

MOTION

No. 31

Calling on government to address long and growing wait times for elective surgeries on PEI

Trish Altass (Tyne Valley-Sherbrooke) gives notice that she will move, seconded by Michele Beaton (Mermaid-Stratford), the following Motion:

WHEREAS wait times for elective surgeries and medical procedures on PEI have been growing over the past decade;

AND WHEREAS the recommended wait time for hip or knee replacements in Canada is less than 182 days. Currently on PEI, the wait time is 468 and 538 days respectively;

AND WHEREAS the recommended wait time for cataract surgery in Canada is less than 112 days. Currently on PEI, the wait time for cataract surgery is 481 days;

AND WHEREAS the recommended wait time for non-urgent ultrasounds on PEI is 84 days. Currently on PEI, the wait time for non-urgent ultrasounds is 373 days;

AND WHEREAS there is evidence that many other medical procedures on PEI have unacceptably long wait times, however, the province does not publish the times publicly;

AND WHEREAS COVID-19 has undoubtedly had a negative impact on wait times, this growing trend began long before the pandemic;

AND WHEREAS the Minister for Health and Wellness stated that measures were being taken in the summer of 2020 to address the backlog of elective surgeries yet no plan, strategy or update has been provided;

AND WHEREAS seniors have been disproportionately impacted by the health effects of COVID-19 and associated stress and restrictions. Delaying surgeries, largely performed on seniors, only exacerbates their suffering;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge government to use whatever means available in the short term to address the growing wait times for surgeries and medical procedures regardless of increased costs.

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislative Assembly urge government to develop a strategy to be tabled in this legislature no later than April 30, 2021 with its plan to address surgery wait times on PEI.

Signed by: Trish Altass

Signed by: Michele Beaton

Date: March 12, 2021