



Advocacy
Public Affairs Committee

CAEP | ACMU

SUBJECT: Our emergency care system is on the verge of collapse.

Dear

I am writing to you not only as a concerned citizen and resident of _____ but also as an Emergency Physician who provides care to our community. I would like to draw your attention to a critical issue that is affecting our community and jeopardizing the well-being of its residents. Our emergency care system is on the verge of collapse. Nurses and physicians show extreme levels of burnout and are quitting in alarming numbers; ambulance offload delays are soaring, emergency departments are closing and there is a persistent problem of overcrowding. Patients are leaving emergency departments without care and with limited recourse.

The Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP) has been actively engaged in addressing these issues. They convened a crucial meeting with the Deputy Ministers of Health in Toronto on September 12th, 2023, followed by another important meeting with the Ministers of Health in Prince Edward Island on October 11th, 2023. These meetings were significant steps in their ongoing efforts to enhance emergency healthcare across the nation.

I urge you, as my elected representative, to take immediate action and advocate for the improvement of emergency care by reading the [EM:POWER report](#), which offers insights and solutions to address these pressing issues. Additionally, I kindly request that you encourage your Deputy Minister of Health to attend the National Forum on the Future of Emergency Care on April 30th and May 1st. They were invited by CAEP to attend where they can further engage with experts and stakeholders to find effective solutions.

As you are aware, access to timely and quality healthcare services is a fundamental right of every Canadian. Emergency departments play a vital role in providing life-saving care to those in need, especially during critical situations. However, several emergency departments in our province have been



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closed or are facing the threat of closure due to various reasons, including staffing shortages, budget constraints, and infrastructure challenges.

The closure of emergency departments exacerbates the already alarming crisis of overcrowding in the remaining facilities. Patients are forced to endure unacceptably long wait times, leading to compromised care, increased patient dissatisfaction, and, in some cases, avoidable medical complications or even loss of life. This situation not only places an enormous burden on the healthcare system but also significantly impacts the overall health and well-being of our community members.

I believe that by taking decisive action and collaborating with organizations like CAEP, we can alleviate the strain on our healthcare system, ensure timely access to emergency care, and safeguard the health and well-being of our community and my patients. To connect with Canada's National voice on emergency medicine, CAEP, please contact Christina Bova, Director Member Engagement and Advocacy at cbova@caep.ca or 613-523-3343 X17.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent issue and for your dedicated service to our community. I trust in your commitment to represent the interests of your constituents, my patients, and work towards a resolution that upholds the principles of accessible and quality healthcare.

I kindly request that you keep me informed of your efforts and any progress made on this matter.

Sincerely,

cc. Christina Bova, Director Member Engagement & Advocacy
cbova@caep.ca