

Fall 2025 Edition

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#### Introducing Kyle Duplessis, Executive Director & Registrar of the College

I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new Executive Director and Registrar of the College of Dietitians of Alberta. You may be wondering a bit about who I am and how I came to join the College.

I began my career as an occupational therapist, working primarily in burns and plastics at the University of Alberta Hospital. Since moving away from direct clinical practice, I've had the opportunity to serve in a variety of roles in health policy and regulation in Alberta, including with Alberta Health (now Primary and Preventative Health Services) and the College of Registered Nurses of Alberta. These experiences have given me a strong appreciation for the value of clear, fair, and transparent regulatory processes. Public trust depends on them.

As I step into this role, I want to take a moment to recognize Doug Cook for his many years of leadership. Doug has guided the College through significant change and helped build a strong foundation for the future. His work has ensured that the College remains focused on its core mandate: protecting the public by ensuring dietitians provide safe, competent, and ethical care.

Looking ahead, my priority is to maintain that focus while ensuring our regulatory processes continue to evolve alongside Alberta's health system. Dietitians play a vital role in delivering evidence-based nutrition care, and the College's responsibility is to ensure Albertans can trust that care. This means continuing to uphold high standards for registration, competence, and professional conduct, while also seeking opportunities to improve efficiency and transparency.

I look forward to connecting with you in the months ahead. Thank you for your ongoing commitment to safe and ethical practice. It is the foundation of the trust Albertans place in the profession every day.

#### **Kyle Duplessis**

Executive Director & Registrar

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## **College Council effective September 11, 2025**

The College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to introduce the 2025/2026 Council which consists of regulated members and public members. Council photos and biographies can be viewed on the College website under About Us – Organizational Chart – Council.

Allison Fielding, Councillor, Chair Stephanie McAuley, Councillor, Chair-Elect Laura White, Councillor, Past-Chair Kally Cheung, Councillor Caroline McAuley, Councillor Cindy Amerongen, Public Member Karl Hauch, Public Member Louise Mosier, Public Member

# **Professional Practice Update**

The College provides professional practice updates to regulated members on the following:

- RDs Now Recognized as Alberta Blue Cross Prescribers
  - In March 2025, a Pharmacy Benefact was sent to pharmacists stating Registered Dietitians (RDs) are now eligible prescribers of infant formulas and nutritional products on the Alberta Drug Benefit List and Alberta Human Services Drug Benefit Supplement. RDs are now able to prescribe these products to support more timely, efficient, and cost-effective care for clients and patients. Click here for the announcement.
- Publication Spotlight: The Use of Digital Health Applications by Registered Dietitians in Alberta

This <u>study</u> highlights how Alberta dietitians are integrating digital health apps into practice. Of 290 survey respondents, nearly 75% use apps and over 84% recommend them to patients. While apps support nutrition care, barriers like patient tech confidence and uncertainty around app selection remain. The study calls for evidence-based, secure, and user-friendly tools tailored to dietetic needs.

The publication also emphasizes the value of collaboration among dietitians, developers, and health organizations to improve app effectiveness and accessibility.

Thank you to the College of Dietitians of Alberta regulated members who participated. Your input is shaping the future of dietetic care.

## Continuing Competence Program (CCP) Audit 2025 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.

(see next page)

During this past year's audit, the College noted many learning goals that did not specify plans for learning. As regulated members may now be refining their goals for the 2025/2026 registration year, the College suggests identifying an indicator that you would like to enhance knowledge/skill on, and then writing a *learning goal*, indicating what you want to learn about that indicator.

Note that many goals last year were written about mandatory work training, a job "task", and/or were not related to dietetics. These do not meet the criteria as appropriate goals.

Here is an example of how to write an appropriate learning goal based on Standard 9, indicator e:

Standard 9. Evidence-Informed Practice

e) Contribute to new knowledge, by participating in data collection and practice-based research as feasible, conforming to applicable research ethics guidelines and processes.

**Inappropriate learning goal**: this year I want to complete a research project looking at dietitians' expertise in insulin management.

**Inappropriate learning goal**: this year I want to publish my paper on RDs and insulin management.

Appropriate learning goal: I want to learn about the ethics approval process as I design my study on RDs and insulin management.

**Appropriate learning goal**: I want to learn about questionnaire design and development to enhance my upcoming project on RDs and insulin management.

**Appropriate learning goal:** I want to learn more about writing for publication related to my study on RDs and insulin management.

Please refer to the CCP Manual available online, to assist you further in setting appropriate learning goals. If you have any questions, please contact Shannon Eklund, Director of Professional Practice at ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca, or 780-448-0059.

### **Call for Applications: 2025 CDRE French Translation Committee**

The Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (the Alliance) is the group of dietetic regulators from across Canada. In a consistent national approach, the Alliance members work together to support the regulatory mandate of each provincial jurisdiction to protect the public interest. The Alliance administers the Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE) and is seeking volunteers to serve on the French Translation Committee.

Currently, the Alliance is recruiting dietitians who practice population health promotion in the French language. Those with experience working with marginalized populations and knowledge of cultural safety and humility would also be helpful to support the committees' work.

More information on the volunteer position and the application form (in English and French) is available on the College website under <u>For Dietitians – Regulated Member Resources – Volunteer Opportunities</u>. Please use the application form to express your interest in serving on the committee, and the experience and assets you bring to the role.

Please email your application to <a href="mailto:cdre.manager@dieteticregulators.ca">cdre.manager@dieteticregulators.ca</a> by September 29, 2025.

## **Registration Updates**

#### **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, employment information, and insurance 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 <u>Public Register</u> or <u>Find a Dietitian Directory</u> is inaccurate or incomplete, please contact the <u>College office</u> to request a correction.

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

#### **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 <a href="mailto:office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca">office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca</a> to schedule an appointment. The College may have limitations in place for the health and safety of any visitors and the College staff.

Kyle Duplessis, Executive Director & Registrar (he/him)
Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator (she/her)
Shannon Eklund, Director of Professional Practice (she/her)

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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.