

May 29, 2018

PRESS RELEASE: OMSA supports the Canadian Medical Association's letter asking Ontario's political leaders to address long wait times and the rise in unmatched medical graduates

Health care has been a key focus of Ontario's upcoming election on June 7th. This past weekend, the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) released an [open letter](#) urging Ontario's political leaders to commit to improving the province's health care system. Specifically, the CMA identified long wait times and the rise in unmatched medical graduates as two "provincial issues of national importance" that require meaningful action. The Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) supports this letter and urges all MPP candidates and party leaders to place Ontario's health care system among their top priorities.

The issue of unmatched medical graduates has disproportionately affected medical students in this province: 35 of the 68 unmatched Canadian medical graduates in 2017 were from Ontario. This issue was the focus of this year's [OMSA Lobby Day](#), where over sixty medical students met with MPPs in Queen's Park to advocate for an adequate number of residency positions for Ontario medical graduates.

While the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care recently announced a one-time boost in residency positions this year, this support is only temporary. OMSA calls on Ontario's political leaders to urgently identify and apply long-term, sustainable solutions. Ensuring that medical students can complete their training and become practicing physicians is a necessary investment in a health care system where 1 in 10 Ontarians do not have a family doctor and many health care services have multi-year wait times.

OMSA represents the future physicians of this province, and hopes to continue the dialogue around improving Ontario's health care system with all political parties and other health care stakeholders. For all inquiries, please contact OMSA's Director of Representation at representation@omsa.ca. For more information on OMSA's advocacy efforts and priorities, please visit our [website](#) and our [2018 Ontario Election Primer](#).

Sincerely,



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"The rise in the number of unmatched medical students is on the minds of students, schools, and government. The announcement of temporary residency funding was a much needed response. We hope that candidates commit to helping address this crisis. OMSA is committed to working with all parties."

- Silvio Ndoja, OMSA Director of Representation

"All competent graduating medical students in Ontario should have the right to access residency training and the opportunity to practice clinically, We will continue advocacy efforts to ensure this is the case."

- Sydney McQueen, OMSA Director of Education