

February 2, 2026

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

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.



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:

Prem Dan

Seconded by:

Dan

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

Mayor