



France Gélinas

La députée de Nickel Belt | MPP for Nickel Belt

March 19, 2020

Hon. Christine Elliott
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
5th Floor, 777 Bay Street
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3

Dear Minister,

Thank you for Tuesday morning call updating my team on the ongoing global corona virus pandemic and Ontario's response.

I continue to receive many concerns from our province's front line health care workers. The concerns are about two issues. First, that Ontario is not using the precautionary principle when selecting the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for those providing front line care. More precisely they are afraid that the body of evidence to support the 'no' airborne transmission of coronavirus is not robust enough. They feel that until the body of evidence is more solid, the precautionary principle should be used, which would require different PPE than what is presently available to our front line health care workers and essential workers who work in hospitals and other areas where they could be at risk.

With that in mind, I write to ask what body of evidence the Ministry relied on to decide that airborne transmission of COVID-19 is not a threat? In addition, what risk assessments has the Ministry done in making the decision not to apply the precautionary principle?

The second is the lack of access to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for health care workers in primary care such as Community Health Centres, Family Health Teams and Nurse Practitioner Led Clinics as well as other settings. When can they expect help from the province on that front (PPE)?

Please let me know,,

France Gelinias
Official Opposition Health Critic
MPP, Nickel Belt