

Fact Sheet – MLT Regulation and BCSLS Membership [Feb. 28, 2020]

The Facts

We are providing the following information as an update for BCSLS members and non-members alike, with details as we know them to Feb 28, 2020.

The BC Ministry of Health circulated a document for consultation in late 2019. The document “*Modernizing the provincial health profession regulatory framework*” describes their collective vision of a new and more effective regulatory framework for health care professionals in BC. One of the key recommendations of this modernization agenda is the reduction in the number of Health Regulatory Colleges in BC from 20 down to 5. [the entire consultation document is available on the BCSLS website at www.bcsls.net]

At the time of the release of this consultation document the intent of government prior to this was to establish a diagnostic and therapeutic professions regulatory college that would include Med Lab Technologists. We were virtually at the eleventh hour and literally weeks away from this new college being implemented. Obviously, this initiative was put on hold.

The consultation document itself quite clearly stated the following: quote

Diagnostic and therapeutic professions. *Prior to the release of the Cayton report, cabinet approved creation of a diagnostic and therapeutic professions regulatory college to oversee respiratory therapists, radiation therapists, clinical perfusionists and medical laboratory technologists. If the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the College of Pharmacists, or the College of Nursing Professionals’ board has confirmed a willingness to regulate one or more of these professions, the board should write to the minister to confirm its intention. Following receipt of the letter, ministry representatives will work with representatives of the diagnostic and therapeutic professions to determine if there is rationale to support regulation by a regulatory college other than the College of Health and Care Professions [a new Umbrella College that is one of the five being suggested]*

As part of our own internal discussion prior to submitting feedback on the document we polled the Boards of Directors of all Four Associations and determined that our preference would be to be part of the new College of Health and Care Professionals and not the other Colleges referred to above.

We made this position quite clear in our response to the government's consultation prior to the January 10th deadline.

Where are we at now?

The consultation is now over and government [the Minister's Advisory Committee] is considering all the feedback they received. We anticipate hearing from the Minister and the Ministry as to their intentions in the coming months.

As this "*Modernization Agenda*" is a tripartite initiative of all three BC political parties, we fully anticipate that it will proceed perhaps with some modification along the way. It is believed that the implementation of this new framework will take 18-24 months.

What does this mean for MLTs [and perhaps MLAs down the road]?

In our opinion, MLTs will be regulated for sure one way or the other, either by the new umbrella College of Health and Care Professionals or by the previous Diagnostic and Therapeutic College that was approved by Cabinet three years ago. It just may take a little longer.

We also believe that because all the work on the actual regulations has already been done, Med Lab Technologists could be one of the first professions allowed into the new umbrella college once it is established. Thus, speeding up the process.

Will BCSLS Membership still be an advantage?

Absolutely! MLTs that are currently certified and working will be grandfathered into the new College. BCSLS members will be the **first to be grandfathered**, as we have all the information needed currently on file to facilitate the process.

Also, once the new College is up and running their will be mandatory requirements for Continuing Education [CE] credits. BCSLS members will have access to most Continuing Education programs and courses at a reduced rate compared to non-members, thus reducing the overall cost.

For more information on the new proposed regulatory framework please see the attached **Framework Infographic**.

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