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NBSMLT Position Statement on MLA regulation in New Brunswick

Medical Laboratory Assistants (MLAs) play a significant role in quality patient care and are part of high quality health care team.

The self-regulation of MLAs will provide the public and employers with greater assurance and confidence by assuring that MLAs meet a standard entry to practice competency through relevant education, training and certification upon registration, followed by continuing competency development.

An MLA would be required to practice within his/her scope of practice and adhere to a Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct and to Standards of Practice. Self-regulation of MLAs will also provide a venue for allegations of unprofessional or incompetent practice to be investigated and addressed. Self-regulation would ensure that competent, qualified, registered MLAs provide New Brunswickers with safe and ethical laboratory services.

The NBSMLT consulted with key stakeholders (MLTs, MLAs, employers, laboratory supervisors, MLA training institutions, other health professions and the public). All groups enthusiastically support self-regulation of MLAs.

Within the current Medical Laboratory Technology Act (1991), the NBSMLT may welcome MLAs as regulated members. In the meantime, MLAs are invited to become associate members of the NBSMLT, and to help chart a course to define their emerging profession and their self-regulation within the NBSMLT structure. They are also invited to attend our continuing education events and attend our Annual General Meetings (AGM).

Medical Laboratory Assistant is an important emerging health profession, and can attain professional status through self-regulation. As such, the NBSMLT encourages MLA self-regulation activities that stem directly from MLAs. The NBSMLT is committed to help any group representing MLAs in their pursuit in the self-regulation in New Brunswick.