

Summer 2023– News

Legislation Changes (Changes to the Act)

Background

A regulatory body is mandated by the government to regulate professionals in the interests of the public. It is required to protect the public by ensuring that professionals provide safe, competent, and ethical care. It must follow government legislation. SSMLT was granted self-regulatory status in 1995 and follows the MLT Act

Several specific amendments were introduced in The Miscellaneous Statutes (Health Professions) Amendment Act, 20232, proposed by the Network of Interprofessional Regulatory Organizations (NIRO), which governs 27 regulation bodies of health professions.

These amendments strengthen regulator accountability and provide regulators with the tools to fulfill their legal mandate of public protection and maintain public confidence in self-regulation.

What does this mean for SSMLT?

1. Revise MLT Bylaws– in progress

Steps in include:

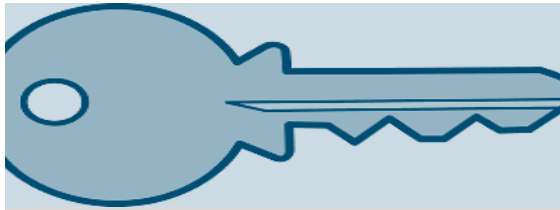
- Legislative review committee guidance—complete
 - Review with legal counsel –complete
 - Consult with ministry—in progress
 - Circulate to members—to follow
 - Council approval—to follow
2. Update policies—as needed to comply with bylaw change– following bylaw approval.
 3. Communicate– SSMLT will communicate changes to you.



Newsletter

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Key Messages & Changes

Key messages from the legislation revisions:

- ⇒ ensures each statute governing health regulatory bodies contains a 'duties and objects clause that outlines regulatory requirements of the organization; (subsection 3.1)

Regulate vs. Advocate:

- ♦ SSMLT is the regulatory body that regulates Medical Laboratory Technologists in SK pursuant the *MLT Act* (law).
 - ♦ CSMLS is an association/advocacy group on behalf of its members.
- ⇒ enables the councils of health regulatory bodies to adopt bylaws, and outlines the process for administrative and regulatory bylaws; (section 13)
 - ⇒ authorizes regulatory bodies to establish processes for selecting members of council in bylaw rather than legislation; (section 14)
 - ⇒ authorizes councils to adopt bylaws that establish panels of their investigation and discipline committees to address hearings or investigations; (clause 14.2 f.1)
 - ⇒ addresses a practitioner's fitness to practice through an appropriate mechanism rather than formal discipline; (subsection 20.3)
 - ⇒ authorizes the use of non-disciplinary measures to address concerns about behaviour that do not warrant formal hearing; (section 22)
 - ⇒ provides regulators with the authority to suspend or restrict a member's ability to practice on an interim basis while investigating a complaint, if the member's continued practice would pose a serious risk of harm to the public; and (section 22.2)
 - ⇒ provides investigation committees the authority they need to properly investigate complaints. (section 22.1)

Revised MLT Act : <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/731>

SSMLT Bylaws

Bylaws must be revised to implement the changes to the MLT Act. This work is underway.

Timeline:

- Complete consultation with Ministry of Health
- Distribute to SSMLT registrants
- Council review and approval
- Submit to Ministry for approval ETA: fall 2023 or Spring 2024



SSMLT Project–

Collaboration with MLT Regulatory partners across Canada

SSMLT is responsible for:

14 (2)(a) of the MLT Act- ‘prescribing the qualifications, standards and tests of competency’

Currently SSMLT & all other Canadian regulators (CAMLPR) have 3rd party contracts with CSMLS to deliver:

- Entry to practice examinations; and
- Prior learning assessments.

To date those are limited to MLT-General, MLT Diagnostic Cytology & MLT Clinical Genetics. The regulators recognize that service delivery has changed significantly in the past decade, therefore a review of registration requirements is being considered.

In early 2023, SSMLT and it’s MLT regulatory partners (Canadian Alliance of Medical Laboratory Professionals Regulators -CAMLPR) received federal funding to determine feasibility, investigate processes and develop – ‘Pathways to Registration’ options.

- Pathways to registration project [description](#)

The Pathways project includes multiple stages. The development of comprehensive entry-to-practice competency profiles for each field of practice is an essential step in this endeavor. These profiles, currently in progress, detail the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities an MLT should possess to practice effectively within their respective fields of practice upon their entry into the profession.

Field-specific competency assessments will follow. These assessments, designed to be thorough and rigorous, will ensure that applicants will have the theoretical knowledge and practical skills required for their specific fields of practice. Once developed these assessments could be applied to registration requirements for various application categories.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Reviewed by the Professional Practices committee.

SSMLT manages

3 scholarships.

