



Canadian IDDSI Expert Reference Group formed in preparation for January 1, 2019 launch of IDDSI in Canada

The International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative (IDDSI) was founded in 2012 by a group of dedicated volunteer professionals (speech-language pathologists, dietitians, nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, doctors, mechanical engineers and food scientists) from around the world. Through research and collaboration, global standardized terminology was developed to improve patient safety with definitions to describe texture modified foods and thickened liquids used for individuals with dysphagia of all ages and in all care settings.

Canada, like many other countries, is in the preparation stage of implementing the IDDSI framework in healthcare facilities and community settings across the country. Although we know that implementation of IDDSI is critical for optimizing safety and nutrition care for those living with dysphagia, we recognize that the implementation process is complex. Following the direction of many other countries, Canadian practitioners felt it was important to convene an expert reference group to guide and support IDDSI implementation here in Canada.

We are pleased to announce the formation of the Canadian IDDSI Expert Reference Group (CIERG), a group of dedicated volunteer professionals from across Canada. Together with Canadian representatives from the International IDDSI board, this group will promote, monitor, support, advocate and communicate recommendations for implementation of the IDDSI framework within Canadian organizations and industry.

A launch date of January 1st, 2019 has been set, which will officially mark the initial stages of the IDDSI implementation phase in Canada. We recognize that implementation is happening at various stages within Canadian organizations. The CIERG will support people and organizations in moving forward with IDDSI Implementation in Canada. CIERG will develop and facilitate sharing of resources and training tools including translation of various IDDSI resources into Canadian French.

We would encourage you to visit the IDDSI website at www.IDDSI.org

- Review IDDSI framework, detailed definitions and testing methods;
- Implementation resources;
- Frequently Asked Questions;
- Webinars;
- YouTube videos;
- Audit Tools;
- Sign up for the IDDSI e-bite newsletter.

The IDDSI website is frequently updated with new information so please check back regularly.

Download the IDDSI app for instant access to resources and tools.

Share stories of your progress (even if you are just getting started...) in your IDDSI implementation journey at <https://iddsi.org/implementation/iddsi-in-progress/>.

As members of CIERG team we look forward to staying connected with you and supporting your upcoming IDDSI endeavours.

- The CIERG team 

The CIERG members are as follows:

- Allie Stephen, RD(T), BC
- Amber Capotosto, CNM & Industry, ON
- Bethany Hopkins, RD & Industry, NS
- Carol Donovan, RD, ON
- Caterina Luongo, RD, ON
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- Chris Weber, NM, ON
- Clodie Gravel, RD & Industry, ON
- Colleen Braun Janzen, RSLP, SLP(C), MB
- Deidre Burns, PDt, NS
- Janice Duiveststein, OT/PT, BC
- Jayne MacDonald, RD & Industry, NB
- Jean François Bernier, Industry, Qc
- Jean Helps, RD, MB
- Jennifer Wilkinson, NM, ON
- John Holahan, Industry, US
- Neha Bhardwaj, Reg. OT, BC
- Nina Giuliani, Reg. OT, BC
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- Peter Lam, RD, BC
- Sharon Armstrong, RD & Industry, ON
- Shelley Doerksen, SLP, BC
- Stéphanie Dion, OT, BC
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- Teresa Winberg Phillips, OT, BC
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- Zuleikha Wadhvaniya, SLP, ON