

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL EDITION #6 HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN ONTARIO



MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER WITH HOPE AND DETERMINATION

Dear citizens,

As I committed at the end of July, I am relentlessly pursuing efforts to ensure that our unique reality is recognized, that our right to fair healthcare is respected, and, above all, that every person in Temiscaming and Kipawa is treated with dignity and humanity.

Our progress is real, measurable, and significant. We are no longer at the starting point; we have crossed several crucial milestones, and our voice is being heard where it needs to be.

CONCRETE PROGRESS

Three weeks ago, I established direct contact with the office of the Minister of Health, Mr. Christian Dubé.

On September 19, 2025, during Mr. François Legault's visit to Rouyn-Noranda, a meeting was held with the prefects of Abitibi-Temiscamingue. Our prefect and ally, Ms. Claire Bolduc, was present, reaffirming her constant support in this matter. The CISSS-AT did not attend this meeting. Our file was discussed.

Last week, the MRC of Temiscamingue and the Town of Temiscaming confirmed that the Premier of Quebec, Mr. François Legault, expressed that he is sensitive to the impact of the unilateral decision made by the CISSS-AT on August 1st, and committed to identifying a long-term solution. Mr. Legault has shown particular concern for ensuring access to healthcare for the citizens of Temiscaming and Kipawa, as well as for maintaining continuity of care, given the challenge posed by distances in our region.

Finally, **since September 26, 2025**, I have been in direct communication with the Premier's office. I can assure you that their teams are in solution mode. I have no reason to doubt the sincerity of their commitments. I am confident that we will be at the heart of the solution.

TAKING A STEP BACK FROM THE "NOISE"

I know that certain publications and messages can cause doubt and concern—especially in the age of social media. Allow me to reassure you by sharing my perspective on this matter, backed by years of experience in management, leadership, and intergovernmental relations.

From the very beginning, I made it clear that this issue would take months to resolve.

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Today, we are talking about weeks rather than months. It is not yet a matter of days, but this is **tremendous progress**.

It is unfortunate that certain communications from the CISSS-AT continue to create confusion and fear among the public, undermining our communications with you—when in fact this very organization is at the root of the crisis we have been facing for the past two months. On our side, we remain **calm, rigorous, and focused** on the objective.

WHAT REALLY MATTERS

To get through this sometimes stressful period, I encourage you to:

- **Trust the process:** Trying to “guess” the outcome day by day only adds to your stress. This is not a matter of days.
- **Allow time for the teams to do their work:** This is a large ship to redirect, in a political environment no less. We must remain patient and united.
- **Keep a cool head:** Others may criticize or sow doubt along the way; we continue to move forward calmly and confidently. In the end, their noise will not matter.
- **Be guided by a deep intention:** We move forward with determination, guided by a deep intention, by the logic of our goal, and we are confident that this logic will prevail.

UNTIL A FINAL SOLUTION

While we await the final outcome, we invite those who have already been integrated into the Quebec system, and who have medical appointments or other care scheduled, to keep those appointments in order to ensure continuity and timely follow-ups.

Together, with determination and hope, we will overcome this challenge and emerge **stronger and more united than ever**.

Thank you for your trust and solidarity.

Alain Gauthier
Mayor of Temiscaming