

# NEWSLETTER: RHPA TRANSITION 2025

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## THE NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF DIETETICS

In 2023, The Nova Scotia Government introduced the Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA), a shared legislative framework for all regulated health professions in the province.

Effective August 20, 2025, the dietetic profession in Nova Scotia came under the authority of the RHPA. While this transition means a new regulatory framework, a new name (Nova Scotia Regulator of Dietetics), and new license types, it does not impact day-to-day dietetic practice. The new name better clarifies the organization's role in regulating dietetic practice in Nova Scotia.

Licenses issued under the NSCDN name will continue to be valid. All existing College policies will be updated to align with the new Act and Regulations. Policy updates are underway and will be available on the NSRD website once completed.

Please note the following important changes:

- Staff email addresses have been updated, and emails sent to the domain nscdn.ca will be auto forwarded for the foreseeable future.
  - The organization website will be updated to [www.nsrld.ca](http://www.nsrld.ca)
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## NEW LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK UNDER THE RHPA

The RHPA sets out the structure for health professional regulators. The Act also sets out the Regulator's authority over registration and licensing and the basic procedures for committee activities and professional conduct. Sections 4, 13, and 14 of the RHPA allow the government to make regulations concerning the regulator of Dietetics. Under the RHPA, the new regulator is governed by:

- [Regulated Health Professions Act, 2023](#) (RHPA)
- Two sets of Regulations under the RHPA:
  - [Regulated Health Professions General Regulations](#)
  - Regulations Respecting Dietetics – *Will be posted on the NSRD website when available.*
- [Bylaws](#), which were passed on August 20, 2025 by the Board of the Regulator, as allowed by section 12 of the RHPA and section 4 of the Regulations Respecting Dietetics.



## RHPA GENERAL REGULATION

The RHPA general regulations set out the rules respecting:

- Reporting requirements by the Regulator
- Committee powers and authority
- Professional conduct procedures
- Reinstatement procedures
- Requirement for registrants to report a criminal charge to the Regulator

## RHPA DIETETIC REGULATIONS

The Regulations respecting Dietetics outlines the rules respecting:

- Requirements for registration and licensure
- Categories of licensure
- Scope of practice of Dietetics
- Title restriction for Dietetics

## NSRD BYLAWS

The NSRD bylaws outlines rules respecting:

- Currency requirements
- Board composition, selection, and officers
- Fines for practising with a suspended license
- Regulatory standards

## RHPA REGISTRATION & LICENSING CATEGORIES

To align with the new legislation and regulations under the RHPA, the Regulator will revise how licenses and registrations are categorized in its records and public directory. Licences are now categorized as either:

**Practising:** a registrant who holds this licence can practice dietetics without restrictions or conditions. This registrant is on the practicing register.

**Conditional:** a registrant who holds this licence can practice dietetics with restrictions or under terms, limits, or conditions. This registrant is on the conditional register.

A registrant who has not yet completed the CDRE will have a Conditional licence and be on the Conditional register, but must still use the Candidate title:

- Candidate Dietitian
- Candidate Registered Dietitian
- RD(c)



Under the RHPA, a registrant is considered licensed if they hold a current license and not licensed if they do not. The term "non-active roster" is no longer used.

The updated license titles are detailed in the chart below. This change is automatic; no action is needed.

Old License/Registration	New License	Designation
Active Practice License	Registered dietitian practising license	Register Dietitian; Dietitian; RD
Candidate Dietitian	Registered dietitian conditional license	Candidate Registered Dietitian; RD(c)
Non-active roster	Not licensed	Not permitted to use title

## LEGISLATION CHANGE Q&A

### **Q: Will the role of the organization change under the incoming RHPA legislation?**

A: The mandate of the organization remains the same as it migrates from the Dietitians Act to the RHPA. A regulatory body's role is to promote the safe and competent delivery of dietetic practice by approving education programs and overseeing processes related to registration, licensing, and professional conduct. It is responsible for developing standards of practice, a code of ethics, and continuing competence programs. A regulatory body is primarily accountable to both the Minister of Health and Wellness and the public.

### **Q: What are the key changes related to dietetic practice?**

A: While this broad legislative reform aims to strengthen the regulation of health professions, several key changes specifically affect dietitians. These include updated terminology for registration and licensing categories, the elimination of honorary life member recognition, enhanced reporting obligations for dietitians and employers concerning incompetence or professional misconduct, a requirement to increase the number of public board members, and the removal of the mandate for regulatory boards to hold Annual General Meetings. Additionally, the Board must approve a practice review process within 18 months of transitioning to the RHPA. Further details about this process will be shared as they become available.

### **Q: How will the NSRD keep registrants informed?**

A: Registrants will continue to receive important updates and information through multiple channels. These include the NSRD's Annual Report, Newsletters, live and re-recorded sessions on specific regulatory topics as they arise, email communications, and updates posted on the NSRD website. These resources are designed to keep registrants well-informed about regulatory developments and key activities of the Regulator. The NSRD primarily communicates via email, so it is each registrant's responsibility to keep their email address up to date in their NSRD profile.

### **Q: I am registered in Nova Scotia and other provinces. Will anything change for me under the RHPA?**

A: Yes. Under the RHPA, registrants who are licensed in other provinces will be required to provide verification of good standing from each jurisdiction as part of the annual renewal process.

### **Q: What are the protected titles under the RHPA?**

A: Under the RHPA Regulations Respecting Dietetics, the protected titles include Registered Dietitian, Dietitian, Nutritionist, the abbreviation RD or any derivation or abbreviation of them.

### **Q: Will the dietetic scope of practice change under the RHPA**

A: The dietetic scope of practice will remain consistent with the scope defined in the Dietitians Act. While there are minor differences in wording under the RHPA Dietetic Regulation, the overall scope of dietetic practice remains unchanged.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have questions regarding the NSRD, please visit the NSRD website at [www.nsrld.ca](http://www.nsrld.ca) or email your question to [info@nsrd.ca](mailto:info@nsrd.ca).