

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.