



BY EMAIL
October 3, 2024

Catlin Seibel-Kamél
Legislative Clerk | Committees Directorate
Senate of Canada
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Dear Ms. Seibel-Kamél:

Subject: Study matters relating to minority-language health services

We acknowledge receipt of your invitation to appear before the Standing Senate Committee on Official Languages as part of its study on matters relating to minority-language health services in Ottawa on October 7, starting at 5 p.m.

We regret to inform you that we will not be appearing. The mission of the Collège des médecins (CMQ), as Quebec's medical professional order, is to protect the public by ensuring quality medical care.

Specifically, the CMQ's position on the language of care was clearly expressed in a message from the President that was sent to our 26,000 physicians around the time Bill 96 on the scope of the Charter of the French Language came into force. The message—[La langue des patients](#), accessible through the hyperlink—was intended to clear up any confusion that the general public, physicians and other healthcare professionals practising in Quebec might have.

The CMQ believes that nothing or nobody should interfere in the relationship between patients and their physician: clinicians see all patients as partners in their care, no matter their religion, political opinions, sexual orientation, gender identity or the language they speak. It is important that they understand and be understood by their physician, otherwise informed consent to care is impossible. The CMQ takes great care to ensure that the patient-physician relationship is not hindered by any legal, linguistic or administrative barrier. In healthcare, what is vitally important is to focus on the patient's care, not the language used by the patient and practitioner.

Yours sincerely,

Mauril Gaudreault, M.D.
President