RHPA TRANSITION 2026

Spring 2026

The NOVA SCOTIA REGULATOR OF MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES

In 2023, The Nova Scotia Government introduced the **Regulated Health Professions Act (RHPA)**, a shared legislative framework for all regulated health professions in the province.

Effective **February 2, 2026**, the medical laboratory technology profession in Nova Scotia officially came under the authority of the RHPA. While this transition means a new regulatory framework, a **new name** (Nova Scotia Regulator of Medical Laboratory Sciences), and new license types, it does not impact day-to-day medical laboratory science practice. The new name better clarifies the organization's role in regulating medical laboratory technology practice in Nova Scotia.

Licenses issued under the NSCMLT name will continue to be valid. All existing College policies will be updated to align with the new Act and Regulations. Policy updates are underway and will be available on the NSRMLS website once completed.

New Name

Nova Scotia Regulator of Medical Laboratory Sciences (NSRMLS)

The new name clearly represents the regulatory role and public protection mandate, in line with best practices for regulatory bodies. It is designed to indicate we regulate the professions and the professionals within.

New Legislative Framework Under the RHPA

The RHPA sets out the structure for health professional regulators. The Act also sets out the Regulator's authority over registration and licensing and the basic procedures for committee activities and professional conduct. Sections 4, 13, and 14 of the RHPA allow the government to make regulations concerning the regulator of Medical Laboratory Sciences.

Under the RHPA, the new regulator is governed by:

- Regulated Health Professions Act, 2023 (RHPA)
- Regulations under the RHPA:
    - Regulated Health Professions General Regulations
    - Regulations Respecting Medical Laboratory Sciences Registration
    - Regulations for professional corporations (permits) upcoming
- Bylaws, which were passed on **February 2, 2026** by the Board of the Regulator, as allowed by section 12 of the RHPA and section 4 of the Regulations Respecting Medical Laboratory Sciences.

RHPA GENERAL REGULATION

The RHPA general regulations set out the rules respecting:

- Reporting requirements by the Regulator
- Statutory Committee powers and authority
- Professional conduct procedures
- Reinstatement procedures
- Requirements for registrants to report a criminal charge to the Regulator
- Mandatory reporting by Employer

RHPA MEDICAL LABORATORY SCIENCES REGULATION

The RHPA Medical Laboratory Sciences regulations set out the rules respecting:

- Requirements for registration and licensure
- Categories of licensure
- Scope of practice of medical laboratory sciences
- Professionals including Combined Laboratory and Xray Technologist, Medical Laboratory Assistant and Medical Laboratory Technologist.
- Title restriction for Medical laboratory professionals

NSRMLS BYLAWS

The RHPA Medical Laboratory Sciences bylaws set out the rules respecting:

- Currency of practice requirements
- Board composition, selection, and officers
- Regulatory standards
- Advanced/Restricted practice
- Registration of professional corporation
- Fines and consequences practising with a suspended license or without a license

The Registration & Licensing Categories

To align with the new legislation and regulations under the RHPA, the Regulator will revise how licenses and registrations are categorized in its records and public directory.

Licences are now categorized as either:

Practising: a registrant who holds this licence can practice medical laboratory sciences without restrictions or conditions. This registrant is on the practicing register (Active license).

Conditional: a registrant who holds this licence can practice medical laboratory sciences with restrictions or under terms, limits, or conditions. This registrant is on the conditional register. (Provisional License)

A registrant who has not yet completed the educational program or awaiting exam results will have a Conditional licence and be on the Conditional register, but must still use the Candidate title:

- Candidate MLT/MLA/CLXT

Under the RHPA, a registrant is considered licensed if they hold a current license and not licensed if they do not. The term "non-practising" is no longer used and will not be issued 2027 onward.

The updated license titles are detailed in the chart below. This change is automatic; no action is needed.

All current “non-practising” license will be valid until December 31 2026.

The Registration & Licensing Categories

Old License Name	New License Name
Active Practising	Registered MLA/MLT/CLXT Practising License
Provisional Practising	Registered MLA/MLT/CLXT Conditional License
Provisional Nonpractising	Not licensed

The Designation

License Name	Designation
Registered MLA/MLT/CLXT Active Practising License	Registered Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA); Registered Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT); Registered Combined Laboratory Xray Technologist (CLXT)
Registered MLA/MLT/CLXT Conditional License.	Candidate Medical Laboratory Assistant (MLA); Candidate Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLT); Candidate Combined Laboratory Xray Technologist (CLXT)
Not licensed	Not permitted to use title

NSRMLS New Logo

NSRMLS Board has approved a new logo. The new logo brings together both laboratory and X-ray elements, featuring a DNA strand intertwined with a skeletal motif represented by dots. The acronym incorporates a horizon, symbolizing a fresh start with the licensing of MLAs, CLXTs and the new legislation. The updated colour palette was intentionally chosen to move away from the previous colours associated solely with MLTs and to ensure clear distinction from other associations or regulatory bodies.

