

THE INSIDER

A Newsletter of the Nova Scotia Dietetic Association



JANUARY 2010

President's Message

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy holiday season and that all of you are sticking to your resolutions for 2010. Since the last newsletter, the Board of Directors (BOD) has been busy focusing on the following four areas:

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 involvement, as well as clarify the role of the board in a college model of regulation.
3. **Improve effectiveness of the Continuing Competency Program** to attempt to engage membership in the process and support diverse learning needs.
4. **Promote the public's awareness of protected titles during nutrition month.**

As per our progress on the transition to a college, our regulations are still with the government and we are awaiting feedback any day now. Regulations must be approved by Cabinet before the new Act comes into effect.

An ad hoc committee, chaired by Howard Selig, has been diligently working on our bylaws which need to be prepared when we transition from an association to a college.

An ad hoc Professional Practice Committee is chaired by Darlene Bogers. This committee is critically interpreting the implications our defined scope of practice may have on our profession in Nova Scotia, as well as this province's public.

Jennifer Garus will report on our progress in forming a partnership with the 2010 Nova Scotia National Nutrition Month Committee.

Along with enjoying my role as President, I am having a great experience during my practicum with the NSDA. I hope to have some educational videos related to this year's Continuing Development Self-Directed Learning Tool (CDT) posted on the members only side of the NSDA website by early February.

This year, each of you will have your own log-on username and password to access the members only side of the website. More information will be sent to you with your renewal form early in February.



President's Message (continued..)

Please note there are available positions on our dynamic BOD this upcoming year. I have been a member of the BOD for over six years now. I am motivated by the professional and personal opportunities this experience has given me. To learn from fellow dietitians working in different backgrounds and with levels of experience is a truly enriching experience. Whether it is on a committee or on the BOD, I highly recommend every member become involved in the NSDA at least once in his/her career. This is an extremely exciting time to be involved. Please contact Jennifer Garus at nsda@ns.aliantzinc.ca or 835-0253 for more information on becoming a valuable member of our exceptional team of volunteers today.

Executive Manager's Message



Board members are very pleased to partner with the 2010 Nova Scotia National Nutrition Month Campaign Committee to bring you a little something extra in this year's renewal mailing. You will receive a flyer outlining how dietitians can use the campaign as an opportunity to promote this year's theme, "*Celebrate food... from field to table!*" and celebrate the dietitian's role on National Dietitian's Day: March 17th. You will also receive pens labelled with the campaign's slogan and NSDA's website address. A consistent objective of the DC Nutrition Month Campaign is the promotion of the role of the dietitian as the nutrition expert. This objective is consistent with the mandate of a regulatory body, as well.

A regulatory body's role is to protect the profession's titles so that the public can recognize professionals who have specific credentials, education, training and the oversight of a regulatory body. The public can therefore have trust and be certain about the qualifications and competence of the professional providing service. During Nutrition Month, promote the *Directory of Dietitians* to the public so that they can refer to the Directory to determine if their nutrition care provider is licensed in good standing. The Directory can be accessed from the home page of the NSDA website (www.nsdassoc.ca).

There is also a link to the DC webpage so that the public can access a dietitian and the wealth of information and tools DC provides the public about healthy eating. By ordering pens and distributing them to your clients and colleagues, and promoting the Directory of Dietitians, you help to promote the dietitian and nutritionist as the nutrition expert and help the public to recognize the most credible source of nutrition information.

Mark Your Calendars

April 30, 2010 - Education Day and Annual General Meeting

Airport Quality Inn

(details to follow)

Board Openings on the 2010 - 2011 Board of Directors

President-Elect

Vice-President

Treasurer

Member at Large

The position descriptions can be accessed on the NSDA website under About NSDA/Board of Directors.

The deadline for nominations is April 1, 2010. The Nomination Agreement Form is on page 10.

May 14, 2010 - What does it Mean to be a Member of a College?

NSDA will offer a presentation to members about the implications that the new legislation will have on dietitians in practice. An interpretation of a legislated scope of practice will be presented by Marjorie Hickey, QC. The session will be offered from 2 - 4 p.m. through Telehealth across Nova Scotia. Registration details to follow.

