



May 30, 2022

Michelle Hoad, CAE
Chief Executive Officer
Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for writing regarding the priorities of the MLPAO. I'm pleased to share the Liberal Plan for Ontario, called [A Place to Grow](#), and how we will support and strengthen Ontario's medical laboratory community.

There is a critical shortage of health care workers in so many roles across Ontario. To support retention, an Ontario Liberal government will make sure health care workers are valued and paid more and feel more supported by repealing the wage-capping Bill 124 and providing health care heroes with the raises they deserve. We'll also forgive all student loans for health care workers who were on the front-lines during COVID-19 – as well as guarantee access to mental health services for all health professionals. We'll also establish and enforce protest exclusion zones around health care buildings to protect patients and staff.

To create the staffing we'll need as we expand our health care capacity and replace retiring workers, we'll train and hire 100,000 new health care professionals to meet demand over the next six years. We'll help reach this goal by getting more internationally-trained health professionals working in Ontario and replacing unnecessary requirements for Canadian experience – focusing instead on investing in competency-based assessments and bridge training. We'll also cover tuition costs for health students in Ontario who commit to working long-term in a rural or remote community.

We'll also help more people get on-the-job training by funding opportunities through the Canada-Ontario Job Grant and SkillsAdvance. Short, highly-focused programs called microcredentials can also help teach new skills quickly. We'll build high-quality, career-focused microcredential programs in partnership with employers and educators. So colleges, universities and training schools don't have to rely solely on tuition increases to make these transformations, we'll create a \$1 billion fund and increase operating grants.

Thank you for your advocacy and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Del Duca".

Steven Del Duca
Leader
Ontario Liberal Party