



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Nurse practitioner legislation tabled**

WHITEHORSE—The Yukon government has introduced legislation that, if approved, will include nurse practitioners among Yukon health care providers. The Statute Law Amendment (Nurse Practitioners) Act ensures that nurse practitioners are included in all relevant pieces of Yukon legislation.

"Nurse practitioners have advanced education and experience," Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham said. "This legislation brings us closer to completing the process that will see nurse practitioners working to their full scope in Yukon."

In 2009, the Yukon government approved the inclusion of nurse practitioners in the *Yukon Registered Nurses Professions Act* and since then has worked closely with the Yukon Registered Nurses Association to develop regulations for nurse practitioners. Once the regulations are approved by Cabinet, Yukon will join the rest of the country in being able to hire nurse practitioners, who will be able to order diagnostic tests, diagnose diseases and prescribe drugs, among other services.

"Licensing nurse practitioners in Yukon will increase the number of highly trained health care professionals available to Yukoners, and help improve timely access to health care," Graham added.

In anticipation of the approval, Health and Social Services has hired its first nurse practitioner, who is currently practicing as a registered nurse. This position will enhance the quality of care provided to Continuing Care residents and clients.

The recent Yukon Medical Association agreement supports collaborative care, including nurse practitioners within family practices, which will enhance the provision of primary health care within Yukon.

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