

Labs Save Lives – Med Lab Week April 9-15, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Hamilton, ON - April 1, 2023 - Medical Laboratory Week in Ontario will be celebrated April 9-15th, 2023. This year's campaign theme for Ontario is "Labs Save Lives". The intent is to showcase and celebrate the essential but often unseen work performed by labs and bring the stories of the lives saved by these heroes to the forefront. The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) hopes to educate the government, media, allied healthcare partners, and the public that the services provided by our laboratories save the lives of those you love.

The pandemic taught us many things, one of which is how important our lab professionals are to the overall success of our healthcare system. Lab professionals have processed over 840+ million tests and 26+ million COVID-19 tests over the past three years and this life-saving work has been performed by a group who were severely understaffed prior to the pandemic.

"It has been a long few years with COVID. These heroes have been understaffed, missed vacation, and are experiencing burnout but continue to persevere. They know that if they stop working, people's lives are at stake. Med Lab Week is an opportunity for us to thank these overlooked heroes!" – Michelle Hoad, CEO of The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO)

Labs are working tirelessly, 24/7, because these tests aren't just swabs and samples, they're people. Each test belongs to a mother, father, sister, brother, grandma, grandpa, or friend, all waiting on results that could save their life.

"Ontario labs are filled with heroes! These heroes have been working tirelessly for years and deserve to be recognized, that's what Med Lab Week is all about. Everyone knows someone who wouldn't be here today if it weren't for a lab professional!" – Jessie Clelland, Board Chair of the MLPAO

Over 70% of healthcare diagnoses rely on lab results. From early cancer diagnosis, diabetes, heart disease, genetic markers and more, every sample is the life of an Ontarian our labs are saving.

For more information visit mlpao.org/LabsSaveLives

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The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario is a non-profit health professional organization founded in 1963 with over 4,100 members across the province. The MLPAO represents the interests of Medical Laboratory Professionals in Ontario with government, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, health care professions and other stakeholders.

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