



**Government of the Northwest Territories' Response to
Committee Report 31-19(2): Report on Bill 40:
An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act**

Background:

The Standing Committee on Social Development ('Committee') presented their Report 31-19(2): Report on Bill 40: *An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act* on May 31, 2022. This Report contains three recommended courses of action.

Along with the recommended courses of action, Committee also recommended the Government of Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to the Report in 120 days. To ensure a complete response to Committee's Report, each recommended action has been addressed individually.

Recommendation 1

That the Minister engage the services of an independent body, such as other Colleges of Physicians, to develop the standards of practice for physicians practicing in the NWT.

GNWT Response:

The Department of Health and Social Services has drafted standards of practice based on the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta's standards.

The standards of practice of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) are in the process of being adapted with the College's permission. The majority of the CPSA standards are not changed. A few are being modified to refer to Northwest Territories legislation, where it differs from Alberta's legislation.

The Department of Health and Social Services does not believe that engaging an additional College of Physicians and Surgeons is necessary. The standards of practice of each College of a province are similar but different based on the legislation and consensus of physician members in that jurisdiction. Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons across Canada will often base their standards on ones already completed by other provinces. The Northwest Territories is doing the same.

Even if another College developed the standards of practice, as a consultant, the only avenue to publishing them for the NWT is in the Medical Profession Regulations.

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Recommendation 2

That the Government of the Northwest Territories work with the NWT Medical Association to ensure they have the ability to meaningfully participate when they are consulted on any proposed standards for physicians in the NWT.

GNWT Response:

The Department of Health and Social Services reiterates our commitment to working with the NWT Medical Association. It is one of our most valuable stakeholders.

The Department of Health and Social Services has been engaging with representatives of the NWT Medical Association to review and discuss proposed standards.

Recommendation 3

That the Department of Health and Social Services consult with the local physicians leadership from the Territorial Physician Executive to understand certification requirements, differential treatment of family physicians compared to other specialists, and the administration of conditional licenses.

GNWT Response:

The Department continues to work closely with the Territorial Physician Executive to streamline the registration and licensing required under the *Medical Professions Act*.