

COLLEGE

Briefings

Fall 2019

NEW Update Coming to the Login for Regulated Members

Over the past year, the College has been working with our current registrant database provider, Alinity, to upgrade the current system to make it more user-friendly, responsive and to include more features for regulated members and applicants.

The College is working to have the new database available to all regulated members in November. **Prior to launch, there will be a period of time where the current system will be unavailable as we convert over to the upgraded system.** During this time, if you require access to any information found within your online profile, or you have any updates to make to your profile information, please contact the College office by phone at 780-448-0059 or by email at office@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca.

The College office will contact all regulated members by email when the new database is available. We will provide you with your new login credentials at that time along with a guide for the new registrant database.

Stay tuned for more information!

Contents

NEW Update Coming to the Login for Regulated Members

Important Information for Regulated Members on Professional Liability Insurance and Employer Provided Insurance

Vaccine Hesitancy

Alberta Government Announces Fair Registration Practices Act

College Statement on Cannabis and RD Practice

College Webinar Documents on Bill 21

Annual Report, Council and Recognition

2018/2019 CCP Review & Audit Update

News & Events

Important Information for Regulated Members on Professional Liability Insurance and Employer Provided Insurance

All regulated members of the College of Dietitians of Alberta are required to carry Professional Liability Insurance. Many Dietitians have employer provided liability insurance such as is provided by Alberta Health Services.

Recently, Alberta Health Services (AHS) provided employees with information on their employer provided liability insurance. In their presentation, AHS informed employees there may be exclusions to coverage for AHS employees and those exclusions may include:

- Representation for Regulatory/College complaints;
- Representation or indemnity for intentional acts of wrongdoing (i.e., privacy breaches)
- Representation and/or indemnity for activities outside scope of employment.

These are very important points to understand as these exclusions mean you may not have the coverage or protection you think you have. This also brings up the issue of employer provided insurance in general and what coverage it offers those employees who rely solely on employer provided insurance for protection.

It is important to understand that if you are part of a complaint to AHS or any employer, based in part on your conduct, and are terminated, suspended or you resign, the employer must notify the College's complaints director in compliance with the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*. The complaints director may treat the information, notice or non-compliance as a complaint and act on it under the *HPA*. Your employer provided insurance would not cover you for legal representation and/or possible indemnity (damages arising from your actions).

The College strongly encourages you to hold personal Professional Liability Insurance (PLI). This may be in addition to your employer's insurance and the reasons for this include:

- Employer policies do not always cover expenses such as legal defense or indemnity for damages in professional disciplinary matters.
- An employer's insurance company may sue you for reimbursement of any money they paid out as a result of your actions.
- Your personal PLI also follows you if you work at multiple sites with more than one employer.
- When you retire or leave employment, personal PLI covers you for a period of time during which patients/clients may still bring a claim against you.

- Your employer insurance may not cover you for any advice or volunteer work you do outside of your regular work hours.

If you are a member of Dietitians of Canada (DC), you are able to purchase third party liability insurance through your membership. You may also purchase liability insurance from Sheppard Insurance at a reasonable price. Information on liability insurance and purchasing through Sheppard Insurance can be found on the College website, under [For Dietitians – Liability Insurance](#).

Vaccine Hesitancy

Vaccine hesitancy is described as a delay in acceptance or refusal to vaccinate, despite the availability of vaccination services. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), vaccine hesitancy is now one of the top 10 threats to global health, despite robust evidence showing the effectiveness and safety of vaccines. The WHO also acknowledges that health care professionals are among the most trusted sources of information when parents make decisions regarding vaccination.

Although discussing vaccinations with patients is not generally within the “scope of practice” of dietitians, dietitians should refer patients/clients to the appropriate healthcare provider to discuss and answer their questions on vaccination. Dietitians must not promote anti-vaccination messages or alternative therapies, and must not provide vaccination information, opinions or advice in general. Dietitians may direct patients/clients to credible and reliable sources of information, and to physicians and other healthcare providers with the expertise to answer their questions.

For the most up to date science-based information regarding vaccinations in Canada, the following national resources and links are recommended:

- [Government of Canada, Vaccines and Immunization](#)
 - [Immunize Canada](#)
 - [Canadian Paediatric Society](#)
 - [Provincial and territorial ministries of health](#)
 - [Canadian Vaccination Evidence Resource and Exchange Centre \(CANVax\)](#)
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Alberta Government announces Fair Registration Practices Act

In June 2019, the Government of Alberta introduced *Bill 11: Fair Registration Practices Act*, in the Legislature. According to the government, the proposed legislation will:

- create a Fair Registration Practices Office;
- remove any unfair barriers to licensure;
- improve procedural fairness of licensure processes;
- require interim assessment decisions within six months;
- have regulatory bodies provide reports on their registration practices as requested; and;
- allow the Minister to perform audits and issue compliance orders, if necessary.

