



Registrar & Executive Director's Message
Mary Lou Gignac

Profession Self-Governance

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all of the Registered Dietitians who have participated in the many on-line surveys that we have sent out in the past months. Your input has made a significant contribution to projects, products and services of the College and, in the case of the Core Competency Survey, to the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies. I realize that answering some of these surveys has required a substantial amount of your time. Be assured that your information and views are used extensively to guide our work.

Medical Directives

The most recent survey on medical directives conducted by the CDO/DC Controlled Acts Steering Committee was completed by over 390 RDs. The Steering Committee members are now analyzing the responses to identify information that would support the argument for a new controlled act for prescribing enteral and parenteral nutrition. The responses show an increased interest in the use of medical directives to enable RDs in public hospitals to order nutrition "treatment". Respondents also indicated that the use of medical directives has increased. Medical directives are being used to delegate the performance of controlled acts to RDs. The analysis of the survey will be made available to you once it has been completed.

PARTICIPATION IS PART OF PROFESSION SELF-REGULATION

RD input and participation in College projects is an essential element of profession self-regulation, the model of health profession regulation used in Ontario and other Canadian jurisdictions. This model is contrasted by state regulation found in most U.S. jurisdictions where the state legislatures and state-run agencies directly license and regulate professions.

The expression of self-regulated ownership is knowledge of and participation in the College. You can participate in dietetic profession self-governance in many ways, including:

- Seeking election to the College for Council and Non-Council positions and contributing to committee work;
- Being involved in the design and delivery of College programs e.g., by being a QA assessor, item writer or item appraiser for the JKAT and CDRE;
- Participating in consultations and keeping the College informed about emerging issues;
- Using and assessing College programs and services such as the Practice Advice service;
- Being informed and holding the College accountable for supporting RDs to be competent and ethical in the delivery of quality dietetic services to people in Ontario.

The essence of profession self-governance is having a membership that has ownership of the College and it's public protection mandate.

RD input and involvement is an essential feature of the dietetic profession self-governance.