

February 5, 2024

Dear Candidate,

Ontario's doctors are relieved to hear that the proposed American tariffs have been paused for now. These tariffs would have placed an even greater financial strain on Ontarians who are struggling with affordability. While we have this temporary reprieve, we want to ensure there is room to talk about the importance of health care and how it is integral to the future of our province.

As Election Day approaches, we urge you to elevate the discussion around the doctor shortage crisis. More than 2.5 million Ontarians are without a family doctor, and by next year, that number is projected to nearly double to 4.4 million. The situation is particularly severe in your community. Emergency departments are struggling to stay open, wait times for specialists and surgeries are unacceptably long, and the coordination of care remains fragmented. This crisis demands urgent and meaningful attention.

Ontarians want a strong economy, but they also believe that health care is a fundamental right and a core value of what it means to be Canadian. We cannot have a healthy economy without a healthy workforce. Every person in Ontario deserves access to a family doctor, and every party should make this a priority.

Ontario's doctors have solutions. We need to recruit and retain 3,500 family doctors immediately. We need to expand team-based care so doctors, nurses, and other professionals can work together to provide timely treatment. We must reduce administrative burdens that take doctors away from patient care, currently consuming up to 40% of family physicians' time. Finally, we need a comprehensive plan to ensure rural and northern communities have the doctors they need.

When Ontarians have access to health care, their communities grow and prosper. Physicians are a key component of the future of Ontario and welcome a discussion on the concrete steps needed to [Stop The Crisis](#) and strengthen our health care system.

**If you would like us to arrange an opportunity for you to meet with a local doctor before Election Day to discuss how we can work together to ensure every Ontarian has access to the care they need and deserve, please reach out to [info@oma.org](mailto:info@oma.org).**



Kimberly Moran  
CEO, Ontario Medical Association



Dr. Dominik Nowak  
President, Ontario Medical Association