



For Immediate Release

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**Mayor Lefebvre calls on Province to intervene in
LifeLabs Greater Sudbury laboratory closure**

Mayor Paul Lefebvre is calling on the Government of Ontario to intervene following LifeLabs' decision to close its Greater Sudbury laboratory this spring, a move that will result in the loss of approximately 40 medical laboratory technologist jobs and shift testing for much of Northern Ontario to Toronto.

“Shutting down this lab means samples from across Northern Ontario will be transported hundreds of kilometres for analysis,” said Mayor Lefebvre. “That creates predictable delays and unnecessary risks for patients. Northern Ontarians deserve the same level of care and reliability as anyone else in this province, and this decision puts that at risk.”

The Greater Sudbury laboratory processes diagnostic samples from communities including Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and rural areas along Highway 11. Mayor Lefebvre said the closure will have serious consequences for patients who rely on fast and reliable test results, including people living with chronic illness, newborns, residents in long-term care, and those on critical medications.

“At a time when the Province is counting on Northern Ontario to support economic growth and critical industries, it makes no sense to weaken access to essential and reliable health services that workers and families depend on,” said Lefebvre.

In addition to the immediate job losses, the closure will reduce the number of trained laboratory professionals in Northern Ontario and disrupt student placements, further straining an already pressured health workforce. The Mayor has written to the Minister of Health urging the Province to work with LifeLabs to preserve local laboratory capacity where possible, ensure test turnaround times meet clinical needs, and protect both current jobs and future workforce development.

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