

# NLCD Newsletter

December 2020



## Message from the Chair

Hello, I am Olivia Roebottom, a Dietitian working in Central NL and the current chair of the Newfoundland and Labrador College of Dietitians. I am also a mother to four “not so little” boys and am looking forward to spending winter weekends at our cabin.

This past year and a half has brought great learning for me as the College continues to work through the goals and objectives outlined in the NLCD Strategic Plan 2019-2022. One such goal was to improve communication with registrants. It gives me great pleasure to present NLCD’s first newsletter for this purpose. NLCD will strive to distribute two newsletters annually to update registrants on current projects, new documents, answer registrant questions, etc. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have provided feedback, asked questions, and participated in various committees. I would also like to thank the NLCD board members for their support and dedication as we move through these difficult times.

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## Message from the Registrar and Executive Coordinator

Hi, my name is Cynthia Whalen and I have been the Registrar and Executive Coordinator for almost 10 years. I have been here to guide and support the Board on many achievements. These include developing a Code of Ethics, Standards of Practice, Defining Dietetic Practice, and approval of the new assessment process for internationally educated dietitians for this province. I look forward to working with the Board to achieve the goals as identified in the Strategic Plan and to regulate the profession in accordance with the Dietitians Act, 2005 and Dietitians Regulations, 2018.

## Active Practice Hours during COVID-19 Pandemic

What a year 2020 has been. So many things have changed in our work and daily lives. NLCD has had some registrants reach out with questions regarding active practice hours as many have been deployed to other activities during these trying times. Here are answers to some of those questions:

### **If I was redeployed to other areas of healthcare or other organizations during the pandemic does this still count towards my active practice hours?**

Yes, if your employer redirected you to other areas within healthcare or other organizations during the pandemic these hours will count as active practice hours. You can declare these hours on the self-declaration form for the 2020-21 year that will be submitted with your renewal for the 2021-2022 fiscal year.

### **If I worked overtime hours when I was redeployed how do I count these active practice hours?**

If you were redeployed and you worked overtime hours during the pandemic these overtime hours will not count toward your active practice hours. For example, if you worked 10 hours over your regular time schedule (37.5 hours), although you worked 47.5 hours you can only count the 37.5 towards active practice hours.

## Continuing Education Program Revision

The aim of the continuing education program is to ensure that dietitians maintain competence. One of the goals NLCD identified in its Strategic Plan is to review and revise the current continuing education program. Over the summer months NLCD sent a survey to registrants regarding the current NLCD continuing education program (CEP). There was a 35% response rate. NLCD was looking for feedback on all aspects of the continuing education program. A continuing education revision working group has been established to do this work. NLCD looks forward to providing you with updates on this project.

## NLCD Directory

In previous years NLCD sent a membership directory to all NLCD registrants. Consent was requested on the renewal application every year to ensure registrants were okay with this action. The purpose of this document was to have it as resource for dietitians to network with other dietitians in the province. Due to privacy laws in the province the NLCD Board decided it was in the registrants best interest to stop sharing this document. Moving forward NLCD will no longer be distributing this directory.

## Renewal Applications for April 1, 2021-March 31, 2022

It is that time of year again when NLCD sends annual renewal applications. You can expect to receive your application by mid December. Renewal applications, the continuing education program forms, insurance, and the active practice hours self-declaration form is required to be post marked by January 31, 2021 to avoid the late submission fee.



## Liability Insurance

NLCD receives many questions around liability insurance. Based on the *Dietitians Act, 2005* all those registered with NLCD are required to have liability insurance.

If you have insurance through your employer that only protects you while you are working as a dietitian for your employer. If you do any dietetic work outside of your regular employment (e.g. talk to organizations about food/nutrition) you need additional insurance. If the public were to ever to file a “complaint” against you to NLCD you would then have the insurance to cover the legal steps for yourself in this process. Your employer insurance would not cover any legal action taken against you outside of your employment setting.

## What is the role of the Newfoundland & Labrador College of Dietitians for registrants?

The roles of NLCD include title protection, registration, and renewal, disciplinary action as required and effective regulation of dietetics profession based on provincial legislation. When it comes to title protection NLCD can legally act if someone, who is not a Registered Dietitian, is using protected titles as indicated in the Dietitians Act, 2005. These are Dietitian, Registered Dietitian, and the initials R.D. Only those registered with NLCD can use these titles.

In the strategic plan it has been identified that NLCD will request a meeting with Government regarding protecting the title “nutritionist”. There have been some initial discussions with Government around this topic.

The dietetics profession and practice is constantly evolving. The NLCD Board has the authority to define dietetic practice. They approved a Defining Dietetic Practice for Registered Dietitians in Newfoundland & Labrador; this was released in 2015 and revised in 2019.

NLCD will be developing guidance documents to support dietetic practice. Registrants input will be requested to determine the practice documents required/wanted by registrants.

## Do you have a practice question?

Send along any of your practice questions to the Registrar: [registrar@nlcd.ca](mailto:registrar@nlcd.ca)

