



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

July 5, 2022 (2:00 – 4:00pm)

Virtual Meeting

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Meeting ID: 825 6083 4634

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Item & Discussion	ACTION	TIME	ATTACHMENT
1.0 Call to Order		2:00 – 2:05 pm	
2.0 Land Acknowledgement		2:05 – 2:10 pm	
3.0 Approval of Agenda	Approval/ Motion	2:10 pm	2.1 Draft July 5, 2022 Council Meeting Agenda
4.0 Declaration of Conflict of Interest			
5.0 Declaration of Bias			
OVERSIGHT & ACCOUNTABILITY			
6.0 In Camera session – Legal Advice In Camera session pursuant to s. 7(2)(e) of the Health Professions Procedural Code, being Schedule 2 to the Regulated Health Professions Act, 1991.	Information/ Discussion	2:10 – 2:50pm	
7.0 Accreditation Provider	Approval/ Motion	2:50 – 4:00pm	7.1 Briefing Note - Accreditation Provider 7.2 EQual – Alliance Announcement dated May 24, 2022 7.3 Letter from Dietetic Educators dated June 16, 2022 7.4 Updated Letter from Dietetic Educators received June 23, 2022 7.5 Materials from Ontario Dietetic Educators-dated July 4

Item & Discussion	ACTION	TIME	ATTACHMENT
8.0 Adjournment		4:00pm	



Council Briefing Note

Topic:	Approval of Educational Accreditation Agency for the Purposes of Registration and Acceptance of the Alliance Decision to Appoint EQual
Purpose:	Decision Required
Strategic Plan Relevance:	Risk-Based and Right-Touch Regulation
From:	Melanie Woodbeck, Registrar and Executive Director

ISSUE

To accept the Alliance recommendation and approve EQual/Accreditation Canada as the national accreditation agency acceptable to the College, effective immediately, and to approve the proposed transition period for PDEP accreditation following the withdrawal of the current accreditation service provider.

PUBLIC INTEREST RATIONALE

Educational Program Accreditation ensures that Canadian educational programs provide nutrition education in alignment with the national Canadian Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice ([ICDEPs](#)) and met Quality Assurance and Improvement standards on an ongoing basis. Registering graduates from accredited Canadian educational programs provides assurance to the College and the public that Canadian dietetic graduates have the requisite academic and technical knowledge, skill and judgement to provide safe, ethical and competent care to the public. It is within the legislative mandate of the CDO to set the entrance to practice requirements.

BACKGROUND

The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) was founded in 2009 to enable the Alliance (consisting of the ten provincial regulatory bodies); educators; and the professional association, Dietitians of Canada (DC), to collaborate on issues of mutual interest agreed upon by the three parties. Regulatory bodies supported and approved the collaborative decision-making model to establish and revise entry-level competencies for dietitians. PDEP is an unincorporated partnership with a consensus-based decision-making structure.

In 2014, provincial regulators agreed with transitioning the accreditation of education programs in Canada to PDEP. This transition was approved by the College of Dietitians of Ontario on June

26, 2015.

Prior to 2015, accreditation was overseen by DC. Under the PDEP model, the association remained the accreditation service provider with accreditation award decisions being made by the PDEP Accreditation Council.

On September 28, 2021, DC advised PDEP that they were withdrawing as the service provider for the accreditation process, with an effective date of March 31, 2022. Extension of this date was not possible.

The Alliance conducted a thorough and thoughtful analysis of the risks and a robust environmental scan of all the accreditation options available. There were several criteria identified by the Alliance that the model selected had to meet: capacity to handle 33 programs; cost effectiveness; be established, credible, rigorous, and experienced in health education accreditation; be able to provide accreditation services in English and French; able to work within the ICDEPs; able to provide support and training to surveyors; and allow for a timely transition.

In November 2021, the Alliance advised PDEP, Educators and Deans, regarding its intention to seek a third-party provider to approve dietetic programs in order to continue to meet its legislative obligations regarding accreditation and registration.

In January 2022, information about the Alliance's intention to pursue an agreement with EQual as the 3rd party was communicated to PDEP, Educators and Deans. The Alliance held facilitated sessions with educators on February 22 and 24, and on March 14, 2022. A written summary and recordings of these sessions were made available.

Through varied and numerous meetings and written communications with stakeholders between October 2021 and May 2022, including PDEP, DC, Educators, Deans, and Government Representatives across Canada, the Alliance considered the needs and concerns of all stakeholders and the potential regulatory impacts of proceeding with this decision and in the development of the transition plan. After careful consideration, the Alliance selected EQual.

Effective May 16, 2022, the Alliance signed an agreement with EQual, Accreditation Canada. The agreement announcement is attached as 7.2.

At its meeting on June 17, 2022, Council considered the recommendation from the Alliance to approve EQual/Accreditation Canada as the approved accreditation agency and to approve a proposed transition period until August 31, 2023 for continued PDEP accreditation recognition.

At its meeting on June 17, 2022, Council also considered a submission from dietetic educators at University of Toronto, University of Ottawa, Brescia University, and University of Guelph,

dated June 16, 2022. (see 7.3). An updated later dated June 16, 2022, was submitted on June 23, 2022. (see 7.4).

Council deferred making a decision pending additional information.

CONSIDERATIONS

Council legislative authority and obligations regarding accreditation of educational programs

The approval of education programs for the purposes of registration falls within the legislative mandates of regulatory bodies under the RHPA. 3(1) 2. of the [Health Professions Procedural Code](#) requires that Colleges develop, establish and maintain standards of qualification for persons to be issued certificates of registration.

The [Dietetics Act, 1991, O. Reg 593/94](#) further clarifies this responsibility and under Part I: Registration of the [General Regulation](#) allows Council to recognize Canadian programs that are “accredited by an accrediting agency approved by the Council.”

In making this decision, Council must also take into consideration other legislated obligations and duties:

- Under s. 22.2 and 22.4(2) of *the Code* requires Colleges to have in place registration practices that are fair, transparent, objective and impartial. The College must hold any 3rd parties it relies on to make assessments on its behalf to the same principles. As set out in the OFC’s [Risk-Informed Compliance Framework](#) (RICF), the overall control that a regulator exerts over its assessment and registration processes is an important risk factor in determining a regulator’s ability to comply with fair access legislation. Factors considered include the nature of third-party arrangements and the extent to which the regulator is successfully overseeing the work of the third-party service providers it relies on.
- Obligations to facilitate labour mobility, to ensure registrants in another province can seamlessly obtain licensure in Ontario (and vice versa). As in 22.20 (1) of *the Code*, “the College shall, to the extent possible and where practical,
 - (a) ensure that the process it follows in establishing or amending occupational standards for certificates of registration is conducive to labour mobility within Canada;
 - (b) take steps to reconcile differences between the occupational standards it has established for certificates of registration and occupational standards in effect with respect to the profession in the other provinces and territories of Canada that are parties to the Agreement on Internal Trade; and

(c) ensure that the occupational standards it establishes for certificates of registration are consistent with such common interprovincial or international occupational standards as may have been developed for the profession.”

Also, legislation has been enacted that will soon lead to additional regulations prescribing strict time limits for processing applications for registration.

Options for Accreditation

The current gap in accreditation provider poses a significant risk to CDO by not having a process in place to continue to register applicants for dietetic practice from Canadian programs in a way that assures the public that entry-to-practice dietitians can provide safe and competent care.

The previous accreditation provider has not been available since March 31, 2022. Three programs (the North Ontario Dietetic Internship Program [NODIP at NOSM], Université de Moncton, and McGill University) that have accreditation expiry dates in 2022 did not have the opportunity to finalize their accreditation awards before March 31, 2022 and remain in limbo with respect to accreditation. There are also new programs in Manitoba and British Columbia who are beginning to accept students and are seeking accreditation. In addition, several programs across Canada, including in Ontario, have accreditation expiry dates in 2023.¹

One way that the College mitigates risk with its registration processes is through its membership with the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (the Alliance). The Alliance collaborates to achieve consensus on regulatory issues of national interest, including examinations and entry-to-practice standards. The College’s work with the Alliance is mutually supportive, allows for knowledge sharing, assists the College in using its resources regarding registration processes efficiently, and in a way that facilitates labour mobility. A streamlined national process for accreditation facilitates labour mobility of dietitians across Canada and ensures that regulated professionals can easily move from one province to another without having to undergo further assessment of their education and training.

There are a variety of accreditation systems used by regulators. Some professions rely on the national Alliance for accreditation; some professions approve education (accredited or assessed by the regulators themselves); some professions use an independent, third-party accreditation provider; and a few still use a professional association or similar non-independent accreditation mechanisms.

The options regarding accreditation are:

¹ More information about the Canadian dietetic programs and their respective accreditation award dates can be [found here](#).

1. Continuance of the PDEP Model of Accreditation following withdrawal of the service provider.

The CDO is involved in PDEP accreditation through its membership in the Alliance. PDEP's Accreditation Council makes accreditation award decisions on a consensus-basis with representatives of the three partner sectors, including an Alliance representative. Reports are reviewed by the Accreditation Council of PDEP and the College receives a letter regarding the accreditation decision.

Over the last several years, all partners have identified the need for a review of the structure and funding of this model. There have been mounting concerns with the financial stability and sustainability of this model. The costs of accreditation under PDEP have been steadily increasing, with a growing deficit position over the last three years. The model's framework also presents challenges for dietetic regulators in meeting the evolving needs and expectations of the public and other stakeholders.

