Attn:

Matthew Anderson

President and CEO

Ontario Health

Dear Matthew,

We understand that the COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges for health providers across the Province which has resulted in a significant surgical backlog that is affecting cancer patients. We know that your team is working hard to figure out innovative solutions to help increase capacity within our hospitals.

We are writing as a group of prostate cancer survivors in Ontario who have had radical prostatectomy using the robotic surgery method. We would like to highlight our personal experience for your consideration as you look at ways to tackle this issue. We are supportive of minimally invasive solutions, and in our experience found that our time spent in hospital was minimal, and that the recovery from this surgery was very quick and caused little pain. Because we were able to return to normal activities within a brief time, our cancer surgery had minimal impact on our lives, and just as important our families’ lives. We are sure you can understand the anxiety that accompanies a cancer diagnosis, the need for surgery, and the relief that is felt when there are no ongoing health concerns due to the surgery itself.

We are grateful to be able to have been treated by well-trained Canadian surgeons at hospitals who invested in robot assisted surgery. Although we understand that some hospitals have challenges funding their programs and that all patients don’t have local access. We urge the government to support our hospitals, and the surgeons across the province who use robot assisted surgery to provide care daily. We hope that you will consider our experience with robot assisted surgery when making recommendations about how to help with surgical backlogs in Ontario. Not only was our experience positive, but the disruption to our everyday lives was also minimal. If possible, we would like to connect to share our patient perspective about these experiences.

Sincerely,

Members of Ontario Prostate Cancer Support Groups

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **PCCN Location** | **Patient Name** | **Year of surgery/survival** |
| **Toronto** | Keith Bragnza [keithbraganza@rogers.com](mailto:keithbraganza@rogers.com) |  |
| **Kitchner** | John Baxter  [jhsb@sympatico.ca](mailto:jhsb@sympatico.ca)  Ken Steele  [k.steele2@sympatico.ca](mailto:k.steele2@sympatico.ca) |  |
| **Kingston** |  |  |
| **London** |  |  |
| **Hamilton** |  |  |
| **Mississauga** |  |  |
| **London** |  |  |
| **Windsor** |  |  |
| **Ottawa** |  |  |

To Confirm Support and Identify Individual(s)