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Sent via email: [jbouchard@collegeofdietitiansbc.org](mailto:jbouchard@collegeofdietitiansbc.org)

Dear Joanie,

Thank you for your dedication towards ensuring the public, and British Columbians specifically, continue to have access to dietitians as regulated health professionals. As discussed recently, we are writing today about the College of Dietitians of British Columbia (CDBC) section 74 bylaw amendment proposal, prohibiting the use of the word “expert” and “expertise” in the promotion of dietetic practice. Since the bylaw amendment was put forth, we are pleased to hear that dietitian input has been heard and further adjustments are being explored. Dietitians of Canada is committed to ensuring dietitians continue to be sought out as a trusted and credible source of nutrition and dietary counsel and information. This amendment has the potential to not only affect dietetic practice in BC, but also across the country. As such, we would like to share some additional data points/facts for consideration in your amendment review from a national association perspective.

**1. Canadians have access to dietitians, as regulated health professionals, for nutritional care, support and advice:**

Many dietitians practice across provincial borders, which helps ensure Canadians have access to regulated health professionals for credible advice, service and care. This means that changes in provincial dietetic college bylaws and legislation do not just impact dietitians who reside in one province, but any changes could have implications on access to nutrition care of the public nationally. It can be confusing for the public, and dietitians, for regulations to vary between jurisdictions. For example, other dietetic college regulations, including Alberta, Ontario, and Quebec, permit the use of the terms 'expert' and 'expertise'.

**2. Dietetic education and training are consistent nationally to ensure open and inclusive national career opportunities:**

The national *Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP) version 3.0* (2020) recently released by the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice, is the standard for entry level practice to the profession. In the ICDEP, “Food and Nutrition Expertise” is one of the seven interrelated Domains of Competence and as illustrated in Figure 1 of the ICDEP, it is

central to all activities carried throughout the three dietetic practice Domains. Dietetic students who appropriately demonstrate abilities in all seven Domains are prepared for practice in Canada. If this language has been approved to be used in the education and training of students across Canada, it is confusing to then not allow it to be used (or leveraged) upon entry-to-practice.

### **3. Canadians continue to view dietitians as a trusted and credible source of nutrition guidance**

Dietitians of Canada's purpose is to ensure dietitians are seen as a trusted and credible source of nutrition and food information. Our research conducted in 2017 and 2020 demonstrated that Canadians have a high level of trust in the profession. However, in order to maintain and build trust it is important that dietitians can be recognized for their education and ongoing professional requirements and for their expertise in their field. Dietitians of Canada's national public website, Unlock Food, includes the term "expert guidance" in its tag line and no concerns have been expressed from the public regarding misrepresentation. This is consistent with other online searches, in which "nutrition expert" or "BC nutrition expert" currently show dietitians in the top results.

As the provincial regulatory college, we appreciate your ongoing diligence and collaboration to ensure the public has access to the best possible dietitian services. Please don't hesitate to get in touch to discuss further. We look forward to seeing the updated bylaw amendment proposal when it is available.

Sincerely,



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