

Dear Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario,

Thank you for taking the time to reach out to the Ontario NDP during this important and consequential election.

As you are aware, our health care system has been woefully understaffed, as successive governments refuse to put the resources needed, leading to an increasingly strained health care system in critical need of staff. Years of Liberal neglect and underfunding left health care workers stretched thin while Doug Ford's Conservatives cut health care funding and staff. Even during the pandemic, the Ford government failed to recognize the important and essential contribution of laboratory professionals who make our health care system work by excluding them from pandemic pay benefits, while Ontario's New Democrats have called for laboratory professionals and all frontline workers to receive pandemic pay.

We need a new approach, from a government who is willing to work hand in hand with health care professionals and provide the necessary resources so that health needs are addressed immediately, instead of being delayed to the detriment of our health and the increased burden on our system that comes from failing to prevent worsening conditions. The Ontario NDP has committed to significantly raising hospital funding to exceed health care sector inflation, population growth and expanded operating plans as well as to address local needs. We are also committed to building new hospitals in Brampton, Niagara Falls, Windsor-Essex, Scarborough, and Kitchener.

An ONDP government would also immediately move forward with our plan to recruit, retain, return, and support laboratory professionals and other health care workers. This includes ensuring fair wages and hiring the staff needed to alleviate the increased workloads for the same pay that are contributing burnout. Our platform also includes a commitment to immediately pass NDP MPP Doly Begum's Fairness for Ontario's Internationally Trained Workers Act, which addresses accreditation barriers for internationally trained Professionals, with a focus on health care.

We've also committed to support the expansion of access to health care in rural and Northern communities, including the creation of 20 new Community Health Centres in underserved communities, investing in education across Ontario. We will also reverse Doug Ford's cuts to francophone services and education that received international attention and rebuild the lost trust needed to assure francophones across Canada and abroad that they are welcome here in Ontario.

While past governments have looked at how to cut corners in our health care system, leading to the crisis we are facing today, Ontario's New Democrats are committed to ensuring that it has the necessary resources to thrive, improve health outcomes across Ontario, and become even more efficient by diagnosing and treating illnesses before it is allowed to progress. Together, we can fix this.

Sincerely,

Dan O'Brien  
Director of Policy  
Ontario's New Democrats