



STEPHEN BLAIS, MPP / DÉPUTÉ

Orléans

April 17, 2020

Hon. Christine Elliott, MPP
Deputy Premier & Minister of Health
Ministry of Health
5th Floor
777 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

Dear Minister:

I write today about an urgent issue facing the residents of Orléans and Ottawa's east end: the closure of the Orléans Urgent Care Clinic (OUCC) as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The OUCC has served area residents for more than 25 years, providing high quality, pre-hospital ambulatory urgent medical care. The services they provide would typically be referred to the emergency room both by family physicians and walk in clinics.

The services offered by OUCC reduce the number of visits to area emergency rooms thereby reducing the financial strain on the healthcare system.

In 2005, the OUCC did an analysis of five common emergency problems (lacerations, I&D of abscesses, un-displaced fractures, corneal FB and IV antibiotics for cellulitis). The OUCC treating just these 5 conditions saved the Ministry of Health \$800,000 a year - and that was 15 years ago. I have included their report for your information.

Moreover, the OUCC is the medical contact for the Ottawa-Carleton Detention Centre, the William E. Hay Youth Detention Centre and the Kiewit Corporation which is building the provincially funded Confederation Line light rail extension to Orléans.

As a result of the unprecedented situation we are facing with Covid-19, the OUCC is at risk of closing its doors and not being able to re-open.

As residents self-isolate, the OUCC has experienced a sharp decline in patient volume – roughly 66%. I imagine emergency rooms across the province are experiencing a similar decline in non Covid-19 related visits.

.../2

The doctors of the OUCC fund the clinic through overhead charges applied to the doctor's OHIP remittance payments. With such a significant decline in patient visits this poses a serious risk to basic business model of the clinic.

The OUCC is very concerned about their ability to cover rent and other fixed costs. Moreover, since the Covid-19 pandemic, the MOH has instituted generous wage subsidies for physicians in emergency departments and Covid-19 assessment centres. The clinic has to compete to recruit physicians and their present financial deficits are a disincentive to attracting potential recruits.

As a result of these factors, the OUCC is at risk of closing. If they shutter their doors as a result of the Covid-19 crisis the administration of the clinic does not believe they will have the capacity to re-open afterwards. This would have a devastating effect on the Orléans community.

The OUCC is requesting emergency funding of \$40,000 per month for the duration of the Covid-19 crisis.

The OUCC provides critical health services to area residents and its closure would have lasting impacts on the health of the community as well as financial impacts to the healthcare system.

I am urging you and the Ministry to work with the OUCC to find a solution to their issues and ensure they can remain open for years to come.

Yours very truly,



Stephen Blais
Member of Provincial Parliament
Orléans

Enclosure: Orléans Urgent Care – Bridging the Gap

cc. Dr. Raymond Aubin, MD - President, Orléans Urgent Care Clinic