

# COLLEGE

## *Briefings*

Spring 2020 Edition

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### College Office

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College of Dietitians of Alberta (CDA) physical office is closed and we have established a virtual office. This allows us to 'stay open for business' with staff available by email or by phone during regular business hours. College office hours are 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. Please contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant to discuss options for mail/delivery.

For General Inquiries & Registration Questions, please contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator at [execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)

For Practice Questions & Continuing Competence Questions, please contact Shannon Mackenzie, Director of Professional Practice at [ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:ppc@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)

For Complaints & Concerns, please contact Doug Cook, Executive Director & Registrar at [registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)

## COVID-19 Pandemic Resources

The College has made a number of resources available to regulated members on our website. You are encouraged to review the resources, which include:

- [Message from the Registrar on COVID-19](#) (March 18, 2020)
- [Use of Personal Protective Equipment in relation to COVID-19](#) (March 23, 2020)
- [Dietitians using Virtual, electronic communications](#) (March 24, 2020)
- [Guidance on Urgent, Critical or Emergency Services](#) (March 30, 2020)
- NEW: [Information for Private Practice, and other Dietitians as applicable: Safely Returning to Practice](#) (May 1, 2020)

All resources and information from the College can be found on the College website under News & Events (<http://www.collegeofdietitians.ab.ca/a-message-from-the-registrar-on-covid-19/>).

## Bill 21: An Act to Protect Patients

The Alberta government introduced *Bill 21: An Act to Protect Patients* to amend the *Health Professions Act (HPA)*, which came into force April 1, 2019. Bill 21 speaks specifically to sexual abuse and sexual misconduct by regulated health professionals and introduced a number of new requirements for regulatory health colleges and its regulated members. The new rules ensure consistent penalties are applied to all health professionals regulated under the *Health Professions Act* for findings of sexual abuse or sexual misconduct.

### Mandatory Training Requirement

Within the Bill 21 amendments to the *HPA*, all colleges were required to establish a patient relations program that included measures for preventing and addressing sexual abuse of and sexual misconduct towards patients by regulated members through education, training and public information.

The online training program “Protecting Patients from Sexual Abuse and Misconduct” will be available shortly for all regulated members to complete. The training program consists of 3 modules:

1. An Introduction to An Act to Protect Patients
2. Preventing Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct
3. When Sexual Abuse and Sexual Misconduct Has Occurred

*(next page)*

Under legislation, the training is mandatory and must be completed by all regulated members. When the training program is available for you to complete, you will receive an email with the link and instructions for completion and providing verification of completion to the College office.

If you have any questions regarding Bill 21, please contact Doug Cook, Registrar & Executive Director by email [registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca).

If you have any questions regarding the online training program, please contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator by phone at 780-448-0059 or by email [execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:execasst@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca)



### **Jurisprudence Learning Module**

Jurisprudence is defined as the science or philosophy of law. In the context of dietetics, it is the provincial legislation in combination with the College of Dietitians of Alberta's regulations and standards of practice that govern practice in Alberta.

All regulated members are required to successfully complete the Jurisprudence Learning Module within their first year of registration with the College; thereafter, every general member is required to complete the learning module every five years to maintain registration with the College.

For College 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. 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](#).

## **Registration Renewal 2020/2021 is Complete**

The College recognizes that as the world faces this unprecedented crisis, continuity of care remains critical and therefore, registration remains essential.

The College sincerely thanks all regulated members for submitting their online registration renewal and Continuing Competence Program (CCP) on time. Practice permits and official tax receipts are available on the [Login for Regulated Members](#) under “Download Registration”. The College archives previous year’s permits and receipts.

- Regulated members are encouraged to have their practice permit available for inspection when requested by employers and the public, as required under the *Health Professions Act*.
- Official tax receipts include the breakdown of practice permit fees to include GST paid.

As we enter a new registration year, the College had 1,291 regulated members renew their registration. The College also had 35 regulated members on the Temporary Register for a total of 1,326 regulated members as of April 1, 2020.

## **CCP Review & Audit**

Continuing Competence Program (CCP) submissions were completed by all regulated members for 2019/2020. The CCP review and audit process has been deferred due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The College reminds all regulated members that:

- You are required to complete the requirements of the Continuing Competence Program for 2020/2021, including completing learning activities to achieve your learning goal, for submission during March 2021.
- You are required to retain all CCP documentation for three years, should you be asked to submit these materials to the College for review at any time. It is therefore essential that you keep accurate and complete records, including records for the 2019/2020 year.

Under the *Health Professions Act*, all regulated health colleges are required to have a Continuing Competence Program in place. It is the legislated mandate of the College to ensure regulated members maintain their professional competence related to practice. It is the professional responsibility of every regulated member to ensure that they are completing their CCP each year and are maintaining complete and accurate records.

Further information on the Continuing Competence Program, including information to assist you in completing the program requirements throughout the year, can be found on the College website under the [For Dietitians section](#).

## Merit-Based Appointments for Council

The Council of the College of Dietitians of Alberta is pleased to announce that beginning this year, the College will be moving to merit-based appointments to Council. This process will replace elections for new members of Council. The move to merit-based appointments is in keeping with governance best practices.

Why? The decision to move from elections to appointments was a serious one. Ultimately, it was based on two things. First, elections create the potential for misunderstanding, because Dietitians elected to the governing body do not serve those that elected them — they serve the public. Second, appointments based on competencies ensure that the Council is comprised of a diverse group of people with a wide range of expertise, skills, extensive knowledge and different perspectives.

With merit-based appointments, regulated members will apply to be on Council by submitting a resume/CV and letter of interest based on a call for applications. Appointments to Council will be based on an individual's competencies and experience. The College will be forwarding additional information concerning merit-based appointments to regulated members.

If you have any questions, please contact Doug Cook, Executive Director & Registrar at [registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca](mailto:registrar@collegeofdietitians.ab.ca).

## Recognition Awards for 2020

Each year, the College continues to offer awards to dietetic professionals recognizing the dedication and hard work that it takes to become a Registered Dietitian and recognizing the dedicated and passionate professionals that make up our profession.

- **Dietetic Intern Bursary Award** in support of current dietetic interns who have demonstrated exceptional professional practice while studying dietetics at the University of Alberta with the intention of becoming a Registered Dietitian.
- **Preceptor Recognition Award** recognizes excellence and dedication in precepting and mentoring.
- **Citizenship Award** recognizes a regulated member who embodies the CDA Values and Vision, and has demonstrated exemplary professionalism, leadership and citizenship in the areas of cultural humility and citizen and/or social engagement.

Information and the application/nomination forms for all awards can be found on the College website, on the [Awards page](#) under the For Dietitians section.

The deadline for applications for all three awards is on or before July 1, 2020; the awards are presented at an Award Luncheon for recipients in September.

## **CANCELLED: May 2020 Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE)**

This is a reminder for all Temporary regulated members, in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies, the body that administers the national Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE), has cancelled the May 2020 sitting of the exam. The next sitting will be in November 2020.

### **What does this mean?**

For those who currently hold Temporary registration, the College assures you that your Temporary practice permit remains active and you may continue to practice dietetics in Alberta. All Temporary registrants will be eligible for the November 2020 exam sitting, and we have extended your current Temporary practice permit to January 2021 at no additional cost, to account for this extension in the writing period.

If you have any questions regarding the CDRE, please check out our [website here](#) or contact Lisa Omerzu, Executive Assistant & Registration Coordinator at the [College office](#).

## **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.