

December 20, 2017

To: Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Re: Feedback on the Qualifications for Public Health Professionals Protocol, 2018

[Ontario Dietitians in Public Health](#) (ODPH), formerly known as the Ontario Society of Nutrition Professionals in Public Health (OSNPPH) appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed requirements in the *Qualifications for Public Health Professionals Protocol, 2018*.

ODPH is the independent and official voice of Registered Dietitians working in Ontario's public health system. Our members are mandated by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care to provide healthy eating expertise on programs and services that support healthy growth and development and reduce chronic diseases.

ODPH is pleased and supportive of the baseline requirement that Boards of Health employ Dietitians who are members of the College of Dietitians of Ontario. Having that requirement assures that the public is receiving evidence based, factual and ethical services. In addition, we strongly encourage the Ministry to enhance the protocol by expanding the Dietitian role and responsibilities statement to include "the board of health shall only employ Dietitians with the following qualifications *to provide overall guidance and expertise for the planning, implementation and evaluation of healthy eating and nutrition public health interventions.*"

As outlined in our earlier [submission](#), Dietitians working in public health require unique skills and training to deliver effective and efficient public health programming and services. We would like to reiterate that Dietitians working in the Public Health Nutritionist role should continue to meet advanced master's level public health nutrition educational requirements and qualifications to support a specialized role in population health assessment, promotion and evaluation.

Upon review of the Protocol, we noticed a discrepancy with some of the language used. For the Public Health Dentist and Public Health Inspector, it is written "the board of health shall employ only..." whereas for the Dental Hygienist and Dietitian it is written "the board of health shall only employ..." We request revisions to the Protocol to ensure consistent wording throughout.

We value the Ministry seeking feedback from the respective professions to outline the qualifications for public health professionals. If we can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact us at executive@odph.ca.

Regards,



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Co-Chair Year 1



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