With the withdrawal of the accreditation service provider and one partner no longer able to contribute financial resources toward accreditation, continuance of this model would have required a major infusion of additional financial and human resources by educators and the Alliance to be viable and sustainable. On top of this, additional and significant effort, expense and time would be necessary in the circumstances to obtain an objective alternate service provider in the timeframe needed and to incorporate PDEP so that it had the legal status to enter into contracts and carry on this work. In addition, a model in which 50% of the representatives would be from educational programs may lack credibility and/or raise concerns about conflict of interest with external stakeholders. Finally, it is unlikely that the Alliance would be willing to pursue this model at the request of Ontario, having just determined that it is not sustainable and that a better option exists.

2. Regulator Accreditation of Schools

There are a limited number of regulatory Colleges who conduct accreditation of educational programs. For example, the College of Nurses of Ontario [conducts a comprehensive review](#) process which includes annual monitoring of 88 Ontario programs with a dedicated staff team to complete this work.

This option requires considerable financial and human resources, coordination and expertise, and would be very challenging for a smaller regulator/profession with more limited resources to achieve. This option would not address the requirement of the College to harmonize standards in Canada and facilitate mobility. This process would be independent to each dietetic regulator and would take a considerable amount of time to develop and launch. Other jurisdictions with even fewer resources than Ontario may not be able to assure that their

applicants for registration (who, then can become registered in Ontario without assessment of their educational qualifications) meet the expected common educational competencies.

3. Accreditation by Another Accreditation Body

The Alliance considered accreditation through another existing accreditation body. At least 10 possible providers were investigated. Educational Programs identified one additional potential provider, which was also explored by the Alliance, however, this provider did not have capacity to add dietetic accreditation. Accreditors for the professions of Physiotherapy, Occupational/Therapy Assistants and Pharmacy and Pharmacy Technicians were also approached, who reported that they did not have sufficient capacity to add dietetic accreditation.

Internationally, the Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics (ACEND) was considered. The CDO currently has a policy position accepting ACEND accredited United States (US), Puerto Rican, and International Dietetics Education (IDE) dietetic program graduates².

US and international Nutrition and Dietetics education programs can voluntarily apply to [ACEND](#) by submitting applications demonstrating compliance with ACEND Accreditation Standards. Accreditation includes self-analysis, preparation of a self-study report, and an on-site evaluation visit by a team of professional peers. Dietetics educators and practitioners, appointed by the ACEND board, participate in the peer review process and make accreditation awards.

Using the same procedures as used for accreditation of US programs, ACEND determines if the non-US-based program is comparable in content and experience to a US-based program. Thus, ACEND accreditation cannot provide ongoing assurance that a program meets the Canadian Accreditation Standards and the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice ([ICDEP](#)) which forms the basis for Canadian dietetic programs curricula. Although there is currently substantial alignment with the US competencies and ICDEP 2.0, the CDO cannot be certain that ACEND accredited programs will continue to align with the Canadian competencies going forward (for example, the ICDEP 3.0 which will come into effect in 2023 and any future revisions of the ICDEPs). Further, delegating its assessment process to ACEND as a 3rd party accreditor, would not allow regulators to retain any oversight over or input into the process. ACEND's Accreditation submissions are in English only, which is not acceptable for Canadian purposes.

It was also noted that ACEND is changing the entry-level registration eligibility education requirements for dietitians beginning in 2024, from a baccalaureate degree to a minimum of a graduate degree and this will be reflected in changes to the ACEND accreditation standards in

² See [policy 4-20](#) Applicants from Accredited Programs in the United States

2023. Accordingly, this is not a solution that would be applicable to all Canadian programs.

4. *Individual Assessment of Canadian Applicants*

The CDO has two pathways for applicants that wish to become registered but have not completed accredited education and/or practical training. This involves *individualized* assessment of each applicant through either:

- a) *Credential Assessment*: A “paper-based” exercise, mapping detailed documentation in each course completed in the applicant’s academic and practicum programs to the national competencies. If substantial equivalence to the competencies is found, the applicant gains eligibility to write the national exam.
- b) *Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) process*: Applicants are required to write the Knowledge and Competence Assessment Tool (KCAT), primarily assessing academic competence via a multiple-choice exam. Thereafter, they write the Performance Based Assessment (PBA), which assesses practicum competence via a case-based oral and written exam. Both assessments are based on the national competencies. Following successful completion, the PLAR, applicants are required to successfully complete the Jurisprudence Knowledge and Assessment Tool (JKAT) before being deemed eligible for registration with the College and writing the national exam.

This option involves a lot more work for applicants to demonstrate the details of their education (credential assessment) or to demonstrate their competencies (PLAR). In addition to a direct added cost of this option to applicants (between \$1000 - \$2900), the process would also create delayed application timelines for these applicants compared to the current process. If any gaps are identified in the individualized assessment, the applicant may be required to undergo additional training or experience. Currently, the College does not have the resources to accommodate a significant increase in the number of applicants requiring individual assessment.

5. *EQual Accreditation*

[EQual](#) is a department of Health Standard Organization (HSO)/Accreditation Canada (AC). HSO develops health care standards and AC develops high impactful accreditation programs in Canada and internationally. Together, HSO/AC have been doing standardization and accreditation for over 60 years and currently work in over 35 countries.

EQual evolved within HSO/AC from the Canadian Medical Association (CMA)’s allied health sciences education accreditation (which worked with over 13 health professions including laboratory sciences, paramedicine, radiation therapy, perfusionist, physician assistants, and respiratory therapy, among others). The CMA is no longer involved in the EQual accreditation process, and the program has continued to grow. EQual is a bilingual service provider that

currently conducts accreditation for approximately 240 programs, across 25 health disciplines and 19 health professions. EQual's client list includes both Canadian and foreign universities and college-based programs.

EQual imbeds and incorporates each profession's specific competency profile (for example, the ICDEPs) within its program and provides a framework and logistical operational support. In signing an agreement with EQual, the Alliance becomes part of the EQual Council. The Alliance's involvement on the EQual Council allows for participation in standards and program development, and access to educational program reports, which would accord with the College's fair access obligations.

EQual has one set of general accreditation standards that are used for all professions, which align with accreditation best practices. HSO/AC are themselves accredited by the Standard Council of Canada (SCC) and the International Society for Quality in Healthcare (ISQua). The standards are the intellectual property of HSO/AC and EQual and under their own accreditation requirements, must be protected. The most recent version of the standards were developed in collaboration with health professional stakeholders.

The EQual standards have been evaluated in relation to the PDEP Accreditation Standards and significant similarities have been identified. As a partner member of EQual, the Alliance has the opportunity to include profession specific education guidance from the PDEP standard in EQual processes for dietetic program accreditation. A national call to educators for interest in working with the Alliance and EQual to identify these profession-specific elements was made and this work has commenced. Programs can learn more about the EQual Accreditation Standards before signing on with EQual by attending a two-day accreditation workshop. Workshops will be scheduled shortly, with no cost to programs for one attendee per program, as workshop fees are being sponsored by the Alliance.

EQual accreditation standards are regularly reviewed in keeping with HSO/AC's and EQual accreditation policies. A Technical Committee is struck, and stakeholders are engaged anytime standards are developed, reviewed or revised. In the most recent revision of the EQual standard, two new criteria were added: patient partnership and innovation in education, which further differentiate EQual's education standard from many others. These changes were adopted in response to a changing healthcare system landscape and public expectations for the health professional workforce of the future to be immersed in new healthcare trends, patient-centered care, virtual healthcare and innovative practices. New EQual elements are always introduced in a fashion which consider the ability of program to implement timely changes. This includes offering programs the ability and time to create an action plan for development and compliance with new requirements, which is the same approach that will be used for dietetic program onboarding. EQual does not prescribe specific actions with respect to Quality Improvement (QI) but instead works by empowering programs to be innovative, within the confines, abilities and limitations of their institutions and available resources. EQual does, however, act as an education Quality Assurance (QA) agent and works closely with health

professional regulatory agencies, governments and educators to advance health professional quality education.

Dietetic programs are in the process of adapting their curricula to the ICDEPs 3.0. It is anticipated that the EQual transition will require programs to carry-on this work and continue to cross-map their curriculum to the ICDEP 3.0.

EQual has agreed to recognize the PDEP accreditation awards of existing programs and to work with new programs requiring accreditation. EQual will also work with programs and the Alliance to develop the Dietetic program accreditation review schedule. Programs will be engaged in the establishment of accreditation review dates. Programs who have expired or approaching accreditation award dates, will be offered extensions and will work with EQual to determine an appropriate date to proceed with the accreditation cycle.

The Accreditation process is similar to the PDEP process and consists of an off-site program self-assessment and submission, followed by an on-site review and an award decision. EQual survey teams typically consist of 4 people: 2 dietitians/dietetic educators, 1 education expert (who maybe a dietitian/dietetic educator or tenured education expert) and in some cases 1 regulatory body representative. The survey team is also supported by 1 EQual accreditation specialist. EQual recruits, trains, and supports accreditation surveyors. As part of onboarding, dietetic programs will be offered the opportunity to put forward faculty/members to serve as potential surveyors.

Accreditation awards are confirmed by an independent Accreditation Decision Committee (ADC) following a recommendation from the survey team. ADC members are appointed by EQual Council member organizations. Each program ADC includes profession specific subject matter experts. The ADC ensures that the EQual team accreditation recommendation aligns with the EQual decision guidelines. Provincial regulatory agencies are notified of accreditation results associated with education programs in their respective jurisdictions. Between accreditation awards, educational programs are expected to engage in QI by submitting an annual report.

EQual maintains a leading practice library to support continuous quality improvement. In 2021, this library was extended to also include health professional education leading practices. Education leading practices are peer reviewed by education experts. Through the leading practice library, EQual offers educational programs and regulators the opportunity to share and recognize health professional education best practices. EQual also offers annual continuing education opportunities such as workshops, lunch and learn sessions and webinars.

