

New Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice



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Registrar & Executive Director

The leadership of the Partnership is in the hands of a nine-person interim steering committee with three representatives from each of the three partnership sectors. I am honoured to be on this founding committee and to work with committed and creative people.

The *Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice* is a sentinel event to be celebrated.

There are times when a picture is far more effective in conveying a concept than a string of words and sentences. This diagram in many ways expresses the purpose and basic constructs of the new *Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice* (PDEP) in Canada.

- Separate and unique mandates of the three partner sectors: the dietetic regulatory bodies, dietetic educators (academic and practicum) and the professional association, Dietitians of Canada
- The focus of our new *Partnership For Dietetic Education And Practice* where our unique mandates intersect or are reliant on each other's contributions for safe, effective and high quality dietetic practice
- The equality of the three sectors that make up the new partnership



The new Partnership will work in a transparent and inclusive manner in areas of common interest and concern. Our first priority is developing an integrated set of competencies (knowledge, skill and attitudes) as a critical foundation for dietetics education, accreditation of academic and practicum programs, and the regulation of dietitians in Canada. The starting point will be a review of various sets of dietetics competencies, including the *Essential Competencies for Dietetic Practice*, *Competencies for the Entry-Level Dietitians*, and competency sets used in other jurisdictions such as the United States and Australia. There is also a commitment to build on the work of the *Pan-Canadian Task Force on Public Health Nutrition* which has examined and consulted on competencies to support enhanced nutrition practice in public health. The *Partnership For Dietetic Education And Practice* will facilitate regular review and updating of these competencies to ensure that they are current with changing practice environments and an evolving profession.

Working with delegated authority from provincial governments, dietetic regulatory bodies cannot devolve authority for establishing standards. Similarly, education programs are autonomous, taking their direction from university departments or sponsoring organizations. For this reason, the Partnership will use a consensus building approach to bring the best information, consultation and deliberations into decision-making.