

LOBBYING ONTARIO ON THE PHYSICIAN SHORTAGE

Mover: Marchy Bruni

Seconder: Sonny Spina

WHEREAS the state of health care in Ontario is in crisis, with 2.3 million Ontarians lacking access to a family doctor, emergency room closures across the province, patients being de-rostered and 40% of family doctors considering retirement over the next five years; and

WHEREAS the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University says communities in northern Ontario are short more than 350 physicians, including more than 200 family doctors; and half of the physicians working in northern Ontario expected to retire in the next five years; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Medical Association and the Province of Ontario were negotiating a funding agreement to improve access, reduce wait times, and to help encourage physicians to enter the areas of practice most in need; and

WHEREAS the percentage of family physicians practicing comprehensive family medicine has declined from 77% in 2008 to 65% in 2022; and

WHEREAS per capita health-care spending in Ontario is the lowest of all provinces in Canada, and

WHEREAS the Government of Ontario recently submitted arguments to an arbitrator stating "there is no concern of a diminished supply of physicians", ignoring the real needs of communities across the province including Sault Ste. Marie and every Ontarian without access to a physician;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Council of the City of Sault Ste. Marie urge the Province of Ontario to recognize the physician shortage in (name of municipality) and Ontario, to fund health care appropriately and ensure every Ontarian has access to physician care.