

COLLEGE

Briefings

Fall 2024 Edition

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College Update on Mandatory Requirement for Professional Liability Insurance

As you are likely aware, it is mandatory under Alberta legislation for any practicing Registered Dietitian or Registered Nutritionist to carry Professional Liability Insurance (PLI). In many cases, Registered Dietitians have coverage through their employers, i.e., employer-provided PLI. Recently, all health professions received a communication from the Minister of Health directing colleges to ensure their regulated members carry the appropriate PLI.

In many cases, employer-provided liability insurance does not cover the practitioner for discipline actions arising from complaints, including legal expenses or criminal defense reimbursement. This means many would not have any coverage related to discipline actions brought forward by colleges. This is a large gap in coverage that health practitioners may not be aware of.

Beginning April 1, 2025, all regulated members of the College of Dietitians of Alberta will be required to carry third-party Professional Liability Insurance of at least \$2 million per occurrence, regardless of the fact they may have employer-provided coverage. We understand this is an added cost to you, but it is also necessary to ensure you have the proper insurance coverage and are covered for discipline actions from complaints.

The College is working to explore additional insurance providers and to ensure the cost of PLI is reasonable. We will communicate with regulated members as we move forward.

In the meantime, please refer to the College Website, under [For Dietitians – Liability Insurance](#), for more information on the requirement for Professional Liability Insurance.

Legal and Preferred Name with the College

The College receives several calls and emails regarding legal and preferred names with the College. Under provincial health legislation, the College is required to have a registrant's full legal name on our practice register. This is the name that appears on legal documents such as a birth certificate, driver's license, or passport. The College reports full legal names on practice permits and on the Public Register.

A preferred name is a name that is commonly used which may be different from a legal name; it is what an individual wants to be called. This may be the name that a registrant uses when providing services to the public. Regulated members and applicants to the College can include a preferred name as part of their Profile though disclosing a preferred name to the College is optional.

As part of the College's responsibility for transparency with the public, preferred names are now included in the name displayed on practice permits and on the Public Register. For registrants who have chosen to disclose their preferred name on their profile, the preferred name will appear in brackets after their full legal name. This allows the public to have complete name information from a dietitian they are receiving services from, allowing them to confirm the dietitian is a regulated member of the College. And with the reliance on electronic patient information and therefore the critical importance of ensuring patient information is shared within the confines of privacy requirements, this allows other regulated health professionals or colleagues to ensure they are sharing sensitive information with the correct individual (by having their full legal and preferred names available).

Registrant information must be provided by the College to Alberta Health as part of a Provincial Provider Registry. Consumers of this information, such as Connect Care or Alberta Health Services, get their information from the Provider Registry. Therefore, you may notice that Connect Care is now displaying full legal name along with preferred name for all registrants, but it is displayed together with no emphasis made between legal and preferred name. The College does not have the ability to manage how the data is utilized and displayed in external systems (Provider Registry, Connect Care, etc.) but we have been in touch with the Provider Registry to discuss how the data is shared. We ask for patience as options are considered by external systems.

Should you wish to include a preferred name on your profile, you will need to logon to the Registrant Portal and complete a Profile Update. There will be a text box for you to enter your preferred name.

If you do not wish to have a preferred name disclosed on your practice permit, the Public Register, or within external systems, you can remove the preferred name from your profile with the College. Currently, this is the only means of removing preferred names from public display.

If you require changes to your legal name (first name, middle names, last name, or to reflect preferred name), you must legally change your name before requesting a name change with the College. No name changes will be completed without required official documentation, government issued photo identification, that reflects the name change. The name change request and supporting document is subject to review and approval by the College.

If you have any questions or concerns, please [contact the College office](#).

College Council effective September 12, 2024

The College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to introduce the 2024/2025 Council which consists of regulated members and public members. Council photos can be viewed on the College website under [Regulated Member Resources](#), Important Regulated Member Resources.

Laura White, Councillor, Chair
Allison Fielding, Councillor, Past-Chair
Caroline McAuley, Councillor, Chair-Elect
Kally Cheung, Councillor
Stephanie Moriartey, Councillor
Cindy Amerongen, Public Member
Louise Mosier, Public Member
Alexander Phung, Public Member
Geoff Rabbie, Public Member

Annual Report 2023

The College has posted the Annual Report for 2023/2024 online. Click here to access the report (under [About Us – Annual Reports](#)).

Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Audit 2024 Completed

The College's Continuing Competence Program (CCP) audit process began in April 2024 and wrapped up this summer. Further information on the Continuing Competence Program, including information to assist you in completing the program requirements throughout the year, can be found in the Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Manual, available on the College website under [Continuing Competence Program](#).

Reconciliation Learning Resources for Dietitians

Each year, the College recognizes September 30 as a day for Truth and Reconciliation. On September 23, 2024, the College emailed all regulated members regarding Reconciliation, including reference to several online courses that the College has identified for dietitians and nutritionists to refer to in their own reflection and learning.

The College encourages all regulated members to refer to our website [About Us – Reconciliation](#), to review the list of Learning Resources for Dietitians.

Hearing Tribunal Decision

The College of Dietitians of Alberta held a Hearing Tribunal in October 2024. The decision of the hearing tribunal is available on the College website under [Complaints – Hearing Notices and Decisions](#).

New FREE Palliative Care Interprofessional Education: PalliPro

The Palliative Institute has released new free online education for all Health Care Professionals to enhance their skills, knowledge, and attitudes on providing palliative care called PalliPro. Designed in collaboration with Alberta experts for all members of the interdisciplinary team, the educational suite contains modules that include game-based interactive scenarios teaching how to provide excellent palliative care. For more information go to the **Palliative Institute webpage on covenanthealth.ca** (<https://covenanthealth.ca/about/centres-and-institutes/palliative-institute/resources/healthcare-providers>)

Contacting the College Office

The College office hours are Monday-Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm. College staff are available by phone or email during regular business hours. If we are unable to assist you when you call the office, please leave a message, or send an email. We will address all questions or requests as soon as possible.

The College office is open by appointment only. Please call the College office at 780-448-0059 or send an email to office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca to schedule an appointment. The College may have limitations in place for the health and safety of any visitors and the College staff.

Doug Cook, Registrar & Executive Director (*he/him*)

Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator (*she/her*)

Shannon Eklund, Director of Professional Practice (*she/her*)

College's Registrant Portal

Resources for Regulated Members

The College has a variety of resources available for regulated members to refer to when using the Registrant Portal, including a Guide for Using the Registrant Portal, Demo Videos for the Registrant Portal, Help sections throughout the Online Forms, and the Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Manual. The resources can be found under [For Dietitians – Regulated Member Resources, Registrant Portal Resources](#).

Ensuring Your Profile is Current

All Dietitians, as regulated professionals, have a duty to ensure their profile information with the College is updated 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 should update your profile information online by logging onto the [Registrant Portal](#) to complete a Profile Update.

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

(see next page)

Two-Factor-Authentication Security

Two-Factor-Authentication is well established as an essential component of security best practices. The College of Dietitians of Alberta is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your personal information. The College's [Registrant Portal](#) requires Two-Factor-Authentication for each user. For information on this process and how to complete the steps to validate your browser, please refer to the **Guide for Using the Registrant Portal** found online under [Regulated Member Resources](#).

Ensuring you Receive CDA Emails

To ensure you receive all important communications from the College office in a timely manner, please add **CDA Administration (office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)** to your safe sender list or address book.

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.

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Email: office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca Website: www.collegeofdietitians.ab.ca



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.