



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
Société de la médecine rurale du Canada

Media Release

90% of Rural Doctors Feel that threatening their autonomy will increase doctor attrition - Society of Rural Physicians Survey

SHAWVILLE QC / October 23rd, 2002/ - The SRPC released survey results that show that amongst respondents 90% of rural doctors in Quebec feel that threatening their professional autonomy will lead to increasing doctor attrition. Dr Maurice Lamarche, Quebec SRP president said "What is more troubling is that 45% of doctors are considering a move to another province, and 28% considering retirement, as a direct result of recent or proposed Quebec legislation."

Dr Jill Konkin, SRPC national president says "Any new legislation developed by the Quebec government needs to consider that 99% of doctors surveyed indicated that physician autonomy was an important part of job satisfaction. Reduce job satisfaction and doctors will look outside the province for employment."

Other results: 99% of doctors feel that broadly trained 'polyvalent' physicians are very important to provide their community with the health services they need. 79% of doctors feel that the current teaching system is inadequate in providing the breadth of training required for new doctors to practice rural medicine with confidence.

The average rural doctor surveyed was 15 years in rural medicine most in their current location 58% did hospital inpatient work as part of their practice 53% did ER 25% did aboriginal care 14% did OB 10% did anaesthetics 2% did surgery

The survey results are valid within +/- 6% at a 95% confidence interval. Bilingual questionnaires were mailed to 1357 Quebec rural doctors October 4th after validation with a preceding pilot survey. Lickert scales were collapsed into proportions of respondents that agreed or strongly agreed. Standard interval estimation for proportions were used to calculate the margin of error at alpha of 0.05

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Backgrounder

About the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada

The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) is the national voice of Canadian rural physicians. Founded in 1992, the SRPC's mission is to provide leadership for rural physicians and to promote sustainable conditions and equitable health care for rural communities.

On behalf of its members and the Canadian public, SRPC performs a wide variety of functions, such as developing and advocating health delivery mechanisms, supporting rural doctors and communities in crisis, promoting and delivering rural medical education, encouraging and facilitating research into rural health issues, and fostering communication among rural physicians and other groups with an interest in rural health care.

The SRPC is a voluntary professional organization representing over 1,300 of Canada's rural physicians and comprising 5 regional divisions spanning the country