With respect to fees, the Alliance and educational programs will continue to contribute financially to EQual accreditation on an annual basis. EQual fees were established in 2016 and are currently largely reflective of the size of the program. EQual is currently undertaking a review of its fee structure in collaboration with its partners. In order to facilitate an effective

transition, HSO/AC and EQual have agreed to a progressive fee transition over a three-year period which sees 2022 fees remaining stable and in alignment with current PDEP fee schedule. The Alliance is reassured that the general EQual fee range is consistent with accreditation market rate pricing. It is typical for educational programs to assume the costs of accreditation. The Alliance has recognized that the PDEP process did not reflect the true costs of accreditation which was an important factor in the conclusion of that process.

Alliance Recommendation

The Alliance recommends that CDO accept EQual/Accreditation Canada as the approved accreditation agency.

The Alliance has proposed a transition plan to the new accreditation process that is fair and transparent in all provinces and provides adequate notice to educational programs and students. The Alliance recommends that all Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies continue to recognize PDEP accreditation and awards until August 31, 2023 for the purposes of registration, regardless of the date of the programs' last accreditation and expiry date. This recommendation is a risk-based, right-touch recommendation and is made given the understanding that QI and program oversight for PDEP accredited programs *is no longer available*.

The transition period also accords with the date that the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP), version 3.0, are required to be fully incorporated into dietetic education programs. CDO is also in the process of incorporating ICDEP 3.0 in its programs. The Canadian Dietetic Registration Examination (CDRE) will be based on the ICDEP 3.0 beginning at the May 2024 exam sitting.

SUMMARY

This information is before Council to determine whether to accept EQual/Accreditation Canada as the approved accreditation agency and if so, whether it approves the proposed transition period for continued PDEP recognition. Should Council proceed with this recommendation, graduates of educational programs that do not sign on with EQual will be required to engage in an alternate assessment process, such as credential assessment or PLAR, following the transition end date of August 31, 2023.

RECOMMENDATION/NEXT STEPS

1. That Council accept EQual/Accreditation Canada as the approved accreditation agency
2. That Council continue to recognize PDEP accreditation and awards until August 31, 2023, for the purposes of registration, regardless of the date of the programs' last accreditation and expiry date.

3. Should Council not accept EQual, Council is asked to provide direction on the other available options.

ATTACHMENTS

- 7.2: EQual – Alliance Announcement dated May 24, 2022
- 7.3: Letter from dietetic educators dated June 16, 2022
- 7.4: Updated Letter from dietetic educators dated June 16, 2022



Strategic Partnership

Health Standards Organization (HSO), Accreditation Canada (AC), its Education Quality (EQual) program and the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (the “Alliance”) are very excited to announce their collaborative partnership to ensure that dietetic education programs continue to benefit from quality accreditation services and more importantly, that the dietetic workforce of tomorrow is competent and ready to provide safe and quality healthcare services.

Effective immediately, EQual will be responsible for providing education accreditation services for dietetic education programs in Canada for the purpose of program approval leading to registration with a dietetic regulatory body. As part of the partnership, the Alliance will be joining an existing list of 20+ other health professions and specialties who already use these services. For their part, dietetic education programs will be joining a long list of over 230 other health professional education programs that are accredited by EQual.

EQual and the Alliance have already been hard at work to ensure a smooth transition to EQual accreditation services. As part of this transition, EQual intends to communicate directly with all dietetic education programs in the near future. In the meantime, we provide the following preliminary information:

- **Recognition of previous accreditation status**
Accreditation Canada/EQual will recognize the previous Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) program accreditation status. Throughout the remainder of 2022, EQual will be working with education programs to adjust accordingly the timing of future accreditation activities while recognizing work done to date.
- **General EQual information session**
We look forward to having the opportunity to connect shortly via teleconference sessions in English and French. These briefs (1 hour) introductory information sessions are intended to present an overview of the EQual program and provide opportunity to collaborate with education programs and answer questions.
- **EQual workshop**
To facilitate a seamless transition, the Alliance has agreed to sponsor a series of English and French (two-day) education program accreditation workshops. Dietetic education programs are required to communicate with their respective provincial regulatory bodies to obtain specific sponsorship information. Additional information regarding the date and time of these workshops will be forwarded shortly by EQual to all Canadian dietetic education programs.

- **EQual on-boarding**

EQual and the Alliance have established a streamlined on-boarding process for existing (and new) dietetic education programs. The onboarding stage will enable us to obtain a better understanding of each individual program and establish a cohesive accreditation activity timeline. A fillable onboarding form will be electronically distributed by EQual. *Dietetic education programs are required to identify and communicate the contact information of their program's point of contact to their respective provincial regulatory bodies.*

- **EQual assessment activities**

Following the submission of a complete onboarding form, EQual will work with each dietetic education program to finalize their accreditation agreement and confirm assessment activities and timelines.

- **Accreditation agreement**

In the case that an educational institution is already an EQual partner, an addendum will be provided to add the dietetic program to their existing lists of programs. Complete signed agreement (or addenda) and payment of accreditation fees are required prior to any accreditation activities being scheduled.

We wish to again thank the Alliance members and all dietetic educators for the hard work you do everyday! We are looking forward to our on-going collaboration and working together in maintaining, supporting, and improving dietetic education.

Kind regards,



Joanie Bouchard

Registrar & Incoming Chair

College of Dietitians of BC and Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies

Carl Damour

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Director - EQual Program

Health Standards Organization / Accreditation Canada

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To the College of Dietitians of Ontario Council

Kerri LaBrecque, RD (President)
Denis Tsang, RD (Vice-President)
Ann Watt, RD
Lesia Kicak, RD
Donna Hennyey, RD
Karine Dupuis Pominville, RD
Julie Slack, RD
Anahita Djalilvand, RD
Douglas Ellis
John Regan
Israel Ogbechie
Raynold D'Sa
Santhikumar Chandrasekharan
Sharanjit Padda

June 16, 2022

Dear Council Members,

We are writing this message today in our capacity as Program Directors/Chair of the Food and Nutrition programs at Ontario Universities, where dietetic education is provided. We feel it is urgent we express our serious concerns with recent steps taken by [the Alliance of Regulatory Bodies in Canada](#) (“the Alliance”) and, through membership in that group, by the College of Dietitians of Ontario, to “outsource” the accreditation process for dietetic education programs to a third party, without adequate engagement of the profession and the university educators whose work would be deeply affected by these decisions. There are significant logistical and cost issues to the profession and to our universities that have been ignored by the Alliance and may result in the near term in challenges to the dietetic profession and the safety of those who seek their care, including potentially fewer dietetic education programs available for interested students and a reduced number of qualified candidates for entry to practice.

It is true, as written in briefing note 4.1 attached with the Friday June 17, 2022 Council meeting agenda, that the College of Dietitians of Ontario has some degree of oversight in the training of the profession, but it is also true that this is **our entire purpose**. Further, we too operate through the laws and regulations of the Province of Ontario, for the benefit of all Ontarians. And for several years, we believed we were part of a mutually supportive collaboration with our regulators.

While dietetic educators across the country have had two meetings with the Alliance over the

past semester and have repeatedly expressed our concerns about decision-making without involvement of key stakeholders, the Alliance has recently announced that they have engaged the [EQual Accreditation program](#) as the only future path to program accreditation in Canada.

The Alliance has provided little information on the actual process that will be used, how dietitians will be involved, how standards will be developed, timelines, and fees for university programs – although we have been promised that **the costs of accreditation will approximately triple within 3-5 years**. Instead, we have been encouraged to sign-on to the new service and wait for further information that will be provided by the service itself.

Unfortunately, this approach is not aligned with decision-making and curriculum development for our universities. For example:

- We need extensive information to brief the Deans of our schools before we can “sign on” to a new accreditation service – a service that accredits mainly non-university-based programs.
- Any substantial changes to our curriculum must be approved through provostial governance in a process that may take a year or more.
- Any changes to the way we position our educational programs to potential students must be ready more than a year before incoming students would begin the program, to be fair and transparent in our recruitment efforts.

As a result of these misunderstandings about the reality of university work, several of us have already had to begin seeking legal advice from within our institutions, to understand our rights and responsibilities where our collaboration has ostensibly failed.

Please know that we are not opposed to changing the accreditation structure. Those of us responsible for dietetic education in Ontario universities, some of the most prestigious in the world, would not jeopardize the training of future dietitians, regardless of whether accreditation is imminent or not. We regularly submit to the peer-review processes required of us by our institutions and the Ontario Ministry of Universities and Colleges, that help to refine and advance our research, innovation, and teaching quality. Our concern is that the Alliance’s approach on this matter has severely damaged trust between the dietetic education and regulatory sector, across Canada. Finally, we are especially critical of this approach to managing change in the midst of a pandemic, when health-related university programs are focused on providing quality “on the ground” learning experiences for students under the most challenging of circumstances.

Regarding item 4.0 – Education Accreditation Service Provider, on your agenda for the June 17th meeting, we ask you to defer your decision until the universities’ needs for information have been met, and a path forward for the execution of a new approach to accreditation can be negotiated as part of a renewed collaboration between dietetic regulators, dietetic educators, and the profession as a whole.

Thank you for your support. We would be happy to meet to discuss this issue.

