

# Supporting the Public Protection Mandate



Deion Weir, RD  
President

*The College of Dietitians of Ontario is dedicated to public protection.*

*We regulate and support Registered Dietitians for the enhancement of safe, ethical and competent nutrition services in diverse practice environments.*

It is an honour for me to address you as the 2017/2018 College President. I come with four years experience as a Council member. During my tenure I have served on the Legislative Issues, Patient Relations, Quality Assurance, Audit and the Discipline/Fitness to Practice Committees and acted as the Chair of the Discipline and Fitness to Practice Committees. These experiences have heightened my insight and understanding of regulation and governance. My seven years experience as a Professional Practice Leader, coupled with over four years experience in clinical informatics has prepared me for this leadership role. I am currently employed full-time at Markham Stouffville Hospital as a professional practice leader in the Interprofessional Practice and Education Department.

One of the most gratifying things a health care professional can experience is to know that the care they have provided has made a positive impact on someone's life. This is the ultimate driver for me, whether I am providing front line patient care or I am developing policies, procedures, guidelines or programs that will aid in the delivery of excellent patient care.

Early in my career as a professional practice leader, I found that I relied heavily on the College's Practice Advisory Service to support me in developing care standards that not only affect my individual clients, but also impact other clients within the organization. I saw how effective practice standards could translate to safe, competent and ethical care. I acquired a greater understanding of how the College's mandate works to protect the public and, over time, this understanding turned into deeper interest to contribute in some way towards the mandate of public protection.

In 2010, I was elected to Council and served one term where I gained a wealth of knowledge regarding regulation and governance. I saw firsthand how decisions made by Council contributed to public protection. In my second term on Council in 2016, I felt that it was time to take on a greater responsibility supporting the public protection mandate.

This year at the hospital in my current employment, I had the opportunity to implement a feeding assistance program aimed at improving the nutritional health of our seniors. I saw that through careful planning, training and implementation, volunteers would be able to positively impact the lives of so many of our seniors. Similarly, although I may not be able to personally interact with every member of the public, I know that our decisions on Council will guide members in providing safe, competent and ethical care.

It is a privilege to serve on the Council and an even a greater privilege to be president. This is a great responsibility that I take seriously, knowing that each decision affects the public. I look forward to another productive year on Council, further serving the public interest.