

Transparency and Accountability



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Public Councillor & 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 changing practice environments.

Transparency and accountability are both essential to the smooth sailing of *Good Governance*. Just as sail boats have fundamental parts such as the sail or keel, *Good Governance* also needs essential components and CDO is committed to ensuring that both transparency and accountability are fully in place.

Organizations must be transparent about what they do, allowing stakeholders to see their actions. Accountability is crucial to a moral obligation allowing others to judge whether the standard promised has been met. An organization must be fully accountable for its actions and the access to this information must be transparent and easy to find to keep the *Good Governance* ship balanced and going in the right direction.

At CDO, being accountable is of utmost importance. It is a part of our mindset, our culture and our strategic conscience. At Council and committees meetings, we are constantly asking ourselves, 'Is this action going to reflect our accountability?'

Transparency and accountability are not easily separated; combined they become our moral compass getting us to our destination. Just as sailors check the ship's equipment and have tools to make sure they successfully complete their journey. CDO has many checks to keep us steadfast with Good Governance. Accountability involves the measuring or tracking of what is going on. Our tools include: policies, financial reports, audits, management reports and outcome indicators; all essential to keep us focused on what is important to achieve our public protection mandate and obligations.

Reporting tools shine the light that provides transparency into an organization. At the College we strive to be transparent not only in Council, but to all stakeholders, including the Ministry and the Fairness Commissioner. The most important venues include:

- the College website;
- annual reports available online and in print form;
- *résumé* newsletters, where members and other stakeholders are informed of college activities including Council highlights, and evaluations of tools, services and programs;
- open Council meetings where members, the public and government officials are welcome to attend. Council meeting dates are posted on the website under *Public meetings and Hearings*, at the top of the home page; and
- annual workshops which provide members with College updates and an opportunity to ask questions about its activities.

Since it is vital that stakeholders trust that we are both transparent and accountable, we have commenced upon a comprehensive assessment of our governance policies to ensure that they are grounded in best practices. We are always ready to listen to our members and not only hear their concerns but act upon them where possible, in keeping with our mission statement and mandate. All of this is necessary to keep our *Good Governance* ship upright and 'to stay the course'.