



May 15, 2020

## **Re: Pandemic Pay for Essential Hospital Workers**

The Ontario government has announced pandemic pay for front-line healthcare workers. Front-line health care workers are critical to the ongoing efforts to protect Ontarians and reduce the impact of COVID-19. Their sacrifices and dedication to service are remarkable.

The details of the program released provided examples of workers who will receive pandemic pay but it did not include an exhaustive list. I have written to Premier Ford and Minister Elliott seeking confirmation that our members who are working on the front lines in Ontario's cancer centres will receive pandemic pay. The Minister of Health, Christine Elliott, has stated publicly that the Ministry is reviewing the list to ensure that those deserving the pay will receive it.

We are proud of the important work of our radiation therapists. They are subject to the provisions of the Ontario state of emergency and are essential workers who cannot refuse unsafe work. We know these members are taking all precautions possible, using personal protective equipment (PPE) and that they are being exposed to COVID-19 in their workplaces.

I am sure that you will agree that Radiation Therapists are worthy of the additional support and recognition intended by the pandemic pay announcement and I am requesting your support in ensuring they will qualify. On Wednesday, the President and CEO of Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences, Mr. Jean Bartkowiak, wrote to Premier Ford and Minister Elliott, imploring them to reconsider the implementation of Pandemic Pay to include all health care workers, with the exclusion of Chief Executive Officers.

Can we count on your support and ask you to write to the Premier and Minister of Health on behalf of your front-line employees working during this crisis, including our radiation therapists?

Sincerely,

Debi Daviau President, PIPSC