



President's Message

Happy fall everyone! I am thrilled to announce that our revised *Professional Dietitians Act* has progressed through the Nova Scotia legislature. As mentioned in an email update sent out November 3, 2009, the new Act defines a scope of practice for college registrants, ensures practice protection, maintains title protection for the titles, *dietitian* and *nutritionist*, enables the use of the designation *RD*, and updates regulatory processes consistent with other health professions in Nova Scotia. The new Act does not come into effect until Cabinet approves the new college's regulations. College bylaws are currently being developed for membership approval. On May 14, 2010, a province-wide Telehealth session will be held for members on the interpretation of the new Act and scope of practice. I would like to extend a very special thank you to dietitians who attended and/or spoke at Law Amendments in support of the Act: Nancy Pasquet, Mary Jane Taylor, Carole Thompson, Nancy Hatcher, Darlene Bogers, Howard Selig and Lisa Slauenwhite. I was extremely proud to be represented by such an esteemed group of Dietitians. Mary Jane Taylor and Nancy Pasquet conducted influential presentations including important aspects of the dietetic profession to government. Jennifer Garus and our legal counsel Marjorie Hickey did a terrific job tying key points together in the final presentation. The delivery of the information and content was excellent. The work Jennifer conducted in preparation for this meeting was /2

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NSDA members attended Law Amendments at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly on October 29, 2009. Front Row (left to right): Marjorie Hickey (legal counsel), Jennifer Garus, Jennifer Hutchinson, Mary Jane Taylor, Nancy Pasquet. Back Row (left to right): Darlene Bogers, Carole Thompson, Nancy Hatcher, Howard Selig.

President's Message (cont.)

exceptional. No details were left unaddressed. The Association looked extremely professional. Government appeared both engaged and impressed by all of our representation and presentations.

On another note, as part of my Masters of Education program, I will be conducting a practicum placement at the NSDA. This placement will allow me to work with the QA Committee to develop an education opportunity for members related to the Continuing Development Self-Directed Learning Tool (CDT). It is my hope that this practicum will continue to help make the CDT an effective tool for all members.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the passionate members who serve on our Board of Directors. The Board of Directors participated in an energizing and productive fall retreat in September. I am continually inspired by the breadth of knowledge existing within this team of people. I am pleased that this newsletter recognizes each one of your valuable members on the board. The bios and photos in this newsletter will also be posted on our website. Thank you again everyone, for your worthy contributions.

"Jennifer and Marjorie did an absolutely amazing job and it is through their diligent efforts that we have achieved this. It was a privilege to be involved with it and to see them in action. Mary Jane also did a fantastic job that really helped the committee understand why it was important to the public to have this happen. Nicely done everyone!"

Nancy Pasquet

Executive Manager's Message



It was such an interesting experience to witness and be involved in the making of law when the *Dietitians Act* was approved at the Nova Scotia House of Assembly last month. Throughout the process, I was often reminded that the new legislation benefits both the profession and the public. The process to revise the *Dietitians Act* was initiated by members and driven by members. Although the mandate of a college is to serve the public interest, members unanimously approved the new Act at last spring's AGM. In Health Minister Maureen MacDonald's speech during the bill briefing, she referred to the Act as a win-win for the public and the profession.

The Act defines a scope of practice that will enable dietitians to practice to their full capacity. In other words, they will be authorized to do what they are qualified to do (for example, prescribe a therapeutic diet). The importance of having a defined scope became apparent during the development of role descriptions for the Department of Health's *Models of Care Initiative*. Role descriptions for health professionals on the interprofessional care team were based on health professions' legislated scopes of practice. In Nova Scotia, dietitians didn't have one.

Executive Manager's Message (cont.)

A legislated scope of practice protects the public from risk of harm. As in other health professions, such risk exists in our professional activities. The mismanagement of nutrition-related diseases, through errors, omissions or misinformation, may cause a patient harm. Therefore, those who perform these activities need to be licensed and accountable for providing competent, ethical and safe services.

The scope of practice legislation clarifies for the public who is qualified to engage in specific activities. The new Act also recognizes that the dietetic scope overlaps with scopes of other regulated health professionals. Individuals who perform activities within the dietetic scope (for example, nutrition therapy) must be authorized to do so under their own statute or be licensed with the Nova Scotia College of Dietitians and Nutritionists. Previously, NSDA licensed dietitians and nutritionists to use protected titles. Under the new Act, only college members may *practice* the dietetic scope and refer to themselves using protected titles (for example, RD, P.Dt., dietitian, nutritionist).

The new college will regulate the profession in a manner that is consistent with current practices in other health professions. Complaint processes are modern, fair, and accessible by members of the public. The Act defines licensing criteria and processes that are fair, transparent, and impartial. Licensing criteria are compliant with the Agreement on Internal Trade and enable dietitians who are registered in good standing in another province to register and practice in Nova Scotia. The new Act meets society's, government's, applicants' and practicing dietitians' expectations for clear, objective, fair and transparent regulatory practices.

What does it Mean to be a Member of a College?

