

# Why Serve as a College Council Member



Mary Lou Gignac, MPA  
Registrar & Executive Director

The College works hard to create an environment that supports and enables Council members to fulfill their role effectively. We appreciate the contribution of every Council and committee member.

## Council Members

### Professional Members

Cynthia Colapinto RD  
Lesia Kicak RD  
Susan Knowles RD  
Barbara Major-McEwan RD  
Erica Sus RD  
Deion Weir RD  
Krista Witherspoon RD  
Erin Woodbeck RD

### Public appointees

Edith Brown  
Elsie Petch  
Carole Wardell  
Elizabeth Wilfert

In January, the College called for nominations to fill three positions on Council for SW Ontario and for the Toronto/York Region. If our recent survey of RDs in Northern Ontario is any indication, potential interest in members serving on Council may well be affected by limited knowledge about what Council members do and how the organization supports their important work.

The College Council is the board of directors for the organization. This means that Council members are the decision-makers when it comes to setting standards for the profession and deciding the direction of the College's work and financial allocations to protect the public. They collectively also oversee the management of the organization making sure that programs, finances and staff resources are managed effectively and are coordinated to achieve the desired results. That's how the College benefits from the work of Council members.

Here is how Council members benefit in return:

- They make a meaningful contribution to safe, ethical and competent dietetic services to people in Ontario.
- They have an opportunity to give direction to the College in its regulatory mandate.
- They receive formal and informal professional and personal development especially as it relates to planning and evaluation, communications, governance, including financial oversight.
- They develop and exercise leadership skills.
- They are exposed to health profession regulation, legislation and the complexities of the sector.
- They receive compensation for meeting and preparation time and are reimbursed for all out of pocket expenses.

The College works hard to create an environment that supports and enables Council members to fulfill their governance role. A learning environment has been created with many external and internal opportunities available throughout the year. At times, external consultants and lawyers are brought in to facilitate and lend expertise to complex issues discussed at Council meetings. Council members find the work both professionally meaningful and, at times, even fun.

The College appreciates the dedicated work of all its Council and committee members. We make sure they know they are appreciated.

If you wish to know more, please call me or talk to a Council member.