The Fair Registration Practices Office will not review individual cases.

The College of Dietitians of Alberta will be subject to the provisions of the *Fair Registration Practice Act*. The College is confident that its registration requirements already meet the spirit and intent of the legislation but will work with government to continuously improve processes.

College Statement on Cannabis and Registered Dietitian Practice

Despite recent changes to the legalization of recreational cannabis use, no changes to provincial legislation or dietetic regulations have been made that would impact the Registered Dietitian role regarding advice to clients on cannabis consumption. For the College's complete statement, please read the "College Statement on Cannabis and Registered Dietitian Practice" found on the College website under [Regulated Member Resources](#).

College Webinar Documents from "Update to Bill 21: An Act to Protect Patients"

On June 10, the College hosted a webinar providing an update to *Bill 21: An Act to Protect Patients*. If you were unable to join us for the live presentation, or you wish to view the webinar again, you can access the webinar link, copies of the webinar slides as well as a FAQ document containing the questions received during the webinar, posted on the College website under [Regulated Member Resources](#).

All regulated members of the College are required to be aware of the legislation changes and how it affects their practice. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the College office.

Under Bill 21, all College Council, staff and regulated members are required to complete mandatory training. The learning modules are currently in development; the College office will contact all regulated members in December with further information.

Annual Report, Council and Recognition

Annual Report 2018

The College has posted the Annual Report for 2018/2019 online. [Click here](#) to access the report (under About Us – Annual Reports).

New Council for 2019/2020

The College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to introduce the 2019/2020 Council. Council biographies can be viewed on the College website under [Regulated Member Resources](#), Important Regulated Member Resources.

Anna Farmer, President
Jillyan Jay, President-Elect
Kenton Delisle, Past-President
Robin Anderson, Councilor
Jody Brudler, Councilor
Kathryn Taxbock, Councilor

Raelyn Baker, Councilor
Shannon Rendall, Councilor
Kelly Anne Erdman, Councilor
Julie Davis, Public Member
Geoff Rabbie, Public Member

Recognition Awards for 2019

The Preceptor Recognition Award was created to recognize the excellence and dedication of preceptors in Alberta. The College is pleased to present the Preceptor Recognition Award for 2019 to Karol Sekulic, RD from Edmonton.

The Dietetic Intern Bursary Program was introduced to support current dietetic interns who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism in practice while studying dietetics at the University of Alberta with the intention of becoming a Registered Dietitian. The recipient of the Dietetic Intern Bursary for 2019 is Courtney Cox. The College wishes Courtney all the best as she embarks on her career.

The Preceptor Recognition Award and Dietetic Intern Bursary were presented at an award recipient luncheon at the College's September Council meeting.

The deadline for nominations and applications for the 2020 awards is July 1, 2020. Information and forms for the following awards can be found on the College website under [For Dietitians – Awards](#):

- Dietetic Intern Bursary Award Program
- Preceptor Recognition Award
- Citizenship Award

2018/2019 CCP Review & Audit Update

The College completed its annual CCP reviews and audits in August of this year: 360 regulated members had their online reflections reviewed and 40 had their entire program for the 2018/2019 year audited by the Continuing Competence Committee.

For more information on the College's Continuing Competence Program, please read the material posted on the College's website under [For Dietitians – Continuing Competence Program](#).

News & Events and Opportunities for Dietitians

The College has posted Fall 2019 Events on the website, under [News & Events](#). Please check back often for new postings and any updates.

- 25th Annual Western Canada Nutrition Day Conference (October 19)

The College has posted Opportunities for Dietitians on the website, under [News & Events](#). Please check back often for new postings and any updates.

- Registered Dietitian (Remote Position) - Sports Nutrition Coaching Practice with **Vera Performance**. Full posting details can be found under News & Events, including contact information to apply.

Important Notice for Regulated Members:

The College reminds regulated members that as 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 contact information (phone and email), mailing address, employment information or name changes. You may update your profile information online by logging onto the [Login for Regulated Members](#). Please contact the College office for information on legally changing your name with the College.

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