

NIED's goals are to increase awareness and knowledge of Eating Disorders as treatable, biological, brain-based mental health illnesses and decrease the stigma and discrimination against sufferers. In recognition of the gaps in current health care services, delays in treatment, lack of funding, inadequate information and education in all levels of government, healthcare professionals, schools, and public, NIED is dedicated to action and change to provide support and hope for eating disorder individuals and families, and to improve access to appropriate care.

NIED was the catalyst in creating a coalition of an additional three national organizations to develop a pan-Canadian eating disorder strategy. One of our areas of focus is *the identification of training pathways, post graduate and continuing professional development, to develop clinical competencies to provide health services to individuals with eating disorders and to their families, and to pursue research careers in the area of eating disorders.*

Best practice eating disorder treatment is interprofessional. Medicine (Family Practice, Pediatrics (including Adolescent Medicine), Psychiatry), Psychology, Dietetics, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Social Work disciplines all contribute to eating disorder care.

In our recent meetings with many dietitians, the dietitians felt they were often ill equipped to screen for eating disorders and support those living with an eating disorder. In fact, they were concerned that they might inadvertently be causing harm and therefore, together, we questioned how best to generate awareness, educate and present harm reduction and specialized training within communities. As it is seldom taught in traditional dietetic programs, or only having minimal exposure, they generally sought additional training on their own time.

To that end, along with NIED, a passionate and diversified group of registered dietitians from various practice settings, who belong to professional organizations such as IAEDP (International Association of Eating Disorder Professionals), Dietitians of Canada, Eating Disorders Association of Canada and students/interns - have developed a Needs Assessment Survey. We would greatly appreciate your help in distributing this survey to really help us understand how we can all positively change so many peoples' lives.

Below is the link to the survey.

[EATING DISORDERS EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR REGISTERED DIETITIANS](#)