



Gatineau, May 28, 2024

The Honourable Christian Dubé
Quebec Minister of Health and Social Services
Quebec National Assembly
Montreal, QC H3A 2H7

Subject: Alarming health-care situation in the Outaouais

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the Outaouais caucus, and with the united support of our colleagues from the National Capital Region, we write to you with deep concern regarding the healthcare situation in the Outaouais. The current crisis is not just a Gatineau issue; it is impacting the health and well-being of residents in the Outaouais and beyond. Our constituents are understandably very anxious.

This crisis extends beyond the challenges faced by patients attempting to access care in the Outaouais. It also encompasses the burden placed on our dedicated healthcare professionals, who are grappling with overwhelming workloads and increasingly difficult conditions. As federal representatives for the Outaouais, we are gravely concerned about the rapidly deteriorating situation.

Drawing upon multiple reports and discussions with regional health experts, we implore you to take immediate action to prevent further disruption to healthcare services in the Outaouais. While we acknowledge that healthcare falls under provincial jurisdiction, the severity of the crisis necessitates urgent intervention. It is imperative that lasting solutions are swiftly implemented to safeguard the continuity of healthcare services. This includes the development of a comprehensive action plan that addresses the needs of all healthcare personnel across the Outaouais.

Here are the main solutions proposed by healthcare experts in the Outaouais:

1. Bolster the wage premiums and enhance working conditions for healthcare personnel in the Outaouais. This initiative aims to not only retain existing staff but also attract new talent, countering the alarming trend of professionals leaving for opportunities in other provinces. By addressing this "hemorrhaging" of personnel,

we can stabilize the healthcare workforce and ensure consistent delivery of essential services to our communities.

2. Invest in the modernization of medical technology systems to facilitate information sharing between healthcare professionals, including those in Ontario and Quebec. This investment will enable quicker diagnoses, more informed treatment decisions, and ultimately, improved health outcomes for residents of the Outaouais.
3. Prioritize inter-regional equity in the allocation of healthcare resources and funding, so that the Outaouais receives its fair share. This approach promotes fairness and acknowledges the healthcare needs of our region, ultimately enhancing the overall well-being of our Quebecers.

We thank you for your attention to this urgent situation and look forward to your collaboration in ensuring that the necessary resources are allocated effectively and quickly to the Outaouais to meet the urgent needs of its citizens. We also hope that you will implement sustainable solutions to ensure equitable, quality access to healthcare for all Outaouais residents.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories:

Sophie Chatel, MP of Pontiac, Chair of the Outaouais Caucus and Co-Chair of the National Capital Region Caucus

Stéphane Lauzon, MP of Argenteuil—La Petite-Nation

Steven MacKinnon, MP of Gatineau

With the united support of:

Mona Fortier, MP of Ottawa-Vanier and Co-Chair of the National Capital Region Caucus

Marie-France Lalonde, MP of Orléans

David McGuinty, MP of Ottawa South

Yasir Naqvi, MP of Ottawa Centre

Jenna Sudds, MP of Kanata—Carleton

Anita Vandenbeld, MP of Ottawa West—Nepean

Francis Drouin, MP of Glengarry—Prescott—Russell