



RELEASE

Ontario Government plan to cut programs and fees risks exodus of doctors from Ontario and layoffs in physician offices

One of the largest surveys ever conducted of physicians suggests that the Government approach to physicians risks both a significant exodus of physicians from the province and layoffs among individuals employed in physician offices.

5,596 physicians in Ontario shared their views with Nanos Research between May 28th and June 4th, 2012. The survey was commissioned by the Ontario Medical Association. The participation rate for the online survey among OMA members was 21.9% and the results were weighted by gender and years of practice to accurately reflect the views of physicians in Ontario.

Among the findings, the survey found that:

- 41.0% of Ontario's physicians said they would consider moving to another jurisdiction if the Ontario Government's proposal moved forward;
- Almost four in ten physicians (37.5%) said they would consider layoffs in their practices if the Ontario Government's proposal moved forward;
- One in three Ontario physicians (33.0%) would consider accelerating possible plans to retire if the Ontario Government's proposal moved forward; and
- Almost eight in ten physicians (78.5%) believed the Ontario Government's position on physician fees will not improve the interest that young people have to practice medicine in Ontario.

Overall, 81% of physicians believed the Government of Ontario was acting irresponsibly or somewhat irresponsibly in terms of handling the negotiations, 82.5% of physicians supported the OMA's proposal to freeze fees for two years and to find \$250 million in additional savings; and only 4.7% of physicians said the Government of Ontario's proposal was in the best interests of patients.

Finally, almost nine in ten physicians (88.1%) support or somewhat support bringing in a conciliator to help move things forward since the negotiations are at an impasse.

For the detailed results including the tabulations and all of the questions as worded including the order they were presented please refer to the attached tabulations.

Questions related to the OMA Physician Study should be directed to:

Nik Nanos, FMRIA
(613) 234-4666 x237
nnanos@nanosresearch.com