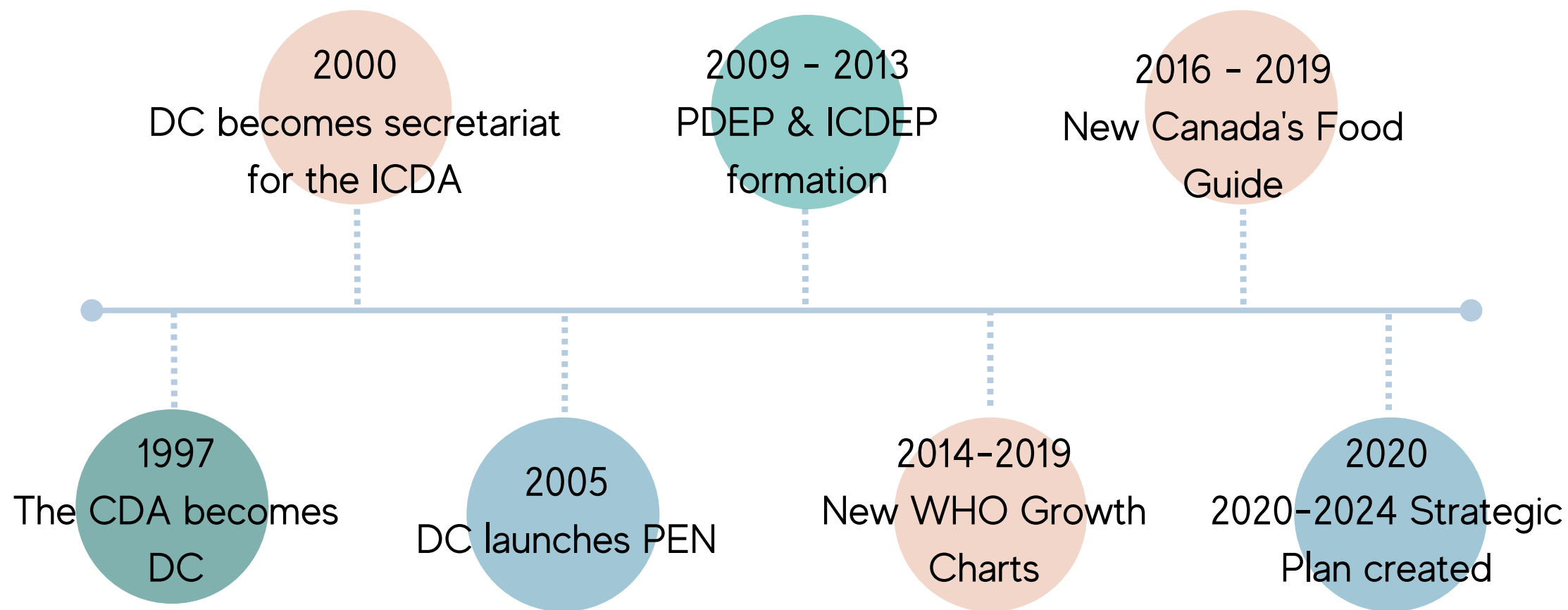


Dietitians of Canada: Promotion of the Profession through Advocacy since 1993

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Objective:

- To document advocacy events over the past 29 years

Methods:

- A literature search used to create a draft timeline
- 12 registered dietitians (RDs) from six provinces were interviewed to supplement the draft timeline

Results:

- Events discussed during interview fell into three general categories

Establishing dietitians as experts:

- Publication of position papers (mental health, infant nutrition, and food security)
- Collaborations with other organizations and assuming leadership roles (ICDA, CDPAC, and numerous working groups)

Upholding Professional Standards:

- PDEP upholds professional standards via ICDEP
- New controlled acts and an increased scope of practice have increased RDs' authority
- PEN and the misinformation toolkit

Advocating for dietitians' value & improving accessibility to services:

- Advocacy for insurance coverage by the Employee Health Benefits Advocacy committee
- Advocacy for increased internship placements
- Advocacy to promote access to RD services

Discussion:

- DC has become an established organization which helps inform government policies and develop national and international health tools
- Further challenges remain for the continued success of DC, including improving member engagement, increasing diversity, improving the public's trust in the profession and increasing the number of internship opportunities

Conclusions:

- Since 1993, DC has continuously and successfully promoted the profession
- DC has the capacity to address and resolve current and future advocacy challenges