Mark Friday, May 14 on your calendar! The session will be offered through Telehealth across Nova Scotia. NSDA will offer a presentation to members about the new legislation and what it means to the individual dietitian in practice. An interpretation of the legislated scope of practice will be presented.

Development of New Bylaws

New bylaws will be an important piece of the college's governing legislation. Bylaws are developed in collaboration with members and approved by members at the annual general meeting. They must be aligned with the new *Dietitians Act* and Regulations.

Bylaws address the logistics related to the administration of the college. For example, they establish the composition and number of Board members and eligibility for election to the Board, establish the timing and manner of the election, respect the terms of office, and prescribe roles of the president and president-elect.

Thank you to Howard Selig (Chair), Pam Soley, John MacInnes, Cathy Lockerbie-Forrester, and Susan Moriarty for participating on the Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee.



*Membership Update**

Total # of full registrants: 465

Resigned:

Total # of temporary registrants: 19

827

Danielle Aldous

Temporary Members:

| | |
|--------|----------------|
| TM 221 | Gina MacDonald |
| TM 222 | Kristin Currie |
| TM 223 | Kathleen White |
| TM 224 | Christina Wood |
| TM 225 | Amber Moase |
| TM 226 | Susan Conlan |
| TM 227 | Megan Bouchie |
| TM 228 | Janna Dykstra |
| TM 229 | Lynette Newell |
| TM 230 | Laura Fennell |
| TM 231 | Krystal Adams |

* This update reflects membership changes since September 1, 2009.

Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination Spring Exam

Date: Saturday, May 8, 2010

Location: Mount Saint Vincent University

Application Deadline for Temporary Membership:

March 5, 2010



PDEP - PFPN

Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice

Partenariat pour la formation et la pratique en nutrition

Visit the PDEP website for regular updates on the development of the *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice* and other PDEP initiatives.

www.pdep.ca

2009 Board Retreat

At September's annual strategic planning session, the Board identified four areas of focus for the upcoming year.

1. The **successful transition to a college model** will involve communication with members about interpreting the new legislation.
2. **Board Development** processes will be explored to enhance board orientation and engagement and clarify the role of the board in a college model of regulation.
3. **Improve effectiveness of the Continuing Competency Program** .
4. During nutrition month, **promote the public's awareness of protected titles**.



Fall Retreat - NSDA Board of Directors. From left to right: Jennifer Hutchinson, Jennifer Garus, Heather Dillon, Kim London, Patti Simpson, Lisa Sutherland, Darlene Bogers, Shelley LeBlanc, Cathy Lockerbie-Forrester, Lisa Slauenwhite, Howard Selig.

Meet the 2009-2010 Board of Directors

PRESIDENT (2008-2010) - Jennifer Hutchinson



Jennifer was appointed president of the NSDA in May 2008. In this role, Jennifer provides leadership to the Board of Directors, fosters communication with membership, and consults with the executive manager. She is a graduate from Mount St. Vincent University with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Human Nutrition and completed her integrated internship at Sysco-Serca Atlantic, Ocean View Manor and the IWK Grace Health Centre. Jennifer is a registered dietitian working as a Territory Manager for Nestlé HealthCare Nutrition in Nova Scotia and Newfoundland. She has worked with Nestle for over 8 years. In her role with Nestle, Jennifer participates in conferences and meets with a variety of healthcare professionals to discuss different forms of nutrition support offered by Nestle Nutrition. Jennifer is enrolled in a Masters of Education (Studies in Life Long Learning) and is on track to graduate in May 2010.

PRESIDENT ELECT (2008-2010) - Darlene Bogers

Darlene is currently working as a continuing care coordinator with South Shore Health. She brings a diverse background in dietetics to her role as an NSDA Board Member. Her practice has included roles in acute care, diabetes research, and long term care. She completed her BSc in Human Ecology with a Co-op Option at Mount St. Vincent University and a Master in Education from Memorial University in Newfoundland. This is Darlene's second term on the NSDA board.



VICE PRESIDENT (2008-2010) - Howard Selig

Howard is a consulting dietitian in long term care settings and owner/president of Valley Flax Flour. As a dedicated NSDA volunteer, he has held positions as registrar, president-elect, president and is currently vice president. Howard graduated with a BSc in Nutrition from Acadia and dietetic internship at the QEII in Halifax.

TREASURER (2008-2010) - Jane Pryor



Jane has been Director of Food & Nutrition Services at Capital Health since August 2004 and also assumed Housekeeping Services in November 2008. She graduated from Mount St. Vincent University with Bachelor of Science in Home Economics, completed her dietetic Internship at Vancouver General, and holds a Bachelor of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts (Community Studies) from UCCB. Jane is a member of Dietitians of Canada and the Canadian Association of Foodservice Professionals. She brings significant board experience to NSDA, as past Chair of NSDA, a past DC board member, and past board member of CAFP Halifax Branch.

SECRETARY (2009-2011) - Heather Dillon

Heather currently works as an educator delivering nutrition programs in the community. Her extensive background includes experience as a food service director, clinical manager, clinical dietitian and intern preceptor. She has served three terms on the NSDA Board including Western Region and Cape Breton Region and is presently serving as secretary. She has been affiliated with the Healthy Henri Restaurant Program and the liaison committee for the St.FX internship program.