Signed,

Dietetic Educators in Ontario



Pierrette Buklis, MHSc, RD, FDC (she/her)
Program Director, MPH-Nutrition and Dietetics
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto



Isabelle Giroux, PhD, DtP/RD, BÉd, ÉFI/PHEc, FDC
Professeure titulaire / Full Professor
Directrice, École des sciences de la nutrition / Director, School of Nutrition Sciences
Faculté des sciences de la santé / Faculty of Health Sciences
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Associate Professor
Academic Director
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Laura Forbes, PhD, RD
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To the College of Dietitians of Ontario Council

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June 16, 2022

Dear Council Members,

We are writing this message today in our capacity as Program Directors/Chair of the Food and Nutrition programs at Ontario Universities, where dietetic education is provided. We feel it is urgent we express our serious concerns with recent steps taken by [the Alliance of Regulatory Bodies in Canada](#) (“the Alliance”) and, through membership in that group, by the College of Dietitians of Ontario, to “outsource” the accreditation process for dietetic education programs to a third party, without adequate engagement of the profession and the university educators whose work would be deeply affected by these decisions. There are significant logistical and cost issues to the profession and to our universities that have been ignored by the Alliance and may result in the near term in challenges to the dietetic profession and the safety of those who seek their care, including potentially fewer dietetic education programs available for interested students and a reduced number of qualified candidates for entry to practice.

It is true, as written in briefing note 4.1 attached with the Friday June 17, 2022 Council meeting agenda, that the College of Dietitians of Ontario has some degree of oversight in the training of the profession, but it is also true that this is **our entire purpose**. Further, we too operate through the laws and regulations of the Province of Ontario, for the benefit of all Ontarians. And for several years, we believed we were part of a mutually supportive collaboration with our regulators.

While dietetic educators across the country have had two meetings with the Alliance over the

past semester and have repeatedly expressed our concerns about decision-making without involvement of key stakeholders, the Alliance has recently announced that they have engaged the [EQual Accreditation program](#) as the only future path to program accreditation in Canada.

The Alliance has provided little information on the actual process that will be used, how dietitians will be involved, how standards will be developed, timelines, and fees for university programs – although we have been promised that **the costs of accreditation will approximately triple within 3-5 years**. Instead, we have been encouraged to sign-on to the new service and wait for further information that will be provided by the service itself.

Unfortunately, this approach is not aligned with decision-making and curriculum development for our universities. For example:

- We need extensive information to brief the Deans of our schools before we can “sign on” to a new accreditation service – a service that accredits mainly non-university-based programs.
- Any substantial changes to our curriculum must be approved through provostial governance in a process that may take a year or more.
- Any changes to the way we position our educational programs to potential students must be ready more than a year before incoming students would begin the program, to be fair and transparent in our recruitment efforts.

As a result of these misunderstandings about the reality of university work, several of us have already had to begin seeking legal advice from within our institutions, to understand our rights and responsibilities where our collaboration has ostensibly failed.

Please know that we are not opposed to changing the accreditation structure. Those of us responsible for dietetic education in Ontario universities, some of the most prestigious in the world, would not jeopardize the training of future dietitians, regardless of whether accreditation is imminent or not. We regularly submit to the peer-review processes required of us by our institutions and the Ontario Ministry of Universities and Colleges, that help to refine and advance our research, innovation, and teaching quality. Our concern is that the Alliance’s approach on this matter has severely damaged trust between the dietetic education and regulatory sector, across Canada. Finally, we are especially critical of this approach to managing change in the midst of a pandemic, when health-related university programs are focused on providing quality “on the ground” learning experiences for students under the most challenging of circumstances.

Regarding item 4.0 – Education Accreditation Service Provider, on your agenda for the June 17th meeting, we ask you to defer your decision until the universities’ needs for information have been met, and a path forward for the execution of a new approach to accreditation can be negotiated as part of a renewed collaboration between dietetic regulators, dietetic educators, and the profession as a whole.

Thank you for your support. We would be happy to meet to discuss this issue.

Signed,

Dietetic Educators in Ontario



Pierrette Buklis, MHSc, RD, FDC (she/her)
Program Director, MPH-Nutrition and Dietetics
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto



Isabelle Giroux, PhD, DtP/RD, BÉd, ÉFI/PHEc, FDC
Professeure titulaire / Full Professor
Directrice, École des sciences de la nutrition / Director, School of Nutrition Sciences
Faculté des sciences de la santé / Faculty of Health Sciences
Université d'Ottawa / University of Ottawa



School of Food and Nutritional Sciences
Brescia University



Laura Forbes, PhD, RD
Pronouns: She/Her
Associate Professor
Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
University of Guelph

Shawry

Sharon Wong, PhD, RD
Associate Director, Dietetics and Associate Professor,
School of Nutrition, Faculty of Community Services
Toronto Metropolitan University

Macaskill

Lesley Macaskill, MHSc, RD (she/her)
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Kathy MacKay

Kathy MacKay, MSc, RD (she/her)
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Joy Hoard

Joy Hoard, MSc, RD (she/her)
Dietetic Education Coordinator & Instructor
School of Food and Nutritional Sciences
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Helen Toews RD

Helen Toews, MSc, RD (she/her)
Dietetic Education Coordinator
Hamilton Health Sciences &
Brescia University College

Dr. Janet Madill

Dr. Janet Madill RD FDC
Professor
Research Chair, Nutrition and Transplantation
CNTRP Researcher
Clinical Coordinator
School of Food and Nutritional Sciences
Brescia University College

To the College of Dietitians of Ontario Council

Kerri LaBrecque, RD (President)
Denis Tsang, RD (Vice-President)
Ann Watt, RD
Lesia Kicak, RD
Donna Hennyey, RD
Karine Dupuis Pominville, RD
Julie Slack, RD
Anahita Djalilvand, RD
Douglas Ellis
John Regan
Israel Ogbechie
Raynold D'Sa
Santhikumar Chandrasekharan
Sharanjit Padda
Melanie Woodbeck (Registrar)

July 4, 2022

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for agreeing to give the matter of the change in educational accreditation agency additional consideration before making a final decision on the College of Dietitians of Ontario's next steps. While our letter of June 16 outlined our broad concerns and asked for a deferral of decision, this communication will provide some context for the concerns of Ontario's nutrition and dietetic educators and offer a possible new approach that could help move the profession across Canada forward in a collaborative, positive manner.

Summary

While we understand that the [Alliance of Dietetic Regulatory Bodies in Canada](#) ("the Alliance") has already signed an agreement with EQual/Accreditation Canada, and that this may not be an arrangement that the College of Dietitians of Ontario (CDO) can ignore at this point, we ask that you direct CDO to:

- Work with Ontario educators to develop an implementation plan for this change in accreditation approach, which respects prior accreditation decisions made in collaboration with provincial regulators through the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) and balances the necessary time for Ontario's education sector to obtain the internal approvals needed for engagement, with the need for timely implementation of this process for those who imminently require an accreditation review.
- Collaborate with educators in the development of an equivalent, but alternate, accreditation approach led by the dietetic profession that permits graduates from all Ontario-based dietetic education programs to achieve recognition by CDO, even where their administration cannot approve engagement in the EQual process.
- Restore transparent communication and collaborative decision-making with the dietetic education sector in Ontario, so we may continue to work together in support of the health of Ontario citizens.

History

Since 2009, regulators, educators and Dietitians of Canada (DC) have participated as partners governed by a consensus model, to address the education and training standards necessary for the protection of our professional scope and public safety and wellbeing. Unfortunately, through a series of unilateral decisions over the past year, the foundations of that partnership are shaken.

- DC made a decision to withdraw their secretariat support for the accreditation system, which was not forewarned or shared widely with partners.
- The PDEP Steering Committee did not immediately initiate a process with all partners to navigate next steps.
- The Alliance at its sole discretion undertook a selection process for and signed an agreement with a third party (EQual) to manage accreditation for dietetic education programs.

Please see **Appendix A** for a summary of our perspective on the events from September 2021 to the present. During what is arguably the most challenging time in recent history due to a global pandemic, educators have since last fall suggested establishing a time limited working group to ensure programs needing accreditation could proceed as planned, and subsequent accreditation approaches could meet all stakeholders' needs. The Alliance has not been willing to engage with educators in this more measured and collaborative process.

Questions

Through the Canadian Association of Professional Programs in Human Nutrition (CAPPHN) and other professional groups, educators have repeatedly sought answers through letters to regulators, at stakeholder information sessions and in smaller meetings. Questions remain, including:

1. What will Equal accreditation cost? We have been given only a broad range of fees, and the indications have some dietetic education programs concerned for their ongoing economic viability.
2. What are the standards that Equal will use? Why is this not transparent? The Alliance has requested use of some PDEP intellectual property that may be relevant for the development of these standards, but even this has yet to be resolved at the PDEP table.
3. What happens to existing accreditation awards? It has been suggested that only after signing with EQual will programs be able to retain their current, hard-earned accredited status. It is critical to recognize that programs have invested significant time and funding to achieve that status, and to invalidate those awards while a path forward is being developed risks redirecting resources intended to support students.
4. What does accreditation look like? How are programs oriented? What tools are available? What is the process for submissions, site reviews, etc.? In other words, what will our work be to maintain our accredited status, and what volunteer demands will still be expected of educators to support the process?

Concerns

We have noted some misinformation in Alliance communications, and we are concerned that this reflects perspectives that are not fully evidence-based. As examples:

- Despite assertions by the Alliance that EQual accredits university-based health professional programs, of the two Ontario-based professions they cite, while Radiation Technologists are trained through an undergraduate degree program, Physician Assistants require neither an undergraduate nor Master's degree preparation for their registration.
- Although we are all governed by the same Regulated Health Professions Act in Ontario, a review of several other health professional groups, including nursing, medicine, physiotherapy and radiation technologists, indicates where accreditation is concerned, the educator groups play

the lead role in determining how the accreditation program is structured, with regulatory colleges participating in a more consultative manner. Further, based on conversations with our health professional peers over the past year, we assert that our PDEP partnership, involving regulators, educators and professional association in the development of a robust pathway to enter practice, has been the envy of other professions.

