



Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario
L'Association des professionnels des laboratoires médicaux de l'Ontario

May 28, 2020

Honourable Christine Elliott, Minister of Health

College Park 5th Flr - 777 Bay St.

Toronto ON M7A 2J3

RE: Medical Laboratory Professionals are Front-Line Workers

Dear Minister Elliott,

We received your communication last night regarding the update in the Temporary Pandemic Pay. We are sharing this letter with our members. We are expecting a visceral response.

We are writing to look for assistance in explaining to our members why they were not included beyond the reason provided: that it is a limited federal funding issue.

It is a challenge for our members to understand your explanation, as they meet the criteria laid out by your ministry.

When a member of the public in any rural and remote community in Ontario gets tested, it is a Medical Lab Assistant or Medical Lab Technologist that will conduct the COVID-19 swab. It is then a Medical Laboratory Technologist that will analyze that test and provide results. It is a Medical Lab Assistant or Medical Lab Technologist going into patient rooms to take specimens from infected patients when further testing is needed. They work shoulder to shoulder with other healthcare groups that have been included in the TPP initiative.

The healthcare community has needed to come together to fight this monster. This decision has just created division amongst healthcare teams. The implications of this decision cuts deep into the hearts of lab professionals.

Your expectations have not changed – a target of 20,000 tests per day. We wake up everyday working hard to reach those targets.

Our expectation is to be treated with the dignity and respect that you have provided to those included frontline workers.

We urge you to reconsider.

Thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MHoad', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Hoad, CAE

Chief Executive Officer

Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario