

Public Interest at the Heart of Council Governance



Elizabeth Wilfert, President

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Elizabeth Wilfert, President
Barbara Major-McEwan, RD,
Vice-President
Susan Knowles, RD,
Third Officer

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Elected Councillors

Cynthia Colapinto RD
Lesia Kicak RD
Susan Knowles RD
Abigail Langer, RD
Barbara Major-McEwan RD
Erica Sus RD
Krista Witherspoon RD
Erin Woodbeck RD

Public Councillors

Naj Hassam
Elsie Petch
Carole Wardell
Allan Warren
Elizabeth Wilfert
Claudine Wilson

RDS APPOINTED TO COMMITTEES

Edith Chesser RD
Dianne Gaffney RD
Susan Hui RD
Sobia Khan RD
Julie Kuorikoski RD
Léna Laberge RD
Grace Lee RD
Kerri Loney RD
Jill Pikul RD
Diane Shroff RD
Marie Traynor RD

As the Council commences a new term with several new members, I am reminded of both our composition and our mission statement. The 'Council' of the College of Dietitians of Ontario is similar in many ways to a board of governors, dealing with policies.

On our Council, there are eight Elected Councillors (RDs) elected for a 3-year term to a maximum of two terms. District elections are held in April for terms to begin in June.

The Lieutenant Governor, by way of Orders of Provincial Council, appoints five to seven Public Councillors to also sit on the Council and have equal say in the proceedings.

Members of the public, who do not belong to any health regulatory college, may apply to be on the College's Council through the Province's Public Appointments Secretariat. There is often a lengthy process where resumes are reviewed and the applications are forwarded to the interparty Appointments Committee of the Legislature for approval. A successful applicant's name is sent to the Provincial Cabinet for approval and then to the Lieutenant Governor's office where the appointment is given "Royal Assent".

Public Councillors also have a 3-year term and can reapply as often as they wish. However, it is not guaranteed that they will be re-appointed. Since Public Councillors are appointed at different times, their terms are staggered so they do not all leave at once. District elections also revolve over 3-years, so new Elected Councillors are always rotating in.

Although both Elected and Public Councillors are sitting at the Council table by means of different circumstances, they are all there to protect the 'public interest'. Every councillor brings a unique perspective to meetings, and our ultimate goal in decision-making will always favour serving and protecting all residents of Ontario.

When making decisions, councillors strive hard to be not only purposeful and effective but also objective, fair, and transparent. We ask ourselves a series of questions in the interest of making the right choice about the issues the College works on. We ask not only how does an issue lead to public protection, but how is it a matter of public interest. We also look at how it relates to the College's regulatory mandate, mission and objects. In addition, our inquiry includes how the College would be judged by the public, other Colleges and the government for its role and activities; do we have the resources or should we partner; are there alternative approaches to achieving the goal.

Our framework for decision-making sets a high standard for scrutiny and we are conscious of the expectations you have for us working on your behalf. It is a privilege to be a part of the College of Dietitians of Ontario Council, a role neither Elected nor Public Councillors should take for granted.