



Why IDDSI Is Important

By now you've all heard that **Canada is moving towards single IDDSI labeling** and that having one national (and international) language to talk about dysphagia is **best practice for clients, caregivers and care programs/facilities**.

Why this is important:

- Using IDDSI language breaks down communication barriers for clients, caregivers, and staff when it comes to mealtime safety and ease of food preparation.
- Beyond safety, clients and clinicians know it makes a difference in the quality of life of individuals. Click [here](#) to hear someone sharing their story at the IDDSI booth at a trade show.

What you may want to consider:

- Program leaders may want to set aside professional development time and funding to support their staff in this nation-wide transition.

What resources can help:

- In September 2022, the Canadian IDDSI Reference Group (CIRG) will offer a **12-month virtual mentorship program** called "Mentoring Moments" that is intended to provide monthly support and guidance to IDDSI Champions wishing to move forward with Phase 1 of an IDDSI transition.

What is Phase 1?

- This is the "preparation" phase involving the Food Services Department only, that includes the introduction of IDDSI to the Food Service Team, the assessment of current recipes (recipe mapping) and the creation of a plan for progression to Phase 2.

What is Phase 2?

- This is the "system" phase that involves the transition of the entire Home, including the education and training of all Staff, Residents and Families, RD/SLP re-assessment of Residents' texture requirements, adjustment of the Medical Information and Diet Information systems, and the updating of Clinical and Food Service policies and procedures.

If this mentorship program interests you, watch for more information in future IDDSI "CAN DO" newsletters.



Canada IDDSI Reference Group
canada@iddsi.net

