

Streamlined Healthcare Procurement to Assist with Ontario's COVID-19 and Economic Recovery

When COVID-19 hit North America in March, elective surgeries were cancelled - leading to a large backlog of patients waiting for cancer detection and diagnosis. In order to catch up, many hospitals are extending surgery hours into the evenings and weekends. This sudden increase in volume is going to overwhelm Ontario's pathology labs which were already [under equipped and short staffed](#) before the pandemic due to the [chronic shortage of MLTs](#).

Based in Peterborough, Lab Improvements specializes in developing and manufacturing robotic solutions for hospital labs. In 2018, we partnered with the Peterborough Regional Health Centre through a [provincial program](#) to develop a device that would automate the sorting and filing of histology slides, a time consuming bottleneck seen in all pathology labs across Ontario and often causes delays for patient diagnosis. The project was highly successful and has since been featured in multiple industry publications as well as [CTV news](#).

Many of Ontario's leading pathology labs across Canada and the US are already actively pursuing the purchase of our technology. However due to budget uncertainty caused by COVID-19, many new equipment purchases have been delayed or cancelled.

By installing our SlideTrack systems, hospitals would see an immediate improvement in patient diagnosis times, in addition to saving labs time and money. The orders would also allow us to hire additional staff into desirable high tech manufacturing jobs that Peterborough and our province so badly needs right now.

Both Federal and Provincial levels of Government have promised additional money for health care to make up for these shortfalls but there has been no additional information on when it will arrive, how it is being distributed, or what conditions might be attached to this money. Lab Improvements would appreciate government assistance to help streamline the procurement process and allow for medical technology developed here at home to help with Ontario's COVID-19 recovery.

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