

**MEDIA RELEASE: ONTARIO MEDICAL LABORATORY PROFESSIONALS TO VISIT
QUEEN'S PARK THIS WEEK**

HAMILTON, ON (November 1st, 2022) The Medical Laboratory Professionals Association of Ontario will be at Queen's Park Thursday November 3rd, discussing the need for immediate funding to retain and recruit lab professionals in Ontario.

As the fourth largest healthcare profession in the province, Ontario's medical lab professionals are working to deliver results fast, despite a severe short-staffing crisis. 70% of labs entered the COVID-19 pandemic short-staffed. About 41.3%¹ are eligible for retirement in the next four to eight years, and 90% are experiencing burnout after 2.5 years of 24/7 COVID-19 testing, which added 25 million COVID-19 tests to their case load.²

"The laboratory must be considered a priority within the government's Health Human Resource discussions. If COVID-19 has taught us anything, our laboratories need to be properly staffed so that Ontarians get test results in a timely manner. The 14+ million people living in Ontario deserve timely lab results. They should not have to wait, days, weeks, months or years. This is what is happening in our current system" said Michelle Hoad, CEO of the MLPAO.

The [MLPAO Call to Action](#) presented to the government in 2021, is calling for the government to fund clinical placements for incoming students, provide a Northern solution to address rural and remote communities, and a remote simulation lab to help students learn and stay in northern communities.

"We are excited to be visiting Queen's Park in person and speaking to provincial decision makers. COVID-19 has been an additional strain on our people, and they cannot continue in their current state. We are concerned about the future of our profession and the need for immediate investment to retain and recruit this essential group of healthcare workers" said Jessie Clelland, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Laboratory tests are vital to every aspect of Ontario's health care system. Laboratory professionals analyze tests for health issues that include heart attacks, organ function, diabetes detection and management, nutritional deficiencies, kidney disease, anemia, viruses and infections, pregnancy difficulties and many more. Without diagnostics, physicians are left with only basic analysis and patient-reported symptoms.

The MLPAO will be in the House of Commons Thursday November 3rd, to discuss their Ontario Call to Action which outlines a fair and reasonable plan to address this issue.

For media inquires please contact Michelle Hoad, CEO at 416.485.6768 (mhoad@mlpao.org)

¹ CMLTO Annual Report 2021, assumes retirement eligibility at 55.

² Based on a survey of medical laboratory professionals in February 2022.