



The College of Dietitians of Ontario is Committed to Serve and Protect the Public Interest

Definition of Public Interest

In carrying out its regulatory objects, The College of Dietitians of Ontario commits its resources to serve and protect the public interest. The public interest is defined by the public protection outcomes it strives to achieve, by the College processes and decisions that respect the values generally held by people in Ontario. More specifically,

- **Public Protection Outcomes** mean that the people who receive or benefit from the dietetic services from Registered Dietitians are not harmed or abused physically, emotionally, mentally, financially or sexually. Public protection also means that people are informed of their rights and have the benefit of dietetic services that are based on competent, ethical and safe dietetic practice.
- **Public Values** will be central in all College decisions that are relevant to standards of dietetic practice or to the governance and management of the College. The public values that the College will respect are evident in Canadian and Ontario laws. Public values are also derived from input from members of the public and their representatives. These values include the following:
 - Access to professionals of choice
 - Self-determination
 - Right to give informed consent for treatment
 - Client interest paramount over professional self-interest
 - Right to be treated with sensitivity and respect
 - Privacy of personal information
 - Access to health information
 - Free of discrimination (Human Rights Codes)
 - Fairness, Objectivity, Impartiality and Transparency of registration and other college decisions
 - Reasonable costs to individuals and society
 - Integrity
 - Collaboration
 - Transparency and Accountability
 - Trust
- **Public Processes** mean processes that are timely, open and transparent and support participation from the public into key College decisions. Public processes such as public education, consultations, surveys and participation in public forums will be employed to help the College determine the specific opinions and interests of the people affected by College decisions. Decision making processes will bring forward these opinions through public representation on its governing Council and through disciplined consideration of what is in the public interest.