

LEGISLATIVE RETURN

SUBMITTED BY: Hon. John Streicker



On October 12, 2017, Mr. Cathers, Member for Lake Labarge

- asked the following question during the Oral Question Period at page(s) _____ of *Hansard*
- submitted the following written question – WQ No. _____
- gave notice of the following motion for the production of papers – MPP No. _____

RE: _____

OR

This legislative return relates to a matter outstanding from discussion related to:

Bill No. 7 *Act to Amend the Dental Profession Act*

“...but I would just encourage the minister and officials from his department to reach out again to Yukon dental hygienists to talk to them about some of the specific wording and, where there are provisions in the legislation as currently worded that prevent them from fully exercising their scope of practice in certain situations,...”

“...just sincerely ask the Minister of Community Services to take the specific concerns identified to heart as well as reaching out to members of Yukon’s dental hygienist community to consider their concerns and perspectives, including whether there should be additional changes at some point in the future to allow for self-regulation as it occurs in some jurisdictions, but most specifically to address any barriers in legislation that may prevent some dental hygienists from fully exercising their training and practising within their scope of practice.”

On October 12, 2017, at page(s) 1100 of *Hansard*

The response is as follows:

Yukon’s dental hygienists are required to provide their services in affiliation with a dentist. The amendments to the *Dental Profession Act* that were assented to on October 12 were designed to allow hygienists to provide some of their basic core services before a patient is examined by a dentist, and without direct supervision.

Section 23.03 was worded in this manner specifically to allow dental hygienists to provide the basic core services for which they are trained without the supervision of a dentist. “With a view to the examination of a patient by a dentist” was worded in this manner to maintain the affiliation but without requiring supervision. There is no time factor to say how long after a hygienist provides these services and when a patient is subsequently examined by a dentist. This would allow a hygienist to provide demonstrations and techniques for oral hygiene in schools or continuing care facilities, and the patient would eventually be examined by a dentist.

There are some self-regulating colleges in the provinces, but not in the territories. The small number of professionals in the territories poses significant challenges to self-regulation.

Signature

24 - Oct, 2017

Date