

Principles of Professional Practice ¹

Registered dietitian members of Dietitians of Canada are committed to the highest level of competence, responsibility, respect and engagement in their work as nutrition professionals.

Competence: Dietitians have the most up-to-date and evidence-based information in their area of practice. They possess specific knowledge in food and nutrition as well as the abilities, skills and values to be effective in applying best practice to their fields of work. They recognize that being competent will benefit and protect the public from harm. Dietitians...

- Maintain competence in their field of practice through ongoing learning
- Operate within their professional boundaries of competence
- Seek training and updating if moving to a new practice area
- Conduct and contribute to research in their areas of practice, where feasible, to encourage initiative, competence and recognition.

Responsibility: Dietitians know what is right and do what is right. They practice in the best interest of their clients, colleagues and profession. Dietitians...

- Assess and evaluate before taking action
- Base professional opinions, statements and recommendations on sufficient and valid information and evidence
- Use forethought, deliberation, sound judgment and discretion in all of their professional activities
- Seek the expertise of others when uncertain about a course of action
- Recognize and seek to avoid conflicts of interest.

Respect: Dietitians respect the dignity and worth of all people. Dietitians work hard to benefit those with whom they work. They recognize that all people, at all times, have the right to adequate and safe nutrition that takes into consideration the determinants of health. Dietitians...

- Act with honesty, accountability, reliability and compassion
- Treat all people with dignity and inclusion regardless of differences
- Reserve judgment about people's circumstances, behavior and decisions.

Engagement: Dietitians support and are engaged in their profession. They are passionate and visionary about its role in contributing to the health of all people. Dietitians...

- Respect the contributions, views and practice areas of all dietitians
- Encourage research that will help the profession and the people it serves
- Discover and participate in leadership and other roles that support and advance the profession
- Educate and mentor students, interns and colleagues
- Support and advocate for the profession.

¹ Principles are of equal priority. Approved by Board of Directors, May 16, 2012

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