



Dear CMLTA Stakeholders:

Bill 21, *An Act to Protect Patients*, was passed by the Alberta legislature on November 8, 2018. The Alberta government introduced the legislation to ensure Albertans are safe when accessing health care services.

The new law applies to all health professionals regulated under the *Health Professions Act*. The legislation establishes mandatory penalties for sexual abuse and sexual misconduct by regulated health professionals, requires disciplinary actions for sexual abuse and sexual misconduct to be clearly and consistently posted online, and provides survivors with access to treatment and counselling.

To reflect the severity of these actions, there will be a permanent cancellation of a practitioner's practice permit when a hearing tribunal finds a regulated member's actions constitute sexual abuse. When a hearing tribunal finds a regulated member's actions constitute sexual misconduct, a health professional's practice permit will be suspended.

The majority of the new legislative requirements come into effect on April 1, 2019.

Under those amendments, the College of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Alberta (CMLTA) is required to create a new Standard of Practice relating to the prevention of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct. The new Standard must include a definition of 'patient' and create rules for when sexual relationships can occur with patients. Please note, the new Standard includes the definitions of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct as defined in the *Health Professions Act*, therefore no feedback is required for these terms.

We invite your input on the new draft Standard #4 by December 16, 2018 by completing a survey using the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DC385BQ>

The new Standard of Practice must be submitted to the Minister of Health for her approval prior to December 31, 2018.

If you require any further information, please feel free to contact Maggie Fulford at cmltaregistrar@cmlta.org.



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