

April 21, 2021

Hon. Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Hon. Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Room 281
Legislative Building, Queen's Park

RE: Section 22 orders from the City of Toronto and Peel

Dear Prime Minister and Premier:

Thank you for your continued leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. As the situation evolves, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is receiving concerns from the business community and communicating them to all levels of government.

I am writing to you about the most recent orders issued by the City of Toronto and Peel Region, which will force businesses with five or more cases of COVID-19 to close for a period of two weeks. These orders further underscore the urgent need to ensure all essential workers who cannot work from home are vaccinated so that can be better protected from the virus and we can avoid further outbreaks and interruptions in production. More municipalities could soon follow suit. As we have said from the onset of the pandemic, **prioritizing public health is our best long-term economic strategy.**

You cannot pave a path to recovery without first controlling the virus. However, there are long-term societal, economic, and health consequences to continuous distributions in both life and work.

That is why we need an all-hands-on-deck approach from all orders of government and local public health units to get vaccines to Ontarians and expedited deployment of rapid testing across the province. We would like to see the provincial government continue expediting the vaccination of essential workers, and we would like to see the federal government address supply issues and delays which may hamper the province's goal of vaccinating 40 percent of the population by the end of the stay-at-home order. We would also like to see both orders of government work together to find a solution for Ontarians that effectively addresses the gaps and shortcomings of the federal government's Canada Sickness Recovery Benefit.

Public health and safety are priorities for all Ontario businesses. We will continue to monitor and assess new developments pertaining to COVID-19 closely and work with our members, partners, and all levels of government to provide continued support to Ontario business.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce