June X, 2020

MP’s name

Riding

Address

Dear Mr./Mrs. XXXXX,

My name is XXXXX, and I am reaching out as a radiologist practicing in (city/town) to offer you my perspective regarding the challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on medical imaging.

As you are keenly aware, COVID-19 is the largest health crisis of our time. While necessary for the safety and well being of Canadians, the pandemic has reduced medical imaging by 50% across the country. This has resulted in hundreds of thousands of diagnostic imaging procedures to be postponed, causing a further backlog for already extensive wait lists. This is concerning for myself and my colleagues, but more importantly for my patients.

Prior to COVID-19, it was estimated that patients were waiting an average of 50–82 days for a CT scan and up to 89 days for an MRI; 20–52 days longer than recommended. With the cessation of medical imaging, these wait lists for necessary services are now much longer. In (province) it is estimated that patients are waiting XXXXX days for imaging.

This is especially troubling for oncology patients who are awaiting lifesaving treatment that is dependant on medical imaging, (provide an example). I understand that ceasing imaging services was necessary during the height of the pandemic. Now that provincial governments are working to re-open their economies, effort must be made to resume radiology in (city/town).

To effectively do so requires the support of the federal and provincial governments. In [*the Value of Radiology, Part II*](https://www.conferenceboard.ca/e-library/abstract.aspx?did=10328) published by the Conference Board of Canada in June 2019, it was estimated that wait times cost the economy $3.5 billion in 2017 due to lost productivity for people unable to work due to wait times for medical imaging.

As a constituent of (city/town), I am asking for your support for an investment of $1.5 billion in medical imaging equipment over three years to support patients. This will help to ensure there is the capacity to deal with the growing wait lists and now the influx of imaging in the healthcare system due to COVID-19. I believe that the federal government should also establish universal safety protocols, such as additional cleaning, waiting room space and personal protective equipment to help reduce anxiety for patients due to COVID-19.

While healthcare is deemed to be a provincial priority, there have been many major developments in healthcare that have been very successful when the federal government has taken a leadership role. The result will be an improved quality of care for patients and save the economy billions. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your convenience in the coming weeks virtually to share my views and explore how we can work together to improve access to lifesaving care for the community.

Regards,

Signature

Place of practice

Email or phone