

# 2015 Workshop Summary

## Conflict of Interest and Dietetic Practice

Throughout the fall, the College held its annual workshop series. This year, the topic was *Conflict of Interest and Dietetic Practice*. The College Practice Advisors thoroughly enjoyed facilitating the 28 sessions throughout Ontario. The rich discussions amongst attendees were very informative.

**A total of 652 RDs (17% of membership) and 65 dietetic interns attended the workshops.**

### POST-WORKSHOP EVALUATION RESULTS

Workshop attendees were invited to complete a short evaluation survey; 242 RDs (a 38% response rate) completed the survey. Here are some survey results:

- 100% of RDs agreed or strongly agreed in the importance of identifying, avoiding, and managing conflict of interest in their dietetic practice;
- 100% of RDs felt they currently have sufficient resources to identify and manage conflict of interest in their dietetic practice;
- 98% of RDs felt confident in their ability to identify and manage conflict of interest in their dietetic practice;
- 92% of RDs agreed or strongly agreed that they gained an increased understanding of how conflict of interest relates to the dietetic profession; and
- 84% of RDs felt the College 2015 workshop on conflict of interest was a worthwhile learning experience.

### "Ah-ha" Moments

When asked if there was one "ah-ha" moment during the workshop, respondents said:

- The flow chart/decision-tree and the DORM Principle were helpful.
- Perception is just as powerful as a real conflict of interest.
- Most conflicts of interest are not clear-cut or black and white; there are many grey areas surrounding conflict of interest.
- Most conflicts of interest can be managed.
- We thought there would be a lot more restrictions regarding conflict of interest. We feel much more informed now.



### Other Comments

When asked if there was anything else attendees would like to share about the Workshop, respondents said:

- The workshop was a good reminder to always act in the best interests of clients.
- At my workplace ethics committee, we discussed conflict of interest shortly after the workshop and I was able to use some of the discussion points from the workshop during that meeting.
- I find professional development from CDO always or most often refers to clients as 1:1. With changing times the definition of client needs to be represented differently as the public, groups or customers versus patients.

### THANK YOU!

The College learned a great deal from all those who attended this year's workshops. The issues, insights and questions gathered throughout the workshops will help inform our future work in the area of conflict of interest and dietetic practice.

### COI RESOURCES ON CDO WEBSITE

- Fall 2015 Workshop: Conflict of Interest Handouts
- New online learning module based on the workshop: [Conflict of Interest and Dietetic Practice: Guiding Principles \(2016\)](#).

To access COI resources, enter the phrase, "conflict of interest" in the search box at [www.collegeofdietitians.org](http://www.collegeofdietitians.org).