

What does the College do for members?



Mary Lou Gignac, MPA
Registrar & Executive Director

Effective regulation is a win/win situation for the people of Ontario and the CDO membership.

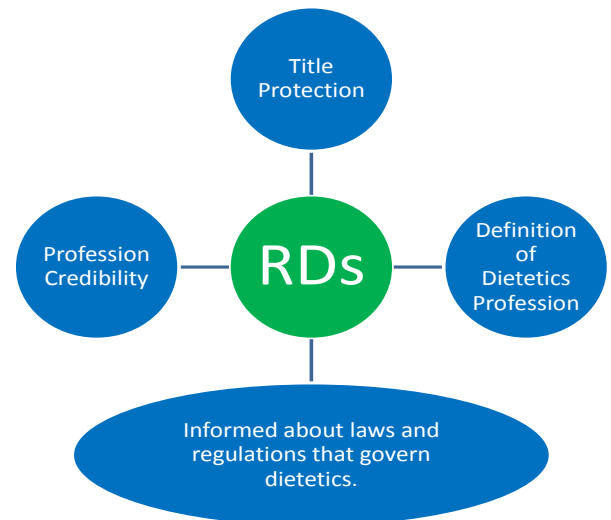
As Registrar & ED, I have often had conversations about an inherent contradiction in College work: CDO is a member driven organization. Consider that CDO is funded by members, governed by members (majority on Council and committees), dependent on member involvement, and, members are the most direct recipients of most of the College services. The contradiction is that our legal duty is to serve and protect the public interest – not to serve its members. Members pay the College to regulate the profession in the public interest. It is not at all surprising that some members ask, “What does the College do for me?”

WHAT THE COLLEGE DOES FOR MEMBERS

The principle benefits of members belonging to a regulatory health college are title protection, credibility of the profession, definition of the profession, support in learning about the laws and regulations which govern their profession.

Title Protection

The *Dietetics Act* reserves the title “dietitian” and “registered dietitian” for members of the College. This title differentiates the regulated nutrition professionals, dietitians from non-regulated providers of nutrition services. The College promotes this title to the public and handles all reports about individuals who unlawfully use the RD title. See page 12.



Credibility of the Profession through Effective Regulation & Public Education

Research shows that people recognize the concept of professional regulation and associate this with a higher standard. Through the internet, people can easily find out who is regulated and who they can trust for safe nutrition advice. RDs can join our public education efforts to promote the fact that RDs are regulated and what this means by way of standards for education, standards of practice, ethics and conduct as well as continued competence and member accountability to the College.

Definition of the Dietetics Profession

Professions and their scopes of practice evolve over time. In the highly regulated health care system, this evolution often requires legislative barriers to be removed. Working from the public interest perspective, the College is fully engaged in the scope of practice changes involving changes to provincial laws, regulations, standards of competence and practice.

Entry to practice competencies and educational requirements also define professions. The College works with national partners through the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies and the *Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice* to update these important professional foundations.

RDs Informed About Laws and Regulations

The College's Practice Advisory and Quality Assurance Programs help Registered Dietitians stay informed of the laws and other professional obligations and expectations for

practice. The College provides Information, education, assessment and reflection tools, and individualized advice to support RDs. The growing use and satisfaction ratings show that RDs benefit from having the College interpret and clarify obligations for different areas of dietetic practice. The Quality Assurance Program enables the College to assure the public that RDs are held to high standards for continuing competence.

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QA Program Update

Barbara McIntyre

New CDO Quality Assurance Program Manager

The College of Dietitians of Ontario is pleased to announce that, on March 21, 2011. Barbara McIntyre assumed the position of Quality Assurance Program Manager with the College. Barbara comes to CDO with a wealth of experience in managing projects and programs including the development of people, evaluation strategies and communications channels. For the past 20 years, she has focused on marketing and sales of nutrition products, working with multinational pharmaceutical companies. In addition to her rich industry background, Barbara has also worked as a clinical dietitian in Nova

Scotia. Barbara is described as a person who is goal-oriented and who knows how to define and achieve quality outcomes.

Please join us in welcoming Barbara to health professions quality assurance programming. You may contact Barbara at:

mcintyreb@cdo.on.ca

416-598-1725/800-668-4990, ext. 233

FAX: 416-598-0274



WELCOME TO CAROL CULHANE, NEW QA PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Carol has a solid background from other colleges in the administration of quality assurance programs. She brings to the College excellent communication skills for helping members with their quality assurance obligations. She also is skilled in coordinating the creation of online continuing competency tools.



FAREWELL TO CELIA FLIESS

Celia Fliess was the QA Program Coordinator for the College since 2009 and has recently resigned to pursue full time business opportunities. We thank Celia for her work and wish her well in her new endeavours.