

Monday, April 8, 2019

PRESS RELEASE: Ontario medical students call for sustainable solutions to tackle the rise in unmatched medical graduates.

Toronto, ON: The Ontario Medical Students Association (OMSA) held its Annual Lobby Day today at Queen's Park where 60 medical students across Ontario met with Members of Provincial Parliament. Ontario medical students are alarmed by the increasing number of medical graduates who do not secure a residency spot to continue their required medical training, otherwise known as going 'unmatched'. This is the second straight year where Ontario medical students voted to advocate on this issue.

To become a practicing physician in Ontario, medical students must first complete postgraduate medical training as a resident. Students apply for residency positions in their final year of medical school in a process known as "the match." Historically, 10 to 20 graduates in Canada were unmatched each year, but that number reached an all-time high in 2018 when 123 medical graduates, 53 in Ontario alone, went unmatched. Considering that the cost of medical education is highly subsidized by Ontario taxpayers, unmatched graduates represent a significant unrealized investment. Unmatched graduates may also be challenged with limited professional options, a high debt burden, and risks to their mental well-being. While additional residency spots were created for unmatched candidates as a one-time measure last year as a result of advocacy by OMSA, the Faculties of Medicine, and other grassroots groups, a more sustainable solution is needed.

Ontario's medical students believe that tackling the increasing number of unmatched graduates requires urgent action by many healthcare stakeholders, including the provincial government. Medical students ask the Government of Ontario to create a physician workforce that meets Ontario's needs, is transparent in its physician services planning to enable medical students' informed decision-making, and ensures an adequate number of residency spots for every Ontario medical graduate.

This past weekend, medical students met with Canadian Medical Association President Dr. Gigi Osler and representatives from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Council of Ontario's Faculty of Medicine to discuss and identify sustainable solutions to address the rise in unmatched medical graduates. We hope to continue working with health care stakeholders to address these issues. Improving the physician training process will help build a better healthcare system for all Ontarians.

For more information on OMSA's advocacy efforts, please [visit www.omsa.ca/en/advocacy-priorities](http://www.omsa.ca/en/advocacy-priorities) or contact representation@omsa.ca.

Sincerely,



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