

MEDIA RELEASE: Historic Investment in Ontario Labs

HAMILTON ON (March 2023): "Hamilton, ON – The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) welcomes the inclusion of medical laboratory professionals in the [2023 Ontario Budget](#). These investments will bolster the province's laboratory workforce while providing Ontarians with in-demand and well-paying jobs.

The budget includes an additional \$3.3 million over the next three years, beginning in 2023-24 to expand access to dual credit opportunities in health care-related courses for an additional 1,400 secondary students. This will allow eligible high school students who successfully complete these courses to earn credit towards both their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and introductory courses in college health care programs including Medical Laboratory Technicians. The funding will also be used to provide opportunities for up to 6,000 students in Grades 7 to 12 over the next three years to take part in hands-on healthcare-related activities across Ontario.

"A sustainable health care system requires properly staffed laboratories. It is encouraging to see this budget include Medical Lab Technicians and Medical Lab Technologists as an essential part of the long-term solution to better health care in Ontario. We applaud the government for this investment and look forward to continuing the inclusion of labs in future healthcare discussions." - *Michelle Hoad, MLPAO Chief Executive Officer*

The previously announced expansion of the [Ontario Learn and Stay Grant](#) to include Medical Laboratory Technology and Medical Laboratory Science Programs will allow eligible students in programs at Cambrian and St. Clair Colleges to receive financial assistance during their studies. The program will begin for students in the 2023-24 academic year and provides full, upfront funding for tuition, books, and other direct educational costs to students in return for working and caring for people in the region where they studied for a term of service after they graduate. This initiative will ensure that those residing in northern and southwestern Ontario, and rural and remote communities, will have timely access to laboratory services.

MLPAO will continue to work with the Government of Ontario and other stakeholders to advocate for the profession, including capital investment for a simulation laboratory. We will be participating in Med Lab Week April 9-15, 2023 with our campaign #LabsSaveLives to put a face to the life-saving work lab professionals do and provide a more personal connection for the general population as we continue to advocate for labs.

About the Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO)

The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) is a non-profit health professional organization founded in 1963 with members across the province, advocating on behalf of Medical Laboratory Technologists (MLTs) and Medical Laboratory Assistant/Technicians (MLA/Ts). Combined, Ontario medical laboratory professionals process and interpret 280+ million lab tests annually and are the fourth largest healthcare profession after doctors, nurses and pharmacists.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.mlpaoo.org/> and <https://twitter.com/MLPAOnews>

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