Following on the question of evidence, we are also uncertain what evidence the Alliance has seen that our profession has a history of disregarding accreditation standards or public safety, or that the public is at substantial risk if programs that have operated in good faith under past accreditation processes have their status extended to permit a thoughtful, collaborative approach to rebuilding our accreditation approach.

Further, we are worried about the implications of the hasty drive to accreditation through EQual, with respect to the adequacy of numbers of practicing Dietitians, or health human resource implications from an equity and diversity perspective. For example:

- If the cost of accreditation through EQual is prohibitive to small and/or new programs, with no other option available, we are concerned that such programs may cease to exist and dietetic education and training might become less available to interested students, particularly in parts of the province that rely on local internship programs to work in their smaller and remote communities. It's also possible that in order to bear the higher costs associated with a new accreditation process, all programs may have to establish higher tuition or fees to remain viable. Either way, this would involve a higher direct cost to students who may have to spend more to enter a dietetic program and/or move to more expensive regions to pursue an accredited program. This may limit access to the profession for those in equity-seeking groups who are at a disadvantage with respect to post-secondary education for many well-established socio-economic reasons.
- Further, some of our colleagues have informed us that one accreditation standard that is common to EQual accreditation processes is a minimum pass-rate on the licensure exam among students from an accredited program. This may lead to programs training their dietetic students in pursuit of exam results vs our current approach to understanding the evolution of the field and the identified interests and needs of our students, and preparing them for critical reflection and lifelong learning.

We are gravely concerned about the impact of such changes on this small profession and the people we serve. There is already considerable overlap between dietetic practice and that of other regulated health professionals, including nurses, pharmacists and naturopaths. And we are well aware of the proliferation of “nutritionists” who are not Registered Dietitians. If Registered Dietitians become even more rare, how are we to protect the health of the public where others with less appropriate training are delivering dietetic service? If we are present but our training does not feature higher order executive thinking, our influence on the health of individuals and populations will be diluted by those who deliver their perspectives with greater confidence. If we are a profession whose training becomes less accessible to equity seeking groups, will we reflect the diversity and experience of our Ontario communities, and support appropriate dietetic services for all?

While the CDO mandate may be to ensure that the Ontario “public can have access to *safe*, ethical and quality nutrition services” (emphasis added), Ontario dietetic educators’ purpose is to ensure

the “public can have **access** to safe, ethical and quality nutrition services” from Dietitians. We need to be full partners in this process.

Thank you again for your support. We remain hopeful that we can find a mutually agreeable path forward to promote and protect the health of Ontarians and Canadians.

The following Dietetic Educators in Ontario have directly contributed to this issue summary:



Pierrette Buklis, MHSc, RD, FDC (she/her)
Program Director, MPH-Nutrition and Dietetics
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto



Isabelle Giroux, PhD, DtP/RD, BÉd, ÉFI/PHEc, FDC
Professeure titulaire / Full Professor
Directrice, École des sciences de la nutrition / Director, School of Nutrition Sciences
Faculté des sciences de la santé / Faculty of Health Sciences
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Brescia University

Dr. Janet Madill

Dr. Janet Madill RD FDC
Professor
Research Chair, Nutrition and Transplantation
CNTRP Researcher
Clinical Coordinator
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Pronouns: She/Her
Associate Professor
Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition
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Assistant Professor, Teaching Stream
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Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto

Appendix A – A recent timeline of the change in accreditation for dietetic education programs

Date	Event
September 2021	Dietetic educators enter a second academic year of pandemic management, while maintaining high education standards along with student and faculty health and student progress.
September 28, 2021	Dietitians of Canada (DC) informs PDEP Steering Committee that they will no longer provide secretariat services for PDEP, effective April 1, 2022. This information is not widely shared beyond the Steering Committee or DC.
November 26, 2021 (Item 1 Appendix A)	The Alliance communicated to education programs its decision to contract a third-party service provider to conduct accreditation.
December 10, 2021 (Item 2 Appendix A)	PDEP meeting to confirm DC's intent and PDEP's next steps, including additional information regarding the Alliance's RFP process to seek a new accreditation service provider.
January 31, 2022 (Item 3 Appendix A)	The Alliance communicates in writing to the Dean of Sciences of St. Francis Xavier University to confirm their plans for accreditation.
February 22, 24, 2022	Alliance hosts accreditation information sessions for stakeholders.
March 14, 2022 (Item 4 Appendix A)	Alliance hosts follow up information sessions to address unanswered questions.
April 14, 2022 (Item 5 Appendix A)	The Canadian Association of Professional Programs in Human Nutrition (CAPPHN) writes to the Alliance to indicate ongoing information gaps for dietetic educators about the accreditation process in the future, and requests additional engagement in the planning and decision-making process.
May 30, 2022	A delegation of Ontario dietetic educators, meet with the Ontario Fairness Commissioner, who proposed a conversation between themselves, CDO, dietetic educators and the Ministry of Health once the election was completed and government business resumed.
June 16, 2022 (Item 6 Appendix A)	The Alliance sent an email to dietetic educators indicating they are "working with College boards/councils to enable national consistency" and encourages programs who wish to sign on with EQual to contact their provincial college. Further, the Alliance would let us know in July "when PDEP accreditation awards will no longer be recognized for the purpose of registration".
June 17, 2022	CDO Council, at a meeting already in progress, has an item for approval addressing the contract with EQual and the timeline for sunsetting PDEP awards.
Late June 2022	<p>Verbal information from various sources to educators indicate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programs who sign on to EQual by August 2023 will have their full PDEP accreditation award recognized under the new accreditation approach; others are not guaranteed that their previous awards will be recognized beyond that date. • The schedule for an introductory "information session" by EQual and a 1.5 day workshop for a limited number of education program faculty will be communicated in July. Specific questions re: standards, costs, etc. are expected to be answered at this workshop.

Alliance of
**Canadian Dietetic
Regulatory Bodies**

*Alliance des organismes canadiens
de réglementation des diététistes*

November 26, 2021

British Columbia
College of Dietitians of
British Columbia (CDBC)

Alberta
College of Dietitians of
Alberta (CDA)

Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Dietitians
Association (SDA)

Manitoba
College of Dietitians of
Manitoba (CDM)

Ontario
College of Dietitians of
Ontario (CDO)

Québec
Ordre des diététistes
nutritionnistes du Québec
(ODNQ)

New Brunswick
New Brunswick Association
of Dietitians (NBAD/ADNB)

Prince Edward Island
College of Dietitians of PEI
(CDPEI)

Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Dietetic
Association (NSDA)

**Newfoundland &
Labrador**
Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Dietitians (NLCD)

Pierrette Buklis, MHSc, RD, FDC
Director, MPH-Nutrition & Dietetics Program
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto
Email: Pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca
Health Sciences Building, 155 College Street,
6th Floor Toronto, On M5T 3M7

Dear Pierrette Buklis,

On behalf of the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (Alliance), I am writing to inform the MPH-Nutrition & Dietetics Program, Dalla Lana School of Public Health University of Toronto, of our decision to seek a third-party provider for accreditation services to meet our collective statutory obligation to approve dietetic education programs. The Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) recently announced that Dietitians of Canada (DC) will terminate their contract as the service provider for accreditation of dietetic education programs as of March 31, 2022.

Professional regulatory bodies have a legislated duty to approve education programs and/or the accrediting agency to ensure that individuals who enter the dietetics profession have the knowledge, skills, and judgment to practice safely, ethically and competently. In light of the accountability of dietetic regulators to their provincial governments, it is essential that a structure for accreditation be in place as soon as possible to avoid delays to scheduled program reviews beyond March 31, 2022. An expedient transition is also essential to prevent compromising provincial registration and labour mobility of dietitians in Canada.

PDEP is a national partnership of three parties: DC, the Alliance and educators from academic and practicum programs. The current structure and governance of PDEP, as an unincorporated partnership undertaking projects in areas of common interest and making decisions by consensus, is not conducive to an expedient transition for provision of accreditation services. For these reasons, the Alliance will conduct a review of eligible service providers and intends to issue an RFP shortly. This decision is essential for regulators to fulfill their legislative mandate and is aligned with current regulatory processes in other health professions in Canada whereby an external third party conducts accreditation for the regulator with objectivity and transparency. The Alliance remains fully supportive of PDEP and intends to continue to collaborate with its partners to review

the current structure of PDEP with the goal of a strong and sustainable partnership that focuses on establishing entry to practice competencies and accreditation standards.

The Alliance is committed to minimizing disruption of accreditation services. We expect changes in the accreditation processes and costs depending on the service provider chosen. We will continue to provide ongoing communication to academic and practicum programs during this time of change as new information becomes available. If you have questions, please contact Melanie Woodbeck, Registrar & Executive Director, College of Dietitians or Ontario, at: melanie.woodbeck@collegeofdietitians.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J Hemeon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter of the first name being a large, stylized capital letter.

Jennifer Hemeon, Pdt, MScAHN
Chair of the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies



PDEP - PFPN

Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice
Partenariat pour la formation et la pratique en nutrition

AGENDA for the PDEP MEETING OF MEMBERS DECEMBER 10, 2021 1-3 EST

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5378111000>
Meeting ID: 537 811 1000

Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/koksbYfpa>

Time	Item	Who
1:00	Welcome Land Acknowledgement Context for the Meeting	Lana Moore, PDEP SC Communications Committee Member
1:10	Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies presentation on rationale for why they are seeking a third-party provider for Accreditation Services	Jennifer Hemeon, Chair of Alliance
1:40	Dietitians of Canada presentation on rationale for why they are discontinuing as service provider for Secretariat and accreditation	Jennifer Wojcik, Acting Co-CEO-DC
2:10	Question and Answer Panel: Jennifer Hemeon (Alliance Chair) Jennifer Wojcik (Dietitians of Canada) Gord Zello (PDEP Co-Chair)	Moderated by Melissa LeBlanc, PDEP SC Communications Committee Member
2:55	Closing and Next Steps	Debbie MacLellan, PDEP SC Communications Committee Member



Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies



January 31, 2022

British Columbia
College of Dietitians of
British Columbia (CDBC)

Alberta
College of Dietitians of
Alberta (CDA)

Saskatchewan
Saskatchewan Dietitians
Association (SDA)

Manitoba
College of Dietitians of
Manitoba (CDM)

Ontario
College of Dietitians of
Ontario (CDO)

Québec
Ordre des
Diététistes-nutritionniste du
Québec (ODNQ)

New Brunswick
New Brunswick Association
of Dietitians (NBAD/ADNB)

Prince Edward Island
College of Dietitians of PEI
(CDPEI)

Nova Scotia
Nova Scotia Dietetic
Association (NSDA)

**Newfoundland &
Labrador**
Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Dietitians (NLCD)

Nola Etkin
University of Prince Edward Island
Via email: netkin@upei.ca
Cc: Jennifer Taylor/Director of Dietetics Internship

Dear Nola,

In November 2021, the Alliance communicated to programs its decision to contract a third-party service provider to conduct accreditation. On December 10, 2021, the Alliance presented at a Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) meeting to explain its rationale and announced that we have begun negotiations with EQual, a subsidiary of Accreditation Canada. As indicated during the PDEP meeting, we intend to host an information session for stakeholders when more information becomes known. At this time, we would like to share what we know about EQual and address some of the questions that we have received. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information which we think will be helpful for deans and program directors as we move towards this change.

What is EQual? EQual is an established and bilingual service provider that currently conducts accreditation for approximately 225 programs, including 22 health professions. Using each profession's competency profile as the foundation, they provide a framework and logistical support for the self-assessment, on-site review and determination of accreditation awards. Dietitian/educator surveyors are included on survey teams. They have a program council composed of representatives from each of the professions involved in policy and standard development, and a leading practice library to support continuous quality improvement across professions. More information is at: <https://accreditation.ca/health-education-accreditation/>

Why EQual? Prior to beginning negotiations with EQual, the Alliance conducted an environmental scan of accrediting organizations and corresponded with other accrediting agencies who indicated that they did not currently have capacity to accredit dietetic programs. The Cathexis Report, commissioned by PDEP in 2019, included an environmental scan of accreditation providers and specifically recommended Accreditation Canada as a service provider should the accreditation program become unsustainable. The Alliance has engaged in several meetings with EQual and one of their existing clients to better understand what they offer. The comprehensive services offered by EQual address many of the issues raised in the Cathexis report and the issues raised by the Canadian Association of Professional Programs in Human Nutrition (CAPPN) at the October 2021 PDEP meeting, including conflict of interest, surveyor recruitment, file sharing, and the ability to attest to some standards by affidavit that programs had previously provided evidence.

.../2

Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies

January 27, 2022

British Columbia

College of Dietitians of
British Columbia (CDBC)

Alberta

College of Dietitians of
Alberta (CDA)

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Dietitians
Association (SDA)

Manitoba

College of Dietitians of
Manitoba (CDM)

Ontario

College of Dietitians of
Ontario (CDO)

Québec

Ordre des
Diététistes-nutritionniste du
Québec (ODNQ)

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Association
of Dietitians (NBAD/ADNB)

Prince Edward Island

College of Dietitians of PEI
(CDPEI)

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Dietetic
Association (NSDA)

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador
College of Dietitians (NLCD)

EQual is able to provide the range of services required and has the capacity to begin providing services by April 1, 2022.

What is the cost? As we are still at the negotiation stage with EQual, the costs are still to be determined. It will depend on the total number of programs and the number of students in each individual program.

It is expected that the cost will be higher than it has been in the past because the costs have been subsidized by PDEP. For years, the PDEP accreditation program has run a deficit that has been offset using other PDEP funds. According to the PDEP Annual Report, the Accreditation Program had a deficit of \$12,619 in 2020-2021. As part of the rationale for why Dietitians of Canada (DC) is not continuing as service provider, they indicated that fees they were receiving were insufficient to cover their expenses.

Who pays for accreditation? For health professions, accreditation is predominantly funded by education programs rather than the profession (through the regulatory body or professional association). A scan of health professions has shown that PDEP's funding model for accreditation is "unique" as highlighted in the Cathexis report. At this time, it is unknown whether practicing dietitians will continue to subsidize the accreditation of education programs, as they have through DC and Alliance participation in the funding model.

What are the implications if my university/health authority does not choose to be accredited by the provincial regulatory body's approved accreditation provider? We are aware that some programs are exploring alternatives. We are currently gathering information about the implications to programs, graduates, and labour mobility relevant to the ten provinces, and we will share this information with programs.

In conclusion, this decision will lead to a model with enhanced objectivity and transparency – thus increasing confidence and credibility of the accreditation award. This decision reflects current practices in the accreditation environment of regulated health professions. Although criticized for lack of consultation, we believe a gratuitous consultation would have been unfair and equally criticized. There remain unanswered questions related to cost and process, and we will communicate with programs as more information is known.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Hemeon, MScAHN, PDT
Chair, Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies



Summary of the March 14, 2022 Alliance Sessions with Stakeholders

The Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies (the Alliance) hosted sessions for stakeholders on February 22 and 24 to discuss the recent changes to the accreditation of dietetic education programs. Three sessions were held to encourage participation across the country. Recordings of the sessions are available at the following links:

- [Central](#)
- [East](#)
- [West](#)

A follow-up session was held on March 14, 2022 to address feedback from the February sessions. To view a recording of the session, click [HERE](#). A summary of the information presented at the March 14 session is outlined below.

As agreed at the February sessions, the Alliance did not sign a contract with EQual before the March 14 session to allow time for the identification of any alternative accreditation providers that might not have been considered during the Alliance's review process. No viable alternatives were identified and the March 31, 2022 deadline for Dietitians of Canada to provide accreditation services is imminent. The Alliance determined that it will proceed with the signing of a contract with EQual within the next two weeks.

We have done a robust analysis and environmental scan of the available third-party accreditation models/providers and have considered the interests of all stakeholders in the decision-making process and in contract negotiations with EQual. EQual has provided assurance that they have the ability and flexibility to meet stakeholders' needs and interests. Delaying this decision any further impacts programs with immediate needs related to accreditation.

A. Responding to feedback

Responses were provided related to:

1. Alternate providers. During the February 22 and 24 sessions, the Association and Events Management International (AEMI) was suggested as a potential third party provider for accreditation services that was not identified or considered in the environmental scan. AEMI was contacted and they indicated that, as a relatively new organization, they did not have the current capacity to accredit dietetic education programs.

2. EQual’s experience accrediting university programs. EQual accredits university-educated professions, including physician assistants (trained at a master’s level) and medical radiation technologists.
3. Quality improvement initiatives through EQual. EQual facilitates a “leading practice library” and hosts lunch and learn sessions to support quality improvement.
4. The role of EQual’s “accreditation specialist.” The accreditation specialist is an EQual employee who contributes expertise in accreditation. They support education programs and sit on the survey team. The accreditation council (made up of all profession representatives from 20 health professions) appoints the decision-making committee. Dietitians can be appointed to this decision-making committee.

B. Finances

The costs associated with accreditation under the Partnership for Dietetic Education and Practice (PDEP) were presented.

Accreditation Fees under PDEP

Year	# Surveys completed	Cost	Deficit
2018/19	4	\$ 142,000	\$ 2,655
2019/20	4	\$ 148,000	\$ 7,236
2020/21	3	\$ 158,000	\$ 12,619

The table above illustrates PDEP’s rising accreditation costs and that there have been deficits for the last three years. In addition, as described by Dietitians of Canada during their presentation at the Dec. 10, 2021 PDEP Meeting, their actual costs to provide accreditation services were two to three times the value of the contract. It is important to note that accreditation fees would have to increase substantially for the PDEP Accreditation Program to operate on a cost recovery basis. Most integrated education programs paid ~\$2,655/year for accreditation.

C. Accreditation Fees under EQual

EQual determines accreditation fees for programs based on a sliding scale. Program size is the main indicator of costs. Without having the specific demographic information from all programs, Accreditation Canada has only been able to estimate fees. The Alliance will also pay a fee under EQual which is also structured based on the size of the profession being regulated. Most programs’ fees will fall within a range of \$5,440 - \$7,381 per year.

How does that compare with other professions? As was noted in the environmental scan that we presented, the annual fees for accreditation are \$9,700 for physiotherapy programs, \$7,800 for occupational/therapy assistant programs and \$9,800 for pharmacy programs.

D. Negotiations

We heard in our previous sessions that cost is a concern. The Alliance has proposed to Equal that accreditation fees be incrementally increased over a three-year time period:

- Programs will pay the equivalent of their 2021/22 PDEP accreditation fee for the first year (2022);
- Programs will pay double their 2021/22 accreditation PDEP fee for the second year (2023), and
- Programs will pay the full Equal accreditation fee in the third year (2024) and beyond.

These savings would only apply to programs that have existing PDEP accreditation joining in 2022. New programs will be required to pay the full Equal fee.

EQual is receptive to look at cost efficiencies such as combining programs within the same institution for accreditation. Smaller similar practicum programs could also explore such an option. Discussions about cost efficiencies will be between EQual and individual education programs.

EQual will hold information workshops so that programs can fully understand EQual's processes, fee structure, etc... before deciding if they want to sign on with Equal. The Alliance will fund the cost of one representative from each dietetic program to attend a 1 ½ day workshop.

