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Comments Invited on Revisions to the Yukon's Licensed Practical Nurses Regulation

WHITEHORSE – Yukoners are invited to review proposed amendments to the Yukon's Licensed Practical Nurses Regulation and to respond with written comments on the proposed changes.

"Through amendments to the Licensed Practical Nurses Regulation, Yukon government intends to provide legislation that complies with the Agreement on Internal Trade, provides Licensed Practical Nurses with full labour mobility, and allows them to fully use their education at work in Yukon as they can in most other jurisdictions in Canada," Community Services Minister Archie Lang said.

Most Canadian jurisdictions have already granted their Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) the ability to work to their full scope of practice. By changing Yukon's LPN Regulation to include this provision, LPNs who have completed an approved practical nursing program or additional post-basic coursework in Health Assessment, Pharmacology and Medication Therapy will be able to fully use their education at work in Yukon. LPNs who have not yet completed these upgrades will be allowed to work under a limited practice certificate for up to three years until they have completed the necessary coursework to enable them to work to the full scope of practice.

A two-year LPN Nursing Program at Yukon College sponsored by Yukon Government will graduate its first class of Yukon-educated LPNs next spring.

"Updating this Regulation is part of Yukon Government's work to increase recruitment and retention of healthcare professionals and improve Yukon's healthcare services," Lang said. "A modern law makes Yukon more attractive for LPNs to come and stay."

The review period for the proposed amendments to the Licensed Practical Nurses Regulation runs from May 22 to July 17, 2009. The draft regulation can be reviewed and written comments sent to Consumer Services at www.community.gov.yk.ca.

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