



**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY**  
**L'ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE GASTROENTÉROLOGIE**  
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September 15, 2004

Dr. Alan Hudson

Lead, Access to Services/Wait times  
415 Yonge Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M5B 2E7

Dear Dr. Hudson,

I write in my capacity as President of the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) to offer our support as you move forward with the task of addressing wait times in Ontario.

CAG is the national organization with a focus on Gastrointestinal problems and represents physicians, and others involved in the delivery of health care in this field. The membership includes clinicians, researchers and educators.

Gastrointestinal diseases are one of the most common reasons for patients consulting family doctors and represent a significant proportion of consultations to specialists.

We are in the process of addressing two issues which are of major interest to our group; wait times for GI services and human resource planning in GI. We plan to hold a consensus conference in Toronto in January to define appropriate wait times. We are also in the process of conducting a pocket PC based national audit of actual wait times. This will be done in collaboration with regional GI associations such as the Ontario Association of Gastroenterology. We will use the comparison of desirable and actual wait times to help guide the human resource plan.

If we can be of help as you move forward in Ontario please let me know. We would be happy to assist in any way possible with your work.

Regards,

Dr. Des Leddin  
President