E. Profession-specific Standards

EQual uses a common set of standards applicable to all the health education professions they accredit. In addition to the common standards, there is also an opportunity to identify profession-specific guidance not otherwise included in the Integrated Competencies for Dietetic Education and Practice (ICDEP). The ICDEPs will continue to be the basis of accreditation. We propose forming a working group to identify the profession-specific standards within the current PDEP accreditation standards that should be incorporated into the new model. An example of a current dietetic-specific accreditation standard in PDEP is:

4.1.2.1 Evidence that dietitians, who are faculty or professional staff associated with the Program involved in program planning, are registered with the provincial regulatory body.

F. Alternatives to Accreditation

Joanie Bouchard, Registrar with the College of Dietitians of British Columbia, provided a comprehensive overview of a regulatory body's legislated objectives and accountabilities.

Regulators have the duty to register qualified applicants and accountability to approve education programs for the purpose of registration. To recognize applicants' educational

qualifications, each provincial regulator uses a combination of approaches based on their provincial legislation and individual by-laws:

- Board/Council approval of programs (approval can be based on an external accrediting agency)
- Board/Council direct approval of an accreditation agency that accredits programs
- Assessment of individual applicant competencies (usually reserved and built for internationally educated applicants)

Whereas it may take up to one year for programs to onboard with EQual, there will be a period of transition where there will be recognition of both PDEP and EQual accreditation awards for the purposes of registration. As provincial regulatory bodies each have different legislative approaches for educational qualification recognition, each provincial council will determine a date after which PDEP Accredited programs will no longer be recognized as approved programs for the purposes of registration. This is a provincial decision; however, the Alliance will be collaborating to promote national consistency.

At the point in time when PDEP accredited programs are no longer recognized by regulatory bodies as approved programs for the purposes of registration, graduates from these programs will have the option to apply to a provincial college and be assessed individually. Fees, procedures, and timelines will vary from college to college. Applicants would not automatically be successful and could face delays if regulators do not have capacity to absorb the associated workload. Alternatively, provincial regulatory bodies may identify an alternate mechanism to approve programs.

Next Steps

A priority will be for the Alliance to coordinate a transition plan with college councils as described above and will communicate to education programs the date of transition when PDEP accreditation status will no longer be recognized for the purposes of registration. As indicated in February, a program's PDEP accreditation status will be recognized by EQual and programs signing on will remain approved by Colleges in accordance with their accreditation status.

If you were unable to attend the March 14 session or didn't have an opportunity to voice questions and/or feedback, you are invited to share your thoughts through a survey. We also invite you to express interest in joining a working group to address profession-specific standards. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.



Jennifer Hemeon, PDt, Chair,

The Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies

(via email)

April 14, 2022

Dear Members of the Alliance of Dietetic Regulatory Bodies:

We, the executive of CAPPNH, are writing to respond to your April 1, 2022 letter, to provide an update from our recent surveys of CAPPNH members and professional practice educators and to inform you of our next steps in identifying an approach to accreditation of dietetic education programs in Canada.

In your April 01 letter (which was a response to our Mar 03, 2022 letter signed by 35 educators), you state that, “the Alliance addressed CAPPNH questions and concerns during a second session for educators and provided a written summary of the sessions held in February and March”. While you may perceive that you “addressed” our questions and concerns, our two recent surveys of our members and professional practice leaders (ending Mar 23 and April 13) indicate otherwise.

We conducted the two surveys to better understand educators’ perspectives on the current accreditation situation and to ensure that we are working on behalf of educators. Both surveys were anonymous, and were well subscribed with representation from different types of programs and from across the country.

Survey respondents reported significant dissatisfaction with the information that has been provided by the Alliance, and with the Alliance’s decision to move forward with Equal. Almost all members (94%) said they still had concerns about EQual and only 23% indicated that they will very likely/likely sign with EQual. This suggests that members have not had their concerns addressed, and the majority are not prepared to move forward with EQual.

As part of our April 13 survey, we asked members directly if we should work with PDEP to pursue non-EQual models of accreditation/equivalent process. The vast majority (87%) agreed with this approach.

While the Alliance has provided some information, educators are asking for true collaboration in setting the future course for our profession, including accreditation. We are hopeful that this can still happen.

Based on the results of this feedback, CAPPHN has a clear and strong mandate from our members to work with PDEP to develop a proposal for an alternative to EQual. Preliminary work has begun and we will move forward immediately. We welcome your collaborative participation in the process.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Taylor, CAPPHN Chair
Director, Foods & Nutrition Program
University of Prince Edward Island



Ann Fox, Past Chair, CAPPHN
Chair, Department of Human Nutrition
St. Francis Xavier University



Laura Forbes, Incoming Chair, CAPPHN
Curriculum Chair in Applied Human Nutrition
University of Guelph

From: alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com
To: "[Jennifer P Taylor](#)"; "[Ann Fox](#)"; "[Cammer, Allison](#)"; "[Anne-Sophie Brazeau](#)"; caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA; cqobert@uwo.ca; "[Chantal Bemeur](#)"; "[Daphne Lordly](#)"; [Eric Ng](#); "[Anna Farmer](#)"; "[Laura Forbes](#)"; "[Annie Cauchon](#)"; "[Isabelle Giroux](#)"; "[Jennifer Brady](#)"; "[Liefers, Jessica](#)"; "[Julie Robitaille](#)"; "[Jessica Liefers](#)"; "[Marie Marquis](#)"; "[Pierrette Buklis](#)"; sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA; sharonw@RYERSON.CA; Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA; stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA; tamara.cohen@UBC.CA; shannan.grant2@msvu.ca; mlyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca; rprose@mun.ca; "[Jennifer Brady](#)"; b.bandy@usask.ca; kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca; cagreen@nosm.ca; megan.omstead@ryerson.ca; esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca; semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca
Cc: "[Sarah MacDonald](#)"
Subject: RE: Response to Alliance Follow-Up Communication
Date: June 16, 2022 1:31:32 PM

Some people who received this message don't often get email from alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Educators,

Thank you for the follow up questions on the email sent on June 7. As chair, I continue to write on behalf of the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulators.

First, I'd like to clarify that the information session and the workshop are two separate things. The information session is a 1-hour presentation where EQual will introduce themselves. The workshop refers to the 1 ½ day session where a program representative will dive deep into EQual's forms and processes related to accreditation. Both will take place before programs submit an application to become registered with EQual and sign a contract with them. This is the same information that was presented by the Alliance at the March 2022 meeting with educators.

Regarding the definition of a program, it is a program that receives accreditation. So, if an undergraduate program and a graduate program are within the same institution but are separate programs (not combined as an academic and practicum component), they can each send an individual to the workshop and the Alliance will cover the cost. Questions about who the most appropriate person is to send to the workshop may be asked to EQual during the 1-hour information session.

Re: boards/councils' transition plans. It is not the Alliance's role to set the date when PDEP accreditation awards will cease to be recognized by provincial colleges. However the Alliance, through our representatives, are working with College boards/councils to enable national consistency. By mid-July, we hope to have heard back from all provincial colleges and we plan to communicate the decision with you. We know that graduates from programs may apply in any province and not necessarily in the province where they graduate, and it is why we want to share the information nationally rather than provincially.

We will continue to circulate more information as it becomes available.

Thank you

Joanie Bouchard, M.Sc. RD
Chair

From: Jennifer P Taylor <jtaylor@upei.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 4:19 PM

To: Ann Fox <afox@stfx.ca>; alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com; 'Cammer, Allison' <allison.cammer@usask.ca>; 'Anne-Sophie Brazeau' <anne-sophie.brazeau@mcgill.ca>; caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA; cgobert@uwo.ca; 'Chantal Bemeur' <chantal.bemeur@umontreal.ca>; Daphne Lordly <Daphne.Lordly@msvu.ca>; erickh.ng@UTORONTO.CA; 'Anna Farmer' <farmer1@ualberta.ca>; 'Laura Forbes' <forbes@uoguelph.ca>; 'Annie Cauchon' <annie.cauchon.1@umontreal.ca>; 'Isabelle Giroux' <igiroux@uottawa.ca>; 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiou.ca>; 'Liefers, Jessica' <jrl210@mail.usask.ca>; 'Julie Robitaille' <Julie.Robitaille@fsaa.ulaval.ca>; 'Jessica Liefers' <jessica.liefers@usask.ca>; 'Marie Marquis' <marie.marquis@umontreal.ca>; pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca; sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA; sharonw@RYERSON.CA; Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA; stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA; tamara.cohen@UBC.CA; shannan.grant2@msvu.ca; miyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca; rprowse@mun.ca; 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiou.ca>; b.bandy@usask.ca; kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca; cagreen@nosm.ca; megan.omstead@ryerson.ca; esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca; semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca

Cc: jhemeon@nsdassoc.ca; Sarah MacDonald <sarah_m95@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Response to Alliance Follow-Up Communication

Hi Joanie,

Thank you for your response.

I understand that programs who are "ready to sign" would attend the first workshop, and this is to be arranged by EQual. What is still not clear is whether programs will be provided with a workshop **before they decide to "sign on"** so that they can make an informed decision and have time to consult with their legal teams. Please clarify this as soon as possible.

As Ann noted, programs need to know the date when PDEP accreditation awards will no longer be recognized from our regulators as soon as possible since many programs will be preparing for accreditation. When can we expect this information from provincial regulators?

