

**MEDIA RELEASE: MLPAO in Ottawa for Two Day Learning Event**

**OTTAWA ON (June 8, 2023)**—The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario (MLPAO) will be hosting their annual conference at the Ottawa Marriott, this week, June 9-10, 2023.

The slow resumption of in-person meetings has provided the MLPAO with the opportunity to host this group and celebrate the great work they have accomplished over the past year.

"We are very pleased to welcome MLPAO to Ottawa for their annual conference. This in-person conference is very welcomed by our laboratory professionals. This is an opportunity to share ideas, learn new skills and celebrate together the role that laboratory professionals have provided throughout the pandemic and every day to Ontarians" said Jeffrey Dale, CEO at the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association.

Friday, June 9th is an Annual Leadership Summit. Lab Leaders from across the province will congregate to learn and network in the beautiful city of Ottawa. The day is filled with speakers that will energize this exhausted group of lab leaders. Friday evening will include an Amazing Race style activity to recharge and include some fun and laughter which is much needed for these hidden heroes.

Saturday June 10<sup>th</sup> will reunite all roles in the lab from across the province. The theme for the conference is Renew, Recharge, Refocus, a much-needed break for lab professionals after working tirelessly through the pandemic. Topics will inform and inspire attendees to provide MLTs and MLAs/Ts the needed refocus to keep pushing through the backlog of tests as we come out of the pandemic.

"We hope this group leaves this event feeling rested and appreciated. COVID has depleted this group of their energy this reprieve is much needed" says Michelle Hoad, CEO of the MLPAO.

70% of labs were severely understaffed going into this pandemic<sup>1</sup> and after performing 28+ million COVID-19 tests on top of 280+ million other tests (annually), it's understandable that 90% of medical laboratory professionals are experiencing burnout.<sup>2</sup>

According to the CDC, 70% of medical decisions rely on laboratory results. Medical laboratories impact all aspects of patient care, from emergency rooms to family medicine to mental health. Every sample, from blood drawn in doctors' offices to tumours extracted during surgery, is processed, and analyzed by an MLT.

***The Medical Laboratory Professionals' Association of Ontario*** is a non-profit health professional organization founded in 1963 with over 4,000 members across the province. The MLPAO represents the interests of medical laboratory professionals in Ontario with government, regulatory bodies, educational institutions, health care professionals and other stakeholders. [www.mlpao.org](http://www.mlpao.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Based on a survey of lab leaders and professionals in Spring 2022.

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