NSRMLS
Nova Scotia Regulator of
Medical Laboratory Sciences

NSRMLS Education Day

We are please to announce that the NSRMLS Board has approved an upcoming "**Education Day**"

Date: December 05 2026 **Time:** 08:30AM - 4:00PM

Location: Halifax Tower Hotel & Conference Centre Bayers Lake - 15 Lakelands Blvd.

A "special Room rate" of $179.99 is offered (2 queen beds) booking details to be shared closer to the event date.

Topics: will be announced in the coming months-stay tuned!

New Renewal Deadline and Late Fees

The NSRMLS Board has approved the following changes, effective this year 2026 for the *2027 Renewals*:

The renewal application **deadline** has been changed to **December 1** from December 31.

The ***late fee*** for applications *submitted after the deadline* has increased to **$250.00.**

These changes support timely completion of renewals and appropriate workplace staffing of medical laboratory professionals thereby ensuring public safety. We strongly encourage all registrants to submit their renewal applications well in advance of the deadline to avoid late fees or any disruption to your registration status. The Renewal opening date is in September to allow for timely completion.

Your Board of Directors for 2025- 2026

- Nicole Leyte - Chair
- Leanne MacDonald - Vice Chair
- Sarah MacKinnon
- Amanda Henry
- Bev White - Secretary
- Danielle Silver
- Meredith Forrest-Parks

Public Board members;

- Monica Moriarty - Treasurer
- Lori Peters
- Brian Martell

The Board provides leadership and plays a crucial role in overseeing and regulating medical laboratory practices, professionals, and organizations to ensure that they maintain high standards of care, of safe and ethical practices. Some key responsibilities of a health regulator board are: public protection, licensing, setting standards, monitoring and enforcement of compliance with regulations, setting strategic direction, and complaint process.

Policies On Registration and Licensing, Governance, Professional Conduct, or Continuing Competence

All current polices will need to align with the new Act and Regulations. Revisions to current policies are underway and the updated policies will be published on the NSRMLS website as soon as approved by the NSRMLS Board or responsible committee.

NSRMLS LEGISLATION CHANGE Q &A

Q: Will the role of the organization change under the incoming RHPA legislation?

A: The mandate of the organization remains the same as it migrates from the Medical Laboratory Technology Act to the RHPA. A regulatory body's role is to promote the safe and competent delivery of medical laboratory technology practice by approving education programs and overseeing processes related to registration, licensing, and professional conduct. It is responsible for developing standards of practice, a code of ethics, and continuing competence programs. A regulatory body is primarily accountable to both the Minister of Health and Wellness and the public.

Q: Key changes related to NSRMLS?

A: While this broad legislative reform aims to strengthen the regulation of health professions, several key changes specifically affect MLA/MLT/CLXT. These include updated terminology for registration and licensing categories, the elimination of retired and Non-practising member licenses, enhanced reporting obligations for MLA/MLT/CLXT and employers concerning incompetence or professional misconduct, a requirement to increase the number of public and registrant board members ratio, where the Board public members will be as close to half the number as possible and the removal of the mandate for regulatory boards to hold Annual General Meetings. Additionally, the Board must approve a practice review process within 18 months of transitioning to the RHPA. Further details about this process will be shared as they become available.

Q: How will the NSRMLS keep registrants informed?

A: Registrants will continue to receive important updates and information through multiple channels. These include emails, the NSRMLS's Annual Report, Newsletters, live and re-recorded sessions on specific regulatory topics as they arise, and updates posted on the NSRMLS website. These resources are designed to keep registrants well-informed about regulatory developments and key activities of the Regulator.

The NSRMLS primarily communicates via email, so it is each registrant's responsibility to keep their email address up to date in their NSRMLS profile.

Q: I am registered in Nova Scotia and other provinces. Will anything change for me under the RHPA?

A: Yes. Under the RHPA, registrants who are licensed in other provinces will be required to provide verification of good standing from each jurisdiction as part of the annual renewal process.

Q: What are the protected titles under the RHPA?

A: Under the RHPA Regulations Respecting Medical Laboratory Professionals, the protected titles include Medical Laboratory Assistant, MLA, Medical Laboratory Technologist, MLT, Combined Laboratory and Xray Technologists, CLXT and phlebotomists or any derivation or abbreviation of them. See sections 17-19 in the NS MLS regulations for more information.

Q: Will the medical laboratory technology scope of practice change under the RHPA

A: Yes. The medical laboratory scope of practice is defined in the RHPA medical laboratory science regulations with minor changes. While there are minor differences in wording under the RHPA Medical Laboratory Technology Regulation, the overall scope of practice remains unchanged. Medical Laboratory Technologists are able to interpret biological specimen results and perform quality management not just quality assurance and control. See sections 15-16 in the NS MLS regulations and sections 29-30 of the NSRMLS Bylaws for more information.

NSRMLS Changes Coming Soon:

- Website update in the coming months as NSRMLS.ca. Those searching for NSCMLT will be directed to NSRMLS.ca.
- College e-mail addresses will be updated, but e-mails sent to the old addresses will auto-forward to the new addresses for the foreseeable future.

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