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To whom it may concern,

Dietitians of Canada (DC) appreciates the opportunity to provide preliminary input into the work of the Steering Committee tasked with identifying and prioritizing elements of regulatory modernization. Dietitians of Canada, the national professional association of dietitians, proudly connects 5000+ dietitians, fostering growth and passion in the profession through advocacy, engagement and professional development, including over 500 members in British Columbia registered with the College of Dietitians of British Columbia.

While we will not provide a critique or commentary on the Cayton Report as it relates specifically to the College of Dental Surgeons of British Columbia, we would like to offer some initial thoughts with regard to regulatory modernization, with the expectation that a more broad based and systematic consultation will follow before regulatory changes are formally introduced into legislation. The points made below are intended to offer high-level considerations and more comprehensive input will be offered during the next stage of consultation.

- The present College structures are costly. DC would support the amalgamation of professional regulatory bodies to provide administrative and management efficiencies, particularly in matters such as complaints systems, disciplinary processes and registration/ renewal mechanisms.

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- While efficiencies are an important driver in a modernized system, it is important to ensure that safeguards and standards are in place to recognize the uniqueness of those professions whose regulatory structures are merged. It would be important that the specific and unique knowledge base and skill set of smaller professions such as Registered Dietitians (RD) were not subsumed within the constructs of professional groups with significantly more registrants.
- We would advocate that registrants of colleges that are merged have similar education and training and align with typical areas of team-based practice. For example, RDs have strong alignment with other allied health professions such as Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech-Language Pathology in acute, ambulatory, and residential care settings. There would be a misalignment with community-based practitioners like Chiropractors or Naturopaths.
- Pursuing an agenda of modernization would also provide the opportunity to consider the use of terms such as 'regulated', 'licensed', and 'certified'. The focus of regulatory colleges is to ensure protection of the public, and tighter regulation with regard to how these terms may be used would be a service to the public in being able to identify ethical, accountable and evidence-informed practitioners that met requirements for ongoing Continuing Professional Education and established professional standards.
- The health workforce is under great pressure and taking the opportunity to establish common processes to track current workforce supply and demand data would allow for improved, coordinated workforce planning within the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills, and Training.

DC appreciates the complexity and potential impact of regulatory reform across the health sector. We look forward to future consultations intended to develop a modern framework for professional regulation that serves British Columbia with the express purpose of improving the quality of care for British Columbians. This initiative will also inform the work taking place in other provinces and enhance the protection of Canadians everywhere.

We look forward to your reply with regard to future opportunities to inform regulatory modernization.



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