



January 14, 2021

Dear Premier Ford,

The Alliance for Healthier Communities is the voice of over a hundred community-governed primary health care organizations across Ontario, including 14 designated and 6 identified Francophone or bilingual Community Health Centres.

In the spring of 2020, your government committed to providing simultaneous interpretation and immediate translation of key information relating to the COVID-19 pandemic response for Ontario's 622, 415 French speakers. This week alone, your office did not offer simultaneous interpretation of your press briefings. Further, they did not make available French-language key materials, such as the press release and details for the Declaration of Emergency and Stay at Home Order, until hours after it was released.

At a time when your government is making major announcements that impact the lives of all Ontarians, it must meet its obligation to communicate in both official languages, English and French.

This is not the first time during the pandemic that Francophones have gone without access to vital information from the province's COVID-19 response. This oversight has significant repercussions, particularly in a time of crisis. Having information available in both official languages is a matter of safety and impacts the public's trust in the public health messaging and orders.

We request your immediate response and recommitment to meeting your legislated obligations to communication in both of Ontario's official languages.

Sarah Hobbs
Chief Executive Officer
Alliance for Healthier Communities

Marc Bisson
Executive Director, Centre de santé communautaire de l'Estrie
Co-chair, Alliance Francophone Advisory Committee

Marc-André Gravel
Executive Director, Centre de santé communautaire de Kapuskasing et région
Co-chair, Alliance Francophone Advisory Committee

Cc:

Hon. Caroline Mulroney, Minister of Francophone Affairs
Hon. Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health
Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ivana Yelich, Director of Media Relations, Office of the Premier