



PDEP - PFPN

Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice

Partenariat pour la formation et la pratique en nutrition

PDEP Media Release November 2010

The Federal Government Supports the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) Integrated Practice Competencies Project

On Friday November 5, 2010, Senator Linda Frum, on behalf of the Honourable Diane Finley, Minister of Human Resources and Skills Development, announced Labour Mobility funding to the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) of over \$360,000 to support the Integrated Practice Competencies Project. The grant was effective September 23, 2010. The funding PDEP will receive will support the creation of a standardized assessment process across Canada for dietitians at entry to practice.

Doug Cook, Registrar of the College of Dietitians of Alberta and PDEP Co-Chair suggested that "This work will set clear examples for regulators across Canada which will be used to determine safe, effective and ethical dietetic practice. Through this project regulators will continue to ensure that Canadians receive dietetic services from competent professionals."

Melanie Morris, Associate Director of the Masters of Public Health program in Community Nutrition at the University of Toronto, and PDEP Co-Chair stated that this project will help educators across the country design and implement academic and practical training programs that support both learners and educators.

Marlene Wyatt, Director of Professional Standards for Dietitians of Canada, and PDEP Co-Chair said, "This project will help Canadians understand the breadth and depth of dietitians' preparation for practice. Dietitians work in a variety of practice settings and roles spanning nutrition care, health promotion and management. Our goal is to provide better access for Canadians to qualified professionals."

This project represents a unique collaboration between dietetic regulatory bodies, educators and the professional association to address issues of common concern to dietetic education and practice. Senator Frum noted that by harmonizing entry-to practice competency requirements across the country, dietitians can access job opportunities from coast to coast without the need for re-certification, which will go a long way to making full labour mobility a reality for dietitians. "It benefits workers and employers alike," Senator Frum remarked. "Workers have a wider range of opportunities and employers have a larger and richer pool of qualified candidates."

In her speech, Senator Frum noted our government is taking concrete action to make full labour mobility a reality for professions and stated that "Labour mobility will help ensure that Canada has a prosperous and competitive economy and improve the standard of living of all Canadians."

For more information about this exciting funding award, see www.pdep.ca