

Serving the College through Transition Times



**Susan Knowles, RD
President**

The College of Dietitians of Ontario exists to regulate and support all Registered Dietitians in the interest of the public of Ontario.

We are dedicated to the ongoing enhancement of safe, ethical and competent nutrition services provided by Registered Dietitians in their fields of practice.

I am pleased to introduce myself as your new President of the College of Dietitians of Ontario. I have been a Registered Dietitian for 23 years and my career has been focused in public health. For the past five years, I have been on the College Council and, for the last two years, I gained valuable experience as a member of the Executive Committee. Last year, I was elected as Vice-President and this year as President. I am also a member of the Quality Assurance, and the Inquiry, Complaints and Reports Committees.

My experience at the College has given me substantial insight into regulation, our professional responsibilities as RDs and the importance of the College's mission "to regulate and support Registered Dietitians in the interest of the public of Ontario."

The College is undergoing significant transitions this year, specifically:

- Supporting the new Registrar and Executive Director, Melisse Willems, who started July 6, 2015. She is settling into her new role through a transition and orientation plan while continuing to build on the past work of the College. The transition plan addresses operations, governance and external linkages.
- Completing the old *Strategic Plan 2011-15* and implementing the new *Strategic Plan 2016-20*. The work on the new strategic plan was started this Spring with Council and Staff reflections on the accomplishments of the last plan, the impact of current regulatory and professional environments on College work, and potential future directions. In the Fall, we will be seeking member feedback into the new strategic plan. So, stay tuned. The new plan will be completed by February 2016.
- Addressing succession planning for future leadership capacity, and to support all the activities for this year of transitions, a new Executive Committee structure has been put in place. Council has increased the Executive Committee positions from three to four members. This year, the Executive Committee will update roles and formalize mentoring opportunities for Council members.
- Developing a risk management strategy for the College. This will ensure that risks to the College are clearly identified and managed. The framework for managing the risks will also provide a structured process for ongoing review of any risks identified.

I look forward to serving the College of Dietitians of Ontario during this time of transition.