


February 2, 2026

The Honourable John Vanthof, MPP  
Timiskaming–Cochrane  
Legislative Assembly of Ontario  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A5

 Corporate Services Department Legislative Services Division	
Date & Time Received:	February 03, 2026 2:48 pm
Original To:	CIP
Copies To:	
Take Appropriate Action	<input type="checkbox"/> File <input type="checkbox"/>
Notes/Comments:	

RE: Concerns Regarding the Closure of the LifeLabs Laboratory in Greater Sudbury

Dear MPP Vanthof,

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren, I am writing to express our serious concerns regarding the announced closure of the LifeLabs laboratory facility in Greater Sudbury.

The Sudbury LifeLabs facility plays a critical role in providing timely diagnostic services for residents throughout Northern Ontario, including those in Markstay-Warren and surrounding communities. The planned transition of laboratory processing services to facilities located in the Greater Toronto Area raises serious concerns regarding longer turnaround times, potential service disruptions, and increased risks to patient care. Particularly during winter months and periods of inclement weather that frequently affect northern transportation routes.

Reliable access to diagnostic testing is essential to the health and well-being of our residents. Many of our citizens rely on timely laboratory results to support urgent and ongoing medical treatment. Any delays or disruptions may result in adverse health outcomes, particularly for seniors, rural residents, and vulnerable populations.

Council is also concerned about the potential loss of skilled laboratory professionals from our region, further weakening already strained healthcare services across Northern Ontario.


The Municipality of Markstay-Warren respectfully urges the Province of Ontario to engage with LifeLabs and the Ministry of Health to explore options that would maintain local laboratory processing capacity in Sudbury and ensure that residents of Northern Ontario continue to receive timely, high-quality diagnostic services.



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Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your continued advocacy on behalf of Northern Ontario communities and respectfully request your support in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,



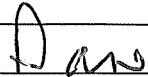
Marc Serré, CAO/Clerk  
Municipality of Markstay-Warren  
Encl. Closure of Sudbury's LifeLab Laboratory Resolution  
cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health  
MPP France Gélinas, Nickel Belt  
MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane  
Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)  
Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)  
LifeLabs Ontario

**Agenda Number:** 14.c.  
**Resolution Number** 2026-RCM-029  
**Title:** Closure of Sudbury's LifeLabs Laboratory  
**Date:** February 2, 2026

**Moved by:**



**Seconded by:**



**WHEREAS** LifeLabs has announced the planned closure of its laboratory processing facility in Greater Sudbury, with services being transferred to facilities in Southern Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the Sudbury LifeLabs laboratory currently provides essential diagnostic testing services to residents of Markstay-Warren and communities throughout Northern Ontario; and

**WHEREAS** the closure raises serious concerns regarding increased turnaround times for critical medical testing, potential service disruptions, and risks to patient care due to transportation delays, particularly during winter months and adverse weather conditions; and

**WHEREAS** timely access to laboratory diagnostics is a critical component of an effective healthcare system and is essential to the health and well-being of rural, senior, and vulnerable populations;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the Municipality of Markstay-Warren hereby expresses its opposition to the closure of the LifeLabs laboratory in Greater Sudbury;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that Council formally requests the Province of Ontario, the Ministry of Health, and LifeLabs to reconsider this decision and to maintain local laboratory processing capacity in Sudbury to ensure reliable and timely diagnostic services for Northern Ontario residents;

**AND FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED** that the attached draft communication and a copy of this resolution be forwarded to:

- The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
- The Honourable Sylvia Jones, Minister of Health
- MPP France Gélinas, Nickel Belt
- MPP John Vanthof, Timiskaming–Cochrane
- Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
- Northern Ontario Municipal Association (NOMA)
- LifeLabs Ontario

**CARRIED**

**DEFERRED**

**DEFEATED**

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Mayor