Prioritize public health: keep our community PHO Labs open!

To the legislative assembly of Ontario

WHEREAS the mission of Public Health Ontario is to "enable informed decisions and get actions that protect and promote health and contribute to reducing health inequities", we have grave concerns that the closure of 6 community-based PHO labs will increase health inequities, especially in northern Ontario; and

WHEREAS combined these labs collect and process thousands of water samples and time sensitive medical tests each day; and

WHEREAS there are grave concerns about the integrity of samples being compromised if travel time is increased by centralizing all tests to a few locations; and

WHEREAS these labs already process overflow tests and samples when labs such as Toronto and Ottawa cannot keep up to demand and many scaled up to meet demand during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS we are concerned about the impact that potential closure of these sites would have in rapidly identifying and controlling future outbreaks of infectious diseases in local hospitals and long-term care facilities.

We the undersigned petition the Legislative Assembly of Ontario as follows:

- Stop the closure of the Public Health Ontario labs in Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie, Hamilton, Peterborough, Kingston, and Orillia.
- Invest in the public health infrastructure that keeps Ontarians safe and healthy.

NAME (printed)	ADDRESS (printed)	SIGNATURE

Blood Services and Diagnostics | PHO PublicHealthOntario

OPSEU SEFPO Ontario Public Service Employees Union Syndicat des employés de la fonction publique de l'Ontario

Please return completed petitions to OPSEU/SEFPO 100 Lesmill Road, Toronto, ON M3B 3P8.

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