to update your profile within 30 days of any change in the information required for the College's Register. This includes changes to your legal name, contact information (phone and email), mailing address, and employment information. You may update your profile information online by logging onto the [Login for Regulated Members](#) to complete a Profile Update.

If any information found on the [Public Register](#) is inaccurate or incomplete, please [contact the College office](#) to request a correction.

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COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS
OF ALBERTA

The College of Dietitians of Alberta office is located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.