

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Society of Rural Physicians of Canada – Position Statement on Québec Law 2

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) acknowledges the introduction of Québec's Law 2, an Act mainly to establish collective responsibility with respect to the improvement of access to medical services and to ensure continuity of provision of those services. We recognize the Government of Québec's intention to improve access to medical care and strengthen continuity of care for patients across the province.

However, the SRPC is deeply concerned about the potential impacts of Law 2 on physician practice environments, particularly in rural, remote, and Indigenous communities. Rural physicians already face significant challenges, including high on-call burdens, limited locum supports, long travel distances, and difficulties in recruiting and retaining colleagues. The structure and obligations introduced under Law 2 risk exacerbating these pressures, undermining physician morale, and threatening the sustainability of rural healthcare delivery.

Law 2's emphasis on collective responsibility, performance-based remuneration, and potential penalties for non-compliance may have profound consequences. Rather than supporting rural healthcare, these measures are likely to create additional strain on physicians who are already working at capacity, potentially leading to early retirements, physician migration out of rural areas, difficulties in recruiting new physicians to fill vacant positions, and further challenges in maintaining access and continuity of care for patients. The law risks not only destabilizing the current workforce but also discouraging future physicians from choosing rural practice, further exacerbating existing shortages.

The SRPC supports the goal of improved access and continuity of care. Nevertheless, we believe that, in its current form, Law 2 will have extremely damaging effects on rural and remote healthcare in Québec. We stand ready to collaborate with the Government of Québec, physician organizations, and health system partners to achieve these shared goals. Drawing on our national perspective and experience across diverse rural jurisdictions, we would be pleased to provide advice on strategies that have proven effective elsewhere and to partner wherever possible in shaping health policies that strengthen access and outcomes for rural patients and support the physicians who care for them.

**About the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada**

The SRPC is the national voice of rural physicians, working to improve the health of rural Canadians through advocacy, education, and research. Representing over 3,000 members, the SRPC promotes equitable access to high-quality health care and supports the recruitment, retention, and professional development of rural generalist physicians across Canada.

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