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Yukon Regulates Psychiatric Nurses Under *Health Professions Act*

WHITEHORSE – Community Services Minister Archie Lang announced today that Yukon has become the first territory to regulate psychiatric nurses. This is the second health profession after physiotherapists in 2007 to be regulated under the *Health Professions Act*.

“The new Registered Psychiatric Nurses Regulation supports the government’s priority to ensure Yukoners receive the best possible health care,” Lang said. “The new regulation will guarantee that psychiatric nurses are accredited professionals who adhere to professional practice standards, including ethical and educational requirements consistent with other Canadian jurisdictions.”

The regulation also sets the scope of practice and establishes a complaint process to help guarantee Yukoners the proper standard of care.

“Having psychiatric nurses regulated under the *Health Professions Act* will make Yukon a more attractive place for psychiatric nurses to work, which helps with our ongoing efforts to recruit and retain health professionals,” Health and Social Services Minister Glenn Hart said.

Leadership on developing the regulation was provided by a working group of psychiatric nurses and representatives from the departments of Community Services, Health and Social Services, and Justice. Consultation with the public and the medical community demonstrated support for the regulation.

“When I came here in 1973, I couldn’t work as a psychiatric nurse,” working group member Florence Roberts said. “With the new regulation, psychiatric nurses looking for a job can consider Yukon as a place to practise.”

A link to the Registered Psychiatric Nurses Regulation and to the application form for individual psychiatric nurses can be found on the Community Services website at www.community.gov.yk.ca/consumer/pl.html.

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