Terms of Reference

- ◇ [Wheatland Bounty](#)
- ◇ [Lori Dianne Cooper](#)
- ◇ [Judy Hoff Memorial](#)

Wheatland Bounty Scholarship

Master of Health Administration

The Master of Health Administration (MHA) program at the prestigious Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of Regina is a well-designed online program that provides a comprehensive understanding of Canada's complex healthcare system and its inherent challenges. The program offers in-depth coverage of topics such as healthcare management, Health Law and policy, Performance measurement in healthcare systems, Healthcare programming and evaluation, Healthcare financing and funding models, Indigenous health policy and the use of health data and technology in decision-making. The curriculum of the MHA program equips students with the knowledge, skills, and strategies required to become effective leaders in healthcare organizations

As a healthcare professional in mid-career, my primary objective in pursuing this program was to gain a deeper understanding of Canada's

healthcare system and the leadership skills necessary to create a positive impact in the healthcare industry. The MHA program was an ideal choice for me seeking to advance my career in healthcare.

I express my gratitude to the Saskatchewan Society of Medical Laboratory Technologists (SSMLT) professional practice for the distinguished honor of being selected as the recipient of the Wheatland Bounty Professional Development Scholarship to pursue my MHA and I look forward to using the knowledge and skills I have gained to improve the healthcare system.

Farzaneh Arabi
BSc, MLT, MHA Candidate



Lori Dianne Cooper Scholarship Excellence in Healthcare Leadership

The Excellence in Healthcare Leadership (ELH) Program is a course that consists of four modules, Value, Service, Teams and Results all of which were geared towards enhancement of leadership skills within healthcare settings and becoming LEADS Certified. The course was designed as a virtual platform to be able to connect healthcare leaders from across Canada over a period of four months.

The Value module had a strong focus on what makes people feel valued. Something that stood out to me was the point that staff and patients need to be heard in order to feel they are valued in each situation as a sense of being valued is different for all. What one thinks will be of value for staff and patients may not be the truth at all unless the staff or patient has had the opportunity to express what they truly feel.

The Service module focused on balancing service to patients and staff while ensuring to provide service to self. Many ideas were discussed such as focusing on a culture of openness and transparency, promoting a common understanding and commitment among all stakeholders and realizing that what was said is not always what is understood. One of the biggest points was to ensure all involved are willing to be comfortable with not knowing, be able to ask questions, be curious and be open to learning from others experiences in order to provide better service for all.

The Teams module provided wonderful information on the different dynamics of

teams and team members and how to successfully keep a team on track to accomplish the task at hand. It was discussed that conflict is acceptable as long as everyone involved has the same endpoint in sight, differing opinions can help be the key to successful teams.

The Results module focused on improving quality of life for people as an attempt to stop issues before they arise. This included involving sectors outside of healthcare such as housing authority, education, police services and more. It was further discussed that in order to achieve desired results for healthcare, communities as a whole need to work together and communicate with each other to help make improvements for all.

Throughout the entire program it was clear that healthy communication make for better leaders. Giving others a chance to be heard, actually listening to what they were saying, making steps to move forward, building strong relationships and placing trust in others goes a long way to becoming a successful leader.

I am truly grateful to the Saskatchewan Society for Medical Laboratory Technologists (SSMLT) Professional Practices committee and Council for awarding me the Lori Dianne Cooper Scholarship for the Excellence in Healthcare Leadership Program. This course has helped me in so many ways. Thank you doesn't seem like enough.

Jaclyn Forsberg MLT

**REGISTRATION
IS OPEN**

SSMLT Fall Conference

LOCATION: Conexus Arts Centre, Regina

COST:

Members- \$50 -full conference; \$10 each lecture; \$15 each hybrid/virtual lecture

Non-members: \$60 – full conference; \$15 each lecture; \$20 each hybrid/virtual lecture

Register Online: [Here](#) or at www.ssmlt.org—Events

Thursday October 12		
1300-1700	Trade Show setup- Vendors only Jacqui Shumiatcher Room	
1900-2100	Trade Show & Reception View new equipment & products Enjoy Appetizers & Refreshments Jacqui Shumiatcher Room	
Friday October 13		
0745-0815	Breakfast and Registration	
0815-0915	Jess Tetu Keynote- Resilience & Inspiration Overcoming adversity at a very young age, Jess began her adult life on her own at the age of 15 years old and through dedication, determination and hard work has become a renowned speaker, national award-winning philanthropist & entrepreneur.	
0915-1000	Break in Trade Show Area Jacqui Shumiatcher Room	
1000-1050	Dana Forrest Newborn Screening – It is not just a PKU	
1100-1150	Beckman Presentation- sponsored Topic and Presenter TBA	
1150-1245	Lunch in Trade Show Area Jacqui Shumiatcher Room Trade Show closes at 1230	
1245-1315	SSMLT Annual Meeting Hybrid	
1315-1415	Speaker TBA - Hybrid presentation “Pre-Analytical Pitfalls in Hemostasis Testing & Strategies for Preventing Them” Stago Sponsored Presentation	
1415-1430	Refreshment Break Jacqui Shumiatcher Room	
1430-1520	Dr. Janet Martin “Not for human consumption: Common adulterants, adjuncts, and interferents in toxicological samples”	Hybrid presentation Topic and presenter- TBA
1530-1620	Amanda Lang Molecular Techniques in Microbiology Jacqui Shumiatcher Room	Nicola Salter MLT Liquid Cytology- Sample, TAT, and Reflex testing SK Perspective

Presentation – Shumiatcher room

Presentation – Ontario/Quebec room

Presentation – live and online (hybrid)