

Long wait times are due to a shortage of staff

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Dear Editor:

Re: Billions of dollars fail to fix medical imaging deficiency, Aug. 22.

Despite recent investments in high-tech diagnostic machines such as MRIs and CTs, the shortage of skilled staff needed to keep pace with the steady demand for these scans continues to be a contributing factor to increased wait times.

Recent investments in diagnostic machines have been vital.

However, simply adding more diagnostic machines will not correct these staffing challenges, regardless of whether they are placed in public or private sector facilities.

Both sectors draw skilled personnel from the same pool. Privatizing MRI and CT tests will not create more health workers and may draw human resources from the public sector, exacerbating existing challenges.

Better solutions include encouraging young people to consider careers in health, investing in training, and more fully implementing the pan-Canadian Health Human Resource Strategy, which was developed collaboratively by federal, provincial and territorial governments.

These are some of the mechanisms necessary to ensure that skilled staff is in place today and in the future.

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