

April 1, 2024

The Nova Scotia College of Dietitians and Nutritionists requires applicants and registrants to provide a valid Vulnerable Sector Check to process their application/renewal to practice dietetics in the province of Nova Scotia.

Dietitians are regulated healthcare professionals in Nova Scotia and work directly with vulnerable clients of all ages, across the life span, and in public, private and unsupervised settings. Dietitians are in a position of authority with their clients, and their working relationship is based on trust and adherence to professional boundaries.

The Criminal Records Act requires that a Vulnerable Sector Check be performed for "a paid or volunteer position" only when that "position is one of authority or trust relative to those children or vulnerable persons." A child means a person under the age of 18.

Vulnerable persons are defined in the Criminal Records Act as: "a person who, because of his or her age, a disability, or other circumstances, whether temporary or permanent:

- a. is in a position of dependency on others; or
- b. is otherwise at a greater risk than the general population of being harmed by a person of trust or authority towards them."

Once issued a license to practice, a dietitian may practice with any population in any setting or environment. Many dietitians also have access to the personal health information of clients as part of their practice process.

In keeping with its mandate of public protection, the College endorses a mandatory Vulnerable Sector Check as an important tool for helping to ensure public safety while recognizing that the results may not predict future conduct nor guarantee good character. In addition, the College may refuse registration or put restrictions on a license issued to any applicant or registrant that demonstrates behaviour inconsistent with a dietitian's expected professional behaviour.

For additional information regarding this requirement, please visit our website: nscdn.ca. Please contact the College with any questions regarding this requirement at registration@nscdn.ca.

Sincerely,



Amanda Connors, RD
Executive Director & Registrar