

Message to membership on March 19, 2020 at 1:00 pm

## New Brunswick Association of Dietitians and COVID-19

**As many of our members navigate through challenges as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the New Brunswick Association of Dietitians (NBAD) would like to take this time to address some questions that may be of concern to members around the province.**

### Registration Renewal

The NBAD Board of Directors has carefully assessed the situation and has determined that the registration renewal deadline [including submission of the Continuing Competence Program (CCP), profile update, practice update and fees] will remain on March 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm as indicated in the By-Laws.

Please contact the NBAD Registrar ([registrar@adnb-nbad.com](mailto:registrar@adnb-nbad.com)) should you have specific concerns to completing your registration renewal on time.

### Quality Assurance Program

The Quality Assurance Program remains as directed as members are instructed to keep an Activity Log of their completed learning activities related to their learning goals throughout the year and to complete their Self-Reflection as well as determining new learning goals for the upcoming CCP year from January to March (CCP Annual Timeline, p.3 of [CCP Member Workbook](#)).

The CCP Member Workbook is a tool that members can use throughout the year to document their learning activities and Self-Reflection on the learning goals that they identified from completing their Self-Assessment. Between March 1 and March 31, members transfer (copy and paste) relevant information from the CCP Member Workbook to the online CCP submission fields when renewing registration.

At any time during the CCP year, members can log into their NBAD Member Account and add their learning activities in the Activity Log and their Self-Reflection related to their learning goals (Question #8 of [CCP Frequently Asked Questions](#)).

The deadline to complete and submit your 2019/2020 CCP submission and your 2020/2021 learning goals is March 31, 2020 at 11:59 pm as part of membership renewal requirements. Submission is completed online through your NBAD Member Account. Consult the [Continuing Competence Program webpage](#) for CCP tools and the [NBAD Registration Renewal Guide](#) for instructions on how to submit your CCP and complete your registration renewal.

The Board of Directors is currently assessing the **CCP Audit process** and implications related to COVID-19. Members will receive a communication about the CCP Audit at a later date.

**For coaching and assistance on the CCP, please email:** [qacomite@gmail.com](mailto:qacomite@gmail.com)

### **Association Operations**

Whereas the operations of the Association office are conducted solely by the NBAD Registrar, business hours will remain the same (Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm). Please note that due to COVID-19 and other regulatory implications, you may experience delays in service. The NBAD Registrar will attend to inquiries in matter of priority.

To help minimize exposure and threat of spread of COVID-19, there will be no walk-in visits or meetings at the NBAD office until further notice.

### **Work Setting Adjustments for Registered Dietitians**

Governments at all levels and Canada's public health experts are warning of the high need for physical distancing. Dietitians are asked to use their professional judgement to prioritize essential services, work remotely where possible, assist with atypical tasks and suspend non-essential services for your patients/clients. This advice will depend on your employment setting. We encourage you to continue seeking direction from your employer and to review and comply with the [NB Chief Medical Officer latest directives](#).

Wherever possible, dietitians are encouraged to provide remote services to clients and to discontinue non-essential services.

- If you decide to work remotely, you must adhere to the standards of the profession. See [NBAD's Cross Border Dietetic Practice Position Statement](#).

- If you are providing in-person services, adhere to all necessary infection control practices to ensure your health and the safety, and that of your clients.

- If you work in a hospital, a long-term care home, or any other health care facility, adhere to your employer requirements. We are aware that dietitians may be re-deployed to assist with tasks that are not typically part of the dietetic scope. They should work with their employers and other team members to ensure that this is done safely, ethically and competently. Dietitians may also contact the NBAD Registrar for guidance.

### **Complaints and Reports**

Complaints and reports processes are generally administered electronically, through email and fax. It is not expected that these matters will experience significant service interruptions.

For inquiries regarding complaints and reports, including mandatory reports, please email the Executive Director and Registrar, Nicole Arsenault Bishop: [registrar@adnb-nbad.com](mailto:registrar@adnb-nbad.com)

### **For general information about the pandemic, please access the following information:**

Government of Canada:

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): For Health Professionals](#)

NB Office of the Chief Medical Officer of Health (OCMOH):

- See message from Dr. Jennifer Russell in attachment referring health professionals to consult the resources indicated below.

- [Coronavirus information and resources](#)

- [OCMOH webpage for Health and Allied Health Professionals](#)

- [OCMOH Frequently Asked Questions](#)

Financial Assistance:

- [Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan: Support for Canadians and Businesses](#)

- [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) - Employment and Social Development Canada](#)

- [COVID-19: Managing Financial Health in Challenging Times](#)

- [Canada's Six Biggest Banks to Take Decision Action to Help Customers Impacted by COVID-19](#)

- Child-care options are available for essential workers. Contact the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on how to access child care services through their [Parent Portal](#) or by calling 1-833-221-9339.

- Inquire to your employer as they may have implemented measures to offer support services or compensation for their staff.



**We know that everyone is concerned about this pandemic. We also know that as dedicated professionals, you will do all you can to ease the burden for your clients, colleagues, and staff. NBAD will provide further information and updates as needed. In the meantime, stay safe, wash your hands, and take care of yourself, your families, friends and neighbours.**

**Board of Directors**

**&**

**Nicole Arsenault Bishop, MSc, RD**

**Executive Director and Registrar**