REGISTRAR (2009-2011) - Lisa Slauenwhite



Lisa has been a member of NSDA for two years. She completed a B.Sc. (Biology) at Dalhousie prior to completing a B.Sc./H.Ec. (Food and Nutrition) at Mount St. Vincent University. She completed her dietetic internship at Vancouver General Hospital and worked in long term care in British Columbia and Alberta for 18 years. Since moving back home to Nova Scotia to be closer to her family, Lisa has been self employed and also works as the national workshop coordinator for the Dysphagia Assessment and Treatment Network. In addition to her position as registrar for NSDA she is currently the Atlantic Canada rep for DAT-N and is a member of CAFP Halifax branch.

MEMBER AT LARGE (2008-2010) - Shelley LeBlanc



Shelley has been a member of the NSDA since 2005. She is currently a member at large on the Board and is the Chair of the Quality Assurance committee. Shelley lives on Cape Breton Island, in Richmond County, and works in the Gasha Antigonish Strait Health Authority. Shelley works as a clinical dietitian at Saint Martha's Regional Hospital, as a community dietitian through primary health care, and as an educator at St.FX University. Her previous experience has been as a dietitian in the long term care sector in the areas of clinical nutrition, food service, and education. Shelley is a graduate of Acadia University (BSc) and completed her post-grad internship through Capital District Health Authority, with emphasis at the IWK.

MEMBER AT LARGE (2009-2011) - Cathy Lockerbie-Forrester

Cathy is currently a member at large on the Board and has held various board positions since 1996. She has also been NSDA's registration coordinator. Cathy is Dietitian Manager of Support Services at Annapolis Royal Nursing Home and has practiced in clinical, administration, acute, long-term care and private practice. She completed a BSc in Nutrition from St FX and dietetic internship at The Brantford General Hospital.



MEMBER AT LARGE (2009-2011) - Kim London



Kim is originally from Moncton, New Brunswick and started her career working in the community as a grocery store dietitian. She has recently moved to Pictou County to work in long term care, splitting her time between a special care home and an adult residential center. She has a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from Mount Allison University and a Bachelor of Applied Human Nutrition from Mount Saint Vincent University.

MEMBER AT LARGE (2009-2011) - Patti Simpson



Over the past 28 years, Patti has practiced as a dietitian in clinical and administrative settings in several provinces in Canada and has held leadership positions in DC and provincial dietetic associations. She is currently employed as District Director, Food and Nutrition Services for the Southwest Nova District Health Authority, Nova Scotia. In this position, she is responsible for managing the District programs and services for food service, clinical nutrition and diabetes education.

Patti has completed a Master of Adult Education at St. Francis Xavier University, a Bachelor of Science in Home Economics at Acadia University, and a CDA Integrated Dietetic Internship at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, BC. Patti brings significant board experience to NSDA as past Chair, NSDA Board of Directors (1999-2002), past Chair-Elect, NSDA Board of Directors (1996-1997), Regional Director, Atlantic, DC Board of Directors and NSDA Representative on the CDA/DC Transition Team. In 2003, Patti was awarded the DC Peer Recognition Volunteer Award.

MEMBER AT LARGE (2009-2011) - Lisa Sutherland

Lisa Sutherland is a member at large with the NSDA Board. Lisa is a health promotion coordinator with Public Health (Capital Health District) working in the area of comprehensive workplace health in the community setting. Lisa's professional experience is diverse. She has practiced in acute care (both inpatients and outpatients) in two health districts, not for profit, management, long term care and public health. Lisa completed an undergraduate degree in dietetics at Mount Saint Vincent University and internship at the Health Sciences Center, Newfoundland.



EXECUTIVE MANAGER (2007 - PRESENT) - Jennifer Garus



Jennifer Garus was appointed to the executive manager position in July 2007. In this role, she is responsible for managing the Association based on the Board's strategic plan and according to legislation and policy. Jennifer completed her dietetics degree at Mount Saint Vincent University and dietetic internship at the Moncton Hospital. Her professional experience has been diverse. Dear to her heart is her practice in rural Newfoundland where she had the opportunity to practice in a small hospital/long term care setting and promote health in the community and within the centre. Before moving home to Nova Scotia, she practiced in Ontario in private practice, homecare, and public health settings.

Employment and continuing education opportunities are posted on the members-only side of the website. Email distribution to members will be limited to NSDA communications that update members about issues related to the regulation of the profession.

NSDA posts employment postings and continuing education sessions for members who are seeking new employment opportunities and to support members as they engage in learning opportunities for continuing competency. By sharing this information with members, NSDA does not necessarily endorse the organization or individual for whom it is posting the opportunity.

Looking for the latest information on H1N1-influenza?

Visit: www.gov.ns.ca/hpp/cdpc/h1n1-influenza.asp



Members are welcome to attend Board meetings at the NSDA office. The next meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2009. Meeting dates are posted on the calendar on the home page of the NSDA website.

REMINDER

Please notify NSDA if your employment or home contact information changes. As we rely upon technology to communicate with you, it is especially important that your email address is current in the NSDA database.

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