



QUEBEC ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION AND CANADIAN ORTHOPAEDIC ASSOCIATION JOINT STATEMENT ON BILL 2

We are profoundly concerned that Bill 2, as passed by the Assemblée nationale du Québec, will harm patient surgical care, undermine clinician well-being, and weaken the province's health system.

Key concerns

- The bill shifts responsibility for system failures onto individual clinicians rather than addressing system capacity, workforce, infrastructure and information deficits.
- Government metrics are flawed and incomplete; emergency-department, direct primary-care and urgent-transfer referrals are undercounted, producing misleading volume estimates.
- Externally imposed targets and penalties erode professional autonomy and clinician agency and risk driving experienced providers from the system.
- Penalizing providers who refuse to work under coercive conditions is counterproductive and threatens access to care.
- Refusal to negotiate or accept amendments denies clinicians and citizens meaningful participation in public-policy formation.
- Using health policy for short-term political gain misuses public trust and undermines non-partisan stewardship of care.
- Creating a deterrent to orthopaedic training risks undermining workforce renewal and the long-term sustainability of care.

Our position

- We support efforts to improve access, quality and accountability, but not through coercion.
- The government must cease punitive measures tied to narrow targets, publicly validate and revise its metrics with clinician input, and allow independent audit of counting methods.
- Reopen negotiations with representative professional associations and rescind Bill 2.
- Pair any targets with credible, sustained investment in staffing, infrastructure and training.
- Protect clinician autonomy and the rights of providers who choose not to participate in the current environment.
- Safeguard orthopaedic training by reaffirming long-term workforce planning and ensuring that policy decisions reflect the realities of clinical education and recruitment.

Orthopaedic surgeons bear a solemn duty to provide healthcare to Quebec's citizens; policy must respect that duty by prioritizing patient welfare, professional judgment, and the conditions needed to deliver safe, timely and equitable care. We call on the Quebec government to work



with professional bodies and health system partners to develop collaborative, evidence-based solutions.

Media inquiries

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About the Quebec Orthopaedic Association

The AOQ is established as a professional association under the *Professional Syndicates Act* of the Province of Quebec. Its mission is to advance the professional standing of its members, support their economic interests, and foster the development of orthopedic surgery and traumatology through continuing medical education initiatives.

About the Canadian Orthopaedic Association

The Canadian Orthopaedic Association is a not-for-profit professional association representing orthopaedic surgeons across Canada. Committed to excellence in musculoskeletal health, the COA provides its members with continuing medical education, research support, advocacy initiatives, leadership development, and collaboration opportunities.