**MLPAO Template Support Letter – 2025 Pre-Budget Submission**

Recipient emails: premier@ontario.ca; sylvia.jones@ontario.ca

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Jones,

I am writing to you today in support of the Medical Laboratory Professionals’ Association of Ontario’s (MLPAO) 2025 pre-budget submission which outlines recommendations the Ontario government should take to create a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy for medical laboratory professionals.

**70% of all medical decisions rely on lab results and there is a significant testing demand** due to an aging population, expansion of preventative medicine, and new pathogens. The province is currently facing a shortage of 300 – 400 Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs**)** which will be further compounded in the next 2-4 years as 42% of working MLTs will be eligible for retirement at the age of 55. Lab professionals process and interpret 280+ million lab tests annually that are required to provided diagnostics and comprehensive care to Ontarians for publicly funded cancer screenings, surgeries and procedures.

MLPAO has three recommendations for the Ontario government to further invest in the province’s medical laboratory system to ensure Ontarians have timely access to tests and results that impact their care.

1. $17.8M (over three years) for MLT Clinical Placements and Preceptors;
2. $12M for MLT Education Programs to Develop Simulation Laboratories (Approx. $2M Per School); and
3. Expand the Learn and Stay Grant to Include More MLT Education Programs

Details on how the shortage is impacting your workplace and the continuing challenges if investments are not made. (*Suggested length of one to two paragraphs)*

The adoption of MLPAO’s [2025 pre-budget submission](https://www.mlpao.org/_files/ugd/2bfe16_cc15aafb5c0b40948705a67f9a302cb5.pdf) recommendations will complement investments made in the 2023 and 2024 Ontario Budgets and will result in a comprehensive recruitment and retention strategy for medical laboratory professions.

Sincerely,

Signature