Membership Update*

New Members:

Janet Hemming
 Ashley Carroll
 Lynette Newell
 Susan Conlan
 Amber Moase
 Bria Inkpen
 Deborah MacLean
 Gina MacDonald
 Christina Palao
 Stacey Lake
 Janna Dykstra
 Danielle Stephanie McVarish
 Cheryl Richard
 Allison Hopkins
 Kathleen White
 Krystal Adams

Temporary Members:

Anne-Marie Skillen
 Kristin Currie
 Sandra Carter
 Deanne Ortman
 Tracy Michael

* This update reflects membership as of January 29, 2010.

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

2010 License Renewal

Renewal forms will be mailed to members by February 1st. If you have not received your renewal form by February 15, please contact NSDA.

You have the option to renew online. Renewal Guidelines are posted on the NSDA website. Your individualized username and password to access the members only side of the NSDA website will be printed on your 2010 Annual License Renewal Form. Once you log-on to the members only side of the website, you will have the option to change your assigned password.

The Continuing Development Self-Directed Learning Tool (CDT) will not be mailed to members this year. To request a hard copy, please contact NSDA. The workbook and submission pages can be accessed on the NSDA website. You may email or mail the submission pages. Please do not fax, due to poor legibility.

The complete renewal package consists of the renewal form, CDT submission pages and renewal fee. To avoid a late fee, the renewal package must be submitted online or received by NSDA before the end of the business day on March 31, 2010.

Policy IX-50: Extension of CDT Submission due to Illness

If you are unable to submit your Continuing Development Self-Directed Learning Tool (CDT) in its entirety by March 31st due to personal or family illness, you must request an extension in writing with supporting evidence/documentation from a physician by March 31st. Your license will be renewed and an extension will be granted upon approval by the Registrar and/or Registration Committee. If the extension is not approved, the complete CDT must be submitted by April 30 or Policy V-40 will apply for late renewal. If the extension is granted, a complete CDT submission is required by September 30th.

The NSDA Policy and Procedure Manual is posted on the members only side of the NSDA website.

The Development of College Bylaws

The ad hoc Bylaws Committee has developed draft bylaws, so that bylaws will be in place when NSDA transitions to a college. The NSDA membership will be asked to vote on a motion to approve the college bylaws at the April 30th Annual General Meeting. Bylaws address the college's administration processes. Bylaws are one of the four governance documents used in a college model of regulation. When reviewing the bylaws, it is helpful to remember how the four pieces of governance documents fit together.

An Act, or statute, is the legislation approved by government to regulate the profession. The Board may not take actions inconsistent with the Act. For example, the Act dictates that there shall be an annual general meeting of the College. The Board, therefore, *must* hold an annual general meeting.

Regulations are approved by Cabinet and provide more detail than the Act. The Act dictates what the regulations may address, such as licensing and disciplinary processes.

The Act dictates what the bylaws may address. For example the quorum for the annual general meeting, timing of meetings, composition and number of board members on the board, and quorum for committee meetings. Government is not involved with the approval of bylaws.

Regulations, bylaws and policies can not contradict the overriding Act of the profession. For example, the new Act indicates that quorum of the board shall be the majority. Therefore, regulations and bylaws do not address quorum for board meetings.

Policies, in turn, must be consistent with the Act, regulations and bylaws. For example, the bylaws may require the annual general meeting to be held within three months of the end of the fiscal year. Therefore, a policy would outline procedures consistent with this timeline.

The draft bylaws will be circulated to members prior to the AGM.

Reference:

Overview of Key Changes: The Proposed New Dietitians Act (April 2009)

Marjorie Hickey, QC



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.

Members are welcome to attend Board meetings at the NSDA office. The next meetings are scheduled for February 10 and March 10 at 4 p.m.



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. Missing: Jane Pryor.

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.

**Nova Scotia Dietetic Association
212-1496 Bedford Highway Bedford, NS B4A 1E5
Phone: (902) 835-0253 Fax: (902) 835-0523
Email: info@nsdassoc.ca**



NSDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOMINATION AGREEMENT FORM

I, _____, agree to allow my name to stand for the NSDA

Board of Directors' position of _____ for the 2010-2012 term.

The following three NSDA members, in good standing, support my nomination.

1. _____

Signature

NSDA Registration Number

2. _____

Signature

NSDA Registration Number

3. _____

Signature

NSDA Registration Number

Signature of Candidate

NSDA Registration Number

FAX TO NSDA: (902) 835-0523