



FOR RELEASE  
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## **Change to *Medical Profession Act* regulations for international medical grads**

WHITEHORSE—International medical graduates currently practising in Yukon will be able to stay for an additional two years.

Premier Darrell Pasloski and Health and Social Services Minister Doug Graham today announced changes to the *Medical Profession Act* regulations governing the length of time an international medical graduate (IMG) physician can remain in Yukon on the Limited Family Practice Register.

"Effective immediately, we are extending the term of licence from five to seven years and have already reopened Yukon to issuing provisional licenses to qualified international medical graduates that may want to establish a medical practice in Yukon," Pasloski said.

The change will help alleviate pressures around physician recruitment and retention in Yukon and the imminent departure of two physicians.

"The new seven-year licence will make Yukon more attractive over the long term, while also enabling the current international medical graduate physicians to remain in Yukon and maintain their services to patients," Graham said. "Our role is to ensure that access to insured health services is available to everyone and a part of this will be achieved through the recruitment and retention of doctors. This is a high priority and we need to take immediate action to retain the international medical graduates who are already practicing in Yukon and providing excellent care to patients."

The Limited Licence Program plays an important role in situations where there is a demonstrated need for physicians in Yukon. It provides a mechanism for qualified IMGs to practice in Yukon until they are able to pass the Canadian national exams and become fully licensed. Until now, their licences expired after five years.

This regulation amendment is one of a number of steps being taken by government to recruit and retain physicians. A recently signed agreement with the Yukon Medical Association contains a number of initiatives that support new physicians coming to Yukon, and to retain those currently practising here. In addition, dedicated resources for physician recruitment and retention were announced last week.

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