

Bill 2 in Quebec: Impact on access to respiratory health care

Quebec's Bill 2 could have a detrimental effect on respiratory health care in the province.

December 2, 2025 – The Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) condemns the adoption of Bill 2 by the Assemblée nationale du Québec.

Bill 2 concluded negotiations with the province's medical federations and risks destabilizing a health system in the province that is already under significant strain. It was introduced without sufficient dialogue, creating uncertainty and undermining trust between physicians and the government. This uncertainty and lack of trust is discouraging for professionals, and is leading to increased frustration, dismay and decreased physician wellbeing.

The legislation creates performance targets for physicians which are linked with vulnerability codes that will be assigned to patients. By attaching financial penalties to care metrics, the legislation further risks destabilizing an already overburdened health system and undermining access to physicians. Already, physicians have begun leaving the province.

Patients with respiratory conditions in Quebec, particularly those needing ongoing specialized management, depend on timely diagnosis, routine monitoring, and access to specialists. With emergency wait times increasing and the shortage of primary care and specialists deepening under Bill 2, respiratory care services are at heightened risk. Diagnosis and treatment delays will lead to uncontrolled symptoms, increased emergency visits, and higher hospitalization rates.

Additionally, the legislation will negatively impact physicians and the contributions they make in important areas outside of patient care, such as research, medical education, and health systems or community capacity building. Physicians not only provide essential clinical care to patients but they are also vital for teaching in our medical schools, advancing critical health research, and providing leadership within many health systems. Bill 2 also jeopardizes the ability of physicians to continue in these roles.

Why this matters:

- **Patient outcomes:** Compromised access delays diagnosis and critical interventions for vulnerable patients with respiratory conditions
- **Physician wellness:** Loss of autonomy and imposed performance penalties reduce job satisfaction and mental health, increasing stress and burnout
- **System sustainability:** Reduced physician retention worsens wait lists and erodes the stability of respiratory health services over the long term
- **Healthcare Innovation:** Disregarding physician's contributions in research, medical education and system capacity building limits innovation, weakens training for future providers and undermines efforts to strengthen care delivery

Physician's expertise is vital to maintain quality care. Through challenging circumstances, physicians remain deeply committed to caring for their patients. Sustaining this commitment requires conditions that support and value the work and contributions of physicians.

Bill 2 endangers quality respiratory care across Quebec by prioritizing arbitrary performance targets over equitable access, continuity and professional wellbeing. CTS urges the Assemblée nationale du Québec to halt this legislation, to restore meaningful dialogue with medical federations, and implement sustainable, evidence-based reforms that will ensure quality patient care for all Quebecers.

About the Canadian Thoracic Society

The Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS) is Canada's national specialty society for respirology that brings together specialists, researchers, educators and healthcare professionals working in respiratory, critical care, and sleep medicine. The CTS advocates lung health by enhancing the ability of healthcare professionals through leadership, collaboration, research, learning and advocacy, and providing the best respiratory practices in Canada.

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