

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL EDITION #7 HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN ONTARIO



THE SATISFACTION OF FINALLY BEING HEARD

Dear residents,

Since the end of July, I have made a clear commitment to defend our right to accessible, humane healthcare that reflects our unique reality as a border community. I have upheld this commitment every single day, because no one should be penalized simply for living in Temiscamingue or Kipawa.

Today, we can say with confidence that things are moving forward. Step by step, consistently and steadily. Progress is real, concrete, and measurable. We are no longer trying to catch attention—we are finally being heard.

A NECESSARY CLARIFICATION IN A FILE THAT HAS GONE ON FOR TOO LONG

During his visit to the region this fall, the Premier and Minister Responsible for Abitibi-Témiscamingue, Mr. François Legault, showed a genuine sensitivity to the importance of maintaining a coherent care pathway for our population, given the distances that shape our daily lives.

Following targeted work, his office released an unequivocal statement two weeks ago: a special allocation of **\$300,000** has been granted to the CISSSAT, with the support of Santé-Québec, **to immediately reinstate the former administrative practice.**

In concrete terms, this funding covers the administrative task that previously existed, as well as the differences between Quebec and Ontario reimbursement rates.

The government also emphasized that this measure is temporary: a long-term solution adapted to our border reality must be defined in the coming months.

STEPPING BACK TO UNDERSTAND THE NOISE

Since this government announcement, a sense of confusion has persisted. Several residents have reported receiving contradictory information from the CISSSAT, sometimes suggesting that nothing had been resolved or that the Premier still needed to intervene. This was false, and these mixed messages created unnecessary worry.

Shortly after, the region's prefects met with the CISSSAT's senior leadership, who admitted not having fully understood the scope of the announcement.

Then, last week, Santé-Québec and the CEO of the CISSSAT met directly with the Premier's office for clarification. The message that emerged could not be clearer:

All parties agree that ensuring fair and equitable access to healthcare requires reinstating the former administrative practice so that access to the corridor is not compromised.

TOWN OF TEMISCAMINGUE

Phone number : 819 627-3273

Email : ville.temiscamingue@temiscamingue.net

At first, I spoke to you in terms of months.
Then weeks.

We are now very close: it is realistic to believe that the previous practice—and therefore access to the corridor—could be restored **in the coming days**.

THE NEXT STEPS THAT MUST BE TAKEN

It is now up to the CISSSAT to determine the actions to be implemented. We can reasonably expect them to:

- Clearly inform residents of southern Temiscamingue of the steps and timelines, and commit to them;
- Communicate formally with Ontario physicians to confirm the reinstatement of the administrative practice;
- Restore the administrative task that previously ensured efficient processing of these files;
- Cease any steps that may have been undertaken to report Ontario physicians to their professional order, as the CISSSAT had stated it intended to do;
- Provide regular updates to residents of southern Temiscamingue regarding these commitments.

For our part, we have already forwarded the information from the Premier's office to Ontario physicians. Several have indicated that they are waiting for official confirmation from the CISSSAT.

I encourage you, if you wish, to verify that your physician is aware of these developments.

TOWARD A DURABLE SOLUTION

Reinstating the former practice is only the first step.

The Premier's office will now lead a working table to establish a stable, equitable, and truly adapted solution for our border reality. This work will be carried out diligently and thoroughly, as demonstrated by the Premier's team throughout this process.

Dear residents. Thank you for your patience, your solidarity, and your trust. This situation has tested us at times, but it has also revealed a strong, resilient community firmly committed to its right to fair and accessible healthcare.

We are moving forward together—and we are moving forward for real.

The work ahead will continue with the same determination: calm, steady, and constructive.
Thank you for your trust.

Alain Gauthier

Mayor of Temiscaming