Jen

Jennifer Taylor, RD PhD
Professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences
University of Prince Edward Island

Director, Integrated Dietetic Internship Program, Foods & Nutrition Program
Chair, CAPPNH (Canadian Association for Professional Programs in Human Nutrition)
Program Lead, Master of Applied Health Services Research Program (UPEI)

From: Ann Fox <afox@stfx.ca>

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 3:34 PM

To: alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com <alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com>; Jennifer P Taylor <jtaylor@upei.ca>; 'Cammer, Allison' <allison.cammer@usask.ca>; 'Anne-Sophie Brazeau' <anne-sophie.brazeau@mcgill.ca>; caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA <caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA>; cgoibert@uwo.ca <cgoibert@uwo.ca>; 'Chantal Bemeur' <chantal.bemeur@umontreal.ca>; Daphne Lordly <Daphne.Lordly@msvu.ca>; erickh.ng@UTORONTO.CA <erickh.ng@UTORONTO.CA>; 'Anna Farmer' <farmer1@ualberta.ca>; 'Laura Forbes' <forbesl@uoguelph.ca>; 'Annie Cauchon' <annie.cauchon.1@umontreal.ca>; 'Isabelle Giroux' <igiroux@uottawa.ca>; 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiu.ca>; 'Liefers, Jessica' <jrl210@mail.usask.ca>; 'Julie Robitaille' <Julie.Robitaille@fsaa.ulaval.ca>; 'Jessica Liefers' <jessica.liefers@usask.ca>; 'Marie Marquis' <marie.marquis@umontreal.ca>; pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca <pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca>; sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA <sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA>; sharonw@RYERSON.CA <sharonw@RYERSON.CA>; Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA <Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA>; stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA <stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA>; tamara.cohen@UBC.CA <tamara.cohen@UBC.CA>; shannan.grant2@msvu.ca <shannan.grant2@msvu.ca>; miyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca <miyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca>; rprorowse@mun.ca <rprorowse@mun.ca>; 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiu.ca>; b.bandy@usask.ca <b.bandy@usask.ca>; kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca <kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca>; cagreen@nosm.ca <cagreen@nosm.ca>; megan.omstead@ryerson.ca <megan.omstead@ryerson.ca>; esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca <esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca>; semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca <semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca>

Cc: jhemeon@nsdassoc.ca <jhemeon@nsdassoc.ca>; Sarah MacDonald <sarah_m95@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: Response to Alliance Follow-Up Communication

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of UPEI. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe. If you are uncertain, please forward to phishing@upei.ca and delete this email.

Thank you, Joanie.

Could you please provide the contact information for the person we should speak to at Equal so we can follow up as you suggest. As Laura Forbes suggested, we will also need clarification from you as to what constitutes a “program”.

With regard to the final point, if you are not able to answer this question as the chair of the Alliance, it seems reasonable to have the appropriate provincial regulator provide this information in writing to each academic and practicum program. We look forward to receiving that information.

Ann

Ann Fox, PhD, PDt
Chair, Department of Human Nutrition

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afox@stfx.ca

*I am grateful to be living and working in Mi'kma'ki,
the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

From: alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com <alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2022 1:56 PM
To: 'Jennifer P Taylor' <jtaylor@upe.ca>; Ann Fox <afox@stfx.ca>; 'Cammer, Allison' <allison.cammer@usask.ca>; 'Anne-Sophie Brazeau' <anne-sophie.brazeau@mcgill.ca>; caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA; cgobert@uwo.ca; 'Chantal Bemeur' <chantal.bemeur@umontreal.ca>; Daphne Lordly <Daphne.Lordly@msvu.ca>; erickh.ng@UTORONTO.CA; 'Anna Farmer' <farmer1@ualberta.ca>; 'Laura Forbes' <forbesl@uoguelph.ca>; 'Annie Cauchon' <annie.cauchon.1@umontreal.ca>; 'Isabelle Giroux' <igiroux@uottawa.ca>; 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiou.ca>; 'Liefers, Jessica' <jrl210@mail.usask.ca>; 'Julie Robitaille' <Julie.Robitaille@fsaa.ulaval.ca>; 'Jessica Liefers' <jessica.liefers@usask.ca>; 'Marie Marquis' <marie.marquis@umontreal.ca>; pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca; sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA; sharonw@RYERSON.CA; Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA; stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA; tamara.cohen@UBC.CA; shannan.grant2@msvu.ca; miyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca; [rowse@mun.ca](mailto:rrowse@mun.ca); 'Jennifer Brady' <jennifer.brady@acadiou.ca>; b.bandy@usask.ca; kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca; cagreen@nosm.ca; megan.omstead@ryerson.ca; esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca; semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca
Subject: RE: Response to Alliance Follow-Up Communication

Dear Jennifer and CAPPN members,

I'm writing on behalf of the Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies. Thank you for your message and questions.

The Alliance received inquiries from programs ready to sign on now with EQual. The first information session will be offered to these programs, it is purely a logistic decision. There will be an opportunity for all programs to attend that session, that hasn't changed, and the information will be circulated to programs directly by EQual.

As communicated before, the Alliance will cover the fee for one program representative to attend

the workshop. Additional representatives attending will need to be funded by programs. With that said, our understanding from EQual information, is that the representatives attending the workshop should be the individual typically leading accreditation for the program. We would encourage programs to ask more questions to EQual about the best person to attend the workshop and how it would be relevant (or not) for different staff positions within the program.

Regarding the last point, the Alliance cannot speak on behalf of individual provincial councils and boards. Programs approval for the purpose of registration eligibility is embedded in legislation, bylaws and policies of all provinces, which slightly vary. This information was presented to educators in March. We will share more information when we hear back from all provinces regarding that transition.

Sincerely,

Joanie Bouchard
Chair
Alliance of Canadian Dietetic Regulatory Bodies

From: Jennifer P Taylor <jtaylor@upei.ca>

Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 8:03 AM

To: Ann Fox <afox@stfx.ca>; alliance.regulatorsrd@gmail.com; Cammer, Allison <allison.cammer@usask.ca>; Anne-Sophie Brazeau <anne-sophie.brazeau@mcgill.ca>; caroline.p.leblanc@UMONCTON.CA; cgobert@uwo.ca; Chantal Bemeur <chantal.bemeur@umontreal.ca>; Daphne Lordly <Daphne.Lordly@msvu.ca>; erickh.ng@UTORONTO.CA; 'Anna Farmer' <farmer1@ualberta.ca>; Laura Forbes <forbesl@uoguelph.ca>; Annie Cauchon <annie.cauchon.1@umontreal.ca>; Isabelle Giroux <igiroux@uottawa.ca>; Jennifer Brady <jennifer.brady@acadiu.ca>; Lieffers, Jessica <jrl210@mail.usask.ca>; Julie Robitaille <Julie.Robitaille@fsaa.ulaval.ca>; Jessica Lieffers <jessica.lieffers@usask.ca>; Marie Marquis <marie.marquis@umontreal.ca>; pierrette.buklis@utoronto.ca; sandy.phillips@MCGILL.CA; sharonw@RYERSON.CA; Slimane.belbraouet@UMONCTON.CA; stephanie.ward@UMONCTON.CA; tamara.cohen@UBC.CA; shannan.grant2@msvu.ca; Jennifer P Taylor <jtaylor@upei.ca>; miyoung.suh@umanitoba.ca; rprose@mun.ca; Jennifer Brady <jennifer.brady@acadiu.ca>; b.bandy@usask.ca; kara.roberts@easternhealth.ca; cagreen@nosm.ca; megan.omstead@ryerson.ca; esn.dir.adj@uottawa.ca; semone.myrie@umanitoba.ca

Subject: Response to Alliance Follow-Up Communication

Hi Joanie,

I am writing as Chair of CAPPN to respond to your email regarding "follow-up communication" on accreditation.

Before any of our programs "sign on" to EQual, educators require the following clarification.

1. You note that "Providing programs names that are ready to sign on to EQual so they can be invited for an orientation and introductory session". What does it mean to "sign on"? We have made it clear that university and stand-alone dietetic programs cannot make any commitment or sign any contract *without senior administration approval and that will involve legal consultation*. As Past Chair Ann Fox noted in a previous email, we were told by the Alliance that we did not have to commit to anything until we had *all* information, including specific fees for our programs. The Alliance's April 1 letter to CAPPHN stated: "**We sincerely hope that CAPPHN members will attend the workshop to inform their decision to join EQual as their client.**" We expect the Alliance to honour this commitment. Please clarify to all members what "signing on" means.
2. You state that "Determining the schedule for the accreditation workshops for education and practicum program representatives (the Alliance will cover the fee for one representative per program)." Does this mean if there is a majors (e.g. academic BSc) program and an internship program at one university that the expenses for TWO reps will be covered?
- 3.
4. You indicate that the Alliance will be "Working with college boards/councils to set a transition plan and communicating with education and practicum programs the date when PDEP accreditation awards will no longer be recognized for the purpose of registration for those who choose not to be accredited with EQual". Our programs have achieved their current accreditation status through considerable outlay of human and financial resources. This statement implies that there will be pressure on programs to apply for accreditation *before* their full award is exhausted. Universities are simply not going to support that.

Based on the feedback we have received from educators, it is clear that many will be reluctant to join working groups to "finalize accreditation standards" or act as surveyors until they- and their senior administrators- are fully informed and risks and benefits of "signing on" to EQual can be assessed.

Please note: due to limitations with my email server, this message was not sent last evening. I am sending this message separately to CAPPHN members and professional practice coordinators.

Jennifer Taylor, RD PhD
Professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences
University of Prince Edward Island

Director, Integrated Dietetic Internship Program, Foods & Nutrition Program
Chair, CAPPHN (Canadian Association for Professional Programs in Human Nutrition)
Program Lead, Master of Applied Health Services Research Program (UPEI)

Jen

Jennifer Taylor, RD PhD
Professor, Department of Applied Human Sciences
University of Prince Edward Island

Director, Integrated Dietetic Internship Program, Foods & Nutrition Program
Chair, CAPPNH (Canadian Association for Professional Programs in Human Nutrition)
Program Lead, Master of Applied Health Services Research Program (UPEI)