

September 30, 2020

Mr. John Gilmour, CEO  
Canada HealthLabs  
120 Adelaide Street West, Suite 2150  
Toronto ON M5H 1T1

Dear Mr. Gilmour,

I am writing to offer the University of Ottawa's wholehearted support to Canada HealthLabs.

The University of Ottawa is one of Canada's most research-intensive universities and consistently ranks in the top 200 universities in the world. We are a unique institution: research intensive, comprehensive and bilingual. Almost 43,000 undergraduate and graduate students' study in our 10 Faculties. In addition, uOttawa has close ties to the hospitals and hospital research institutes in the National Capital Region. Our researchers are making their mark around the globe and have made significant contributions to our understanding of and response to the virus.

Since March, we have worked with our local public health authorities to lead our response to COVID-19. We moved quickly to online teaching and learning and will continue this throughout the winter 2021 session. While this decision was taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, we are acutely aware of the impact that online learning has on the student experience and mental health. Further, faculty, researchers and staff are working remotely, unless absolutely required on campus. Research activities that require on campus infrastructure are slowly resuming, with public health measures in place.

In addition, we were the first university in Canada to open a COVID assessment centre on campus for members of the university community. This centre eases some of the pressure on other testing centres in the National Capital Region. Recent events in our region point to the need to also alleviate pressure on our regional laboratory analysis capacity. Similar pressures are evident nationally. A high-quality reassurance system could be beneficial locally, and across the country. Such a platform would also be useful for furthering our research into the behavior and treatments of COVID-19.

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uOttawa

The University supports the establishment of a national network of fast, readily accessible PCR tests using self-collected samples. I also appreciate that while your solution is to be created outside the health care system, it uses the same tests at the same quality as health care and, in an emergency, could also be used for health care purposes.

We are pleased to endorse Canada HealthLabs to the Government of Canada and will use its network to provide Reassurance Testing as required.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Frémont". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Jacques Frémont  
President and Vice-Chancellor