



## Government of Yukon

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FOR RELEASE #10-122  
 June 28, 2010

### Licensed practical nurses expand health care services to Yukoners

WHITEHORSE – Effective today, licensed practical nurses (LPNs) in Yukon are able to perform the full range of nursing tasks like LPNs elsewhere in Canada. The change in nursing tasks is a result of updates to the regulation that governs Yukon LPNs.

"This change enables licensed practical nurses to perform all of the duties they are trained to do, and we encourage more Canadian LPNs to join Yukon's team of health care providers," Community Services Minister Archie Lang said. "This also increases our options and flexibility to meet the growing and changing health care pressures ahead of us."

Licensed practical nurses provide homecare and community-based services, as well as many of the daily bedside services in hospitals and extended care facilities. The need for LPNs is expected to rise as Yukon's population increases and ages.

"Under the new regulation, LPNs are able to contribute more to our partnership of care with physicians, registered nurses, health care aids and other health care workers," Licensed Practical Nurses Advisory Committee chair Karen Gilbert said. "We're educated to provide excellent care for Yukon residents and we can help meet Yukon's increasing health care needs."

The Department of Community Services assisted the Yukon Licensed Practical Nurses Advisory Committee, established under the Licensed Practical Nurses Act, in revising the regulation for LPNs.

"To be able to work to full scope of practice will be the highlight of a long career as an LPN," Licensed Practical Nurses Advisory Committee member Tish Platt said. "We are all working very hard at the present to upgrade ourselves in preparation for the broadening of the LPN regulation. I know this change will make the Yukon more appealing for other Canadian LPNs to move up here, find satisfying work and stay. This will hopefully decrease the chance of nursing shortages in Yukon in the future."

Lang added: "The new LPN regulation is an example of how the Yukon government is working to ensure Yukoners will continue to have quality services when they need them. Another example is funding the two-year practical nursing program at the Yukon College. This month the first class of 11 students graduated and another class is scheduled to begin in the fall."

For more information about professional licensing for practical nurses, go to Consumer Services at [www.community.gov.yk.ca](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca).

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