



August 16, 2022

Hon. Sylvia Jones  
Minister of Health  
Province of Ontario

Minister Jones,

As you may be aware, Ontario Health data provided to SecondStreet.org shows there have been 12,516 patients who have died while waiting for surgery since 2010-11.<sup>i</sup>

A further 34,530 patients have died while waiting for CT scans and MRI scans since 2015-16.

Ontario Health has refused to provide additional information on these cases.

In Nova Scotia, the government *does* provide a breakdown. For instance, there were 367 patients who died on the province's surgical waiting list in 2020-21 and of those 51 patients died while waiting for procedures which could be implicated causally. Their government also notes "just over three quarters were waiting beyond the recommended wait times" when they passed away.

<https://secondstreet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Nova-Scotia-Health-Authority-Died-on-a-Waiting-List-FY-2021-Response-SP.pdf>

Just like Nova Scotia does, could you please indicate how many of Ontario's 12,516 surgical deaths were for procedures which could have potentially saved the patient's life? For those cases, could you please indicate how many of those patients waited beyond the recommended wait time? Finally, if you're able to provide analysis on deaths due to long waiting periods for diagnostic scans that would also be appreciated.

Providing this data would help everyone – public policy makers, patients, the general public, third party research organizations and more.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Colin Craig  
President – SecondStreet.org

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<sup>i</sup> \* FOI numbers OH21-016 and OH22-006