

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

SPECIAL EDITION #10 HEALTHCARE SERVICES IN ONTARIO

ANOTHER STEP FORWARD



Dear residents,

In recent days, an announcement by Quebec Premier Christine Fréchette suggested that the healthcare corridor with Ontario had now been permanently restored.

This announcement represents significant progress. However, some clarification is still needed to fully understand the situation and the work that remains to be done.

FUNDING NOW MADE PERMANENT

The government has confirmed that the \$300,000 in funding for the services of regional medical specialists in Ontario will now be made permanent.

This funding was initially provided as a temporary measure by Mr. Legault's government so that the CISSS de l'Abitibi-Témiscamingue would not have to cover the expense from its operating budget. It will now be provided every year on a permanent basis.

A MEETING TO CLARIFY THE SITUATION

On July 16, I met with Geneviève Bélisle, Chief of Staff to the Premier, and Deputy Minister of Health Daniel Paré to clarify the scope of the announcement and review the situation.

I made it clear that, despite the wording used in the announcement, the healthcare corridor has not yet been fully restored. Access to certain services remains limited, and important issues still need to be resolved.

Nevertheless, the meeting was very constructive. The Premier's Office and the Deputy Minister of Health are now directly involved in the matter and the objective is clear.

EXPANDING SERVICES AND MAKING THEM PERMANENT

The work now focuses on expanding the services available in Ontario and ensuring their long-term continuity.

Funding is also being made available to cover care provided at tertiary care facilities, as well as radiology services offered at the North Bay Regional Health Centre. The funding would therefore no longer be limited to services provided by medical specialists in the region.

Tertiary care refers to the highly specialized care required for more complex cases. When the necessary specialization is not available in the North Bay area, your physician must refer you to another facility, such as one located in Timmins or Toronto.

The next step is to negotiate and attempt to reach an agreement with the North Bay Regional Health Centre regarding the terms and conditions. The solution will need to take the form of administrative agreements between the institutions involved.

THE NECESSARY TOOLS ARE NOW IN PLACE

The Quebec government has finally put the necessary financial and administrative tools in place to succeed.

Funding is available, the key decision-makers are directly involved, and the objective has been clearly established. These solutions must now be made fully operational so that they result in real, stable and sustainable access to healthcare for our population.

We have taken an important step forward, but the work is not finished. Our objective remains the same: to ensure that the population of Southern Temiscamingue has access to healthcare that reflects our geographic reality and concretely meets its needs.

Let us remain attentive. I will continue to keep you informed as significant developments occur.

Thank you for your attention.

The work continues with diligence and determination.

Alain Gauthier
Mayor of Temiscamingue

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