



# NSDA Newsletter

November 2016

## President's Message

I hope everyone is having a great fall and had a relaxing and enjoyable summer!

On September 23 and 24 the NSDA board met for our first board meeting after the summer at the Best Western in Bridgewater. I was pleased to facilitate my first meeting as board president. At the meeting, we welcomed two new board members, Kelly Poirier and Amy MacDonald.

The Board had the pleasure of inviting Carla Anglehart, Governance Facilitator to our meeting. Carla was able to provide the board with education related to governance as well as help us discuss a board governance improvement plan.

Over the next year the board will be working on evaluating our success on meeting our strategic directions. Next fall we will identify new directions for the board for the next 3-5 years. It has been a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of professionals in meeting our strategic goals, which are:

- ⇒ To ensure a comprehensive enterprise risk management system is in place
- ⇒ To ensure dietitians are competent and practice in a safe and ethical manner
- ⇒ To provide effective strategic direction and oversight using a hybrid model of governance
- ⇒ Stakeholders are informed about the regulation of dietitians and nutritionists.

I look forward to the year ahead with much excitement.

Melissa Campbell  
President

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## Executive Manager's Message

New initiatives are underway to inform stakeholders about the regulation of dietitians and nutritionists. As a regulatory body, these initiatives must take a public interest perspective rather than an advocacy approach that an association takes. Nutrition misinformation poses a risk of harm to the public. Education initiatives will enhance the public's ability to recognize the profession's protected titles, and that dietitians and nutritionists are credible sources of nutrition information, and practice in an evidence-based and ethical manner.

To date, initiatives include the development of an infographic for use through social media publicizing the profession's protected titles across Canada. A Communications Committee is being formed to advise on a communication strategy, respond to the unauthorized use of NSDA's protected titles, and respond to nutrition misinformation in the public interest. A consultant is being hired to develop a public education strategy in consultation with the Communications Committee.

In addition, a videoconference is being co-hosted with Dietitians of Canada to consult with dietitians on their perspectives about nutrition misinformation and the impact on both the profession and public safety.

## Continuing Competency Program

In the spring, continuing competency submissions were audited. A new rubric was used to evaluate submissions based on the recent changes made to the program. Of the 74 submissions randomly audited, 50 (67.5%) were well done, 21 (28%) were rated satisfactory and three (0.5%) were not satisfactory. Fifteen percent of members' submissions are randomly audited. All members whose submissions have been audited will receive constructive feedback. Those deemed unacceptable will be required to submit their professional portfolio and their submission will also be audited the next year.

Feedback included the need to

- ⇒ Document the *outcome* of learning and how learning is integrated into practice
- ⇒ Add 'other' learning activities that are not related to annual goals
- ⇒ Document learning related to maintaining knowledge of current trends in food and nutrition
- ⇒ Develop *specific* goals focused on enhancing knowledge and skills



In 2016, changes were made to simplify the Program to make it more user-friendly yet maintain its rigor to enable the verification of continuing competency. A competency program is a regulatory body's tool used to confirm that only professionals engaged in continuing quality improvement to maintain currency and competency are licensed.

For renewal 2017, annual continuing competency submissions will only be accepted online through the renewal portal. They are accessible to NSDA administration and therefore an email or upload submission is no longer required.

**In 2017, all members' will be required to complete their learning log annually instead of on a three-year cycle. There is no need to enter learning activities in the learning log related to years prior to April 2016.**

## Online Database

You can access the online database throughout the year. Please keep your email address, mailing address and employment information up to date by logging onto the membership database and updating your profile details.

Link: <https://members.nsdassoc.ca/>

If you have a change in email address or wish to change your password, log on and click on your name at the top right corner of the screen. Then click Account.

To access your renewal receipt, log on and click on My Applications (found on the left side of the screen under Applications).

The Continuing Competency Program's learning log is online. It is easily accessible from your computer, tablet or Smartphone. Hard copies or emailed submissions will no longer be accepted.

## NSDA is on Facebook

A well known benefit of social media is the ease in which information can be exchanged. There is now a Facebook group to enhance communication with members about regulatory related issues. Employment and continuing education opportunities are also posted.

With any social media site, there are risks because information is not private. Inappropriate or misinterpreted posts can harm the reputation and integrity of individual professionals or the profession. Posts will be monitored. If you have concerns, please contact NSDA directly. It is not intended to replace the networking forums that already exist (e.g. [Dietitians of Canada's Practice Blog](#), [Dietitians Network of Nova Scotia](#)).



Join the NSDA Facebook group [HERE!](#)

## Jurisprudence e-Learning Modules

The Jurisprudence e-Learning Module is currently being piloted with members and will be launched in 2017.

**Members will be required to complete the learning module by March 31, 2018 and then every five years. All new members will be required to complete the learning module within one year of registration, and then every five years.**



The Jurisprudence e-Learning Module will be a component of the Continuing Competency Program (CCP). The Module will support dietitians to maintain a current understanding of the regulatory, provincial and federal requirements related to dietetic practice. The legal principle *'ignorance of the law excuses no one'* means that a person who is unaware of a law may not escape liability for violating that law merely because they were unaware. A Jurisprudence Study Guide will provide dietitians with information related to laws, standards and guidelines that govern dietitians' conduct, in particular the Professional Dietitians Act, standards of practice, code of ethics, and federal and provincial legislation related to dietetic practice.

Jurisprudence exams are a current and best practice in professional regulation. The Jurisprudence e-Learning Module is not an exam. It is a mandatory component of the CCP to enable dietitians to maintain professional practice competencies. It is an open-book series of quizzes. Answers to the Module's quiz questions will be found within the Study Guide or sources referenced within the Guide.

### Sample Question

A dietitian is supplementing their income selling a product-line that includes nutritional products and personal care items. There is a lack of quality evidence that supports the efficacy and safety of the nutritional products. Which of the following is true?

- a. It doesn't matter what the dietitian sells, so long as they do not sell products in association with their professional title.
- b. It is acceptable to sell the personal care products within the product-line, and avoid selling the nutrition-related products.
- c. It is acceptable to sell the product line under a friend's account so that the dietitian's name and title are not associated with the sale of the products.
- d. Selling products within the product line is unacceptable.

Source: Position Statement on the Sale, Endorsement and Recommendation of Products

- a. A dietitian is accountable for their behavior despite whether their conduct is in association with their title.
- b. It is confusing for the public if the dietitian sells some products, but not all. By avoiding the sale of the product line, the public will not make the assumption that the dietitian endorses the nutrition-related products within the product line.
- c. A dietitian is accountable for their behavior despite whether their conduct is in association with their title.
- d. There is a lack of quality evidence to support the use of the nutrition products, so avoiding the sale of products within the product line serves to maintain the integrity of the profession and maintain public trust.

Correct answer is d.