

# COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

## Inquiry Case #19-30 - Complaint Outcome Report

On **November 14, 2019**, the College received correspondence from a registrant expressing concerns with the registrant's misuse of title, lack of professionalism and lack of evidence-based information in her social media practice.

On **December 6**, the Inquiry Committee met and agreed to investigate the allegations and appointed the Deputy Registrar to inspect.

On **February 3, 2020** the registrant was notified of the complaint, provided with questions regarding the allegations and her practice and asked to respond by **February 28, 2020**.

On **February 27**, the registrant received an extension to submit a response by **March 6**.

On **March 5, 2020**, the registrant responded to the allegations and submitted her resignation, effective **April 1, 2020**.

The inspection took place between **December 6, 2019** and **March 24, 2020**.

On **March 30, 2019**, the Inquiry Committee reviewed the allegations, the registrant's written answer and intent to resign, and a review of the registrant's social media practice, CDBC policies and guidelines and the risk analysis tool.

The Inquiry Committee found that the evidence collected in the inspection report was sufficient to inform the allegations. In its decision, the Inquiry Committee determined that the overall risk of harm to the public was low, with a few moderate risks:

- Lack of acknowledgement of the consequences of publishing non-evidence-based information (CDBC Bylaws, s. 74, Marketing and Standards of Practice #13)
- Lack of understanding of the importance of ethical conduct, maintaining boundaries between personal interests and professional practice and managing real or perceived conflict of interest in social media practice (CDBC Bylaws, s. 74, Marketing and Standards of Practice #4, 8 and 17)

The Inquiry Committee also considered the fact that the registrant decided not to renew their CDBC registration on April 1, 2020. For these reasons, the Committee disposed of the case in accordance with sections 33(6)(b) and 36(1)(b) of the *Health Professions Act*.

If the former registrant applies to the CDBC for reinstatement to Full registration, they will be required to fulfill the following requirements:

- Review CDBC Bylaws on Marketing (s. 74), Standards of Practice 13 and 17 and policy Qac-09: Marketing, Sales and Conflict of Interest.
- Review the CDBC Code of Ethics and complete the College of Dietitians of Ontario's workshop on ethics
- Review Chapter 4 of the CBC Jurisprudence Guide for Dietitians in BC on professional boundaries
- Complete the College of Dietitians of Ontario's "Evidence-based Practice" workshop
- Complete Cochrane online modules:
  - Navigating the healthcare information jungle
  - Using Cochrane reviews in real life
  - Introduction to GRADE

- Within 2 weeks of successful completion of each required course and reading, submit to the Inquiry Committee a report of 500 words, maximum, that summarizes learnings and how this will change their practice as a regulated health professional.

The Registration Committee may also set additional requirements to satisfy that the registrant meets the conditions for reinstatement to full registration.

The complainant was notified of the decision on **April 23, 2020**.

A copy of the disposition is saved in the registrant's file permanently, in accordance with section 69 of the CDBC bylaws.

**114 days** were required to resolve the case.