

October 4, 2021

The Hon. Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
5th Floor, 777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON  
M7A 2J3

**Re: Leveraging Therapeutics in the Fight Against COVID-19**

Dear Minister Elliott,

Thank you for your continued leadership to support employers as they experience economic disruption related to COVID-19. As the situation continues to evolve, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce (OCC) is taking concerns from the business community and communicating them to all levels of government. I am writing today to ask the Government of Ontario to consider another tool in the proverbial toolbox to combat COVID-19: the usage of therapeutics for appropriate patients who contract the virus.

With the onset of the pandemic, the OCC has reiterated that COVID-19 vaccines, rapid testing, and proof-of-immunization are critical to protecting Ontarians and keeping our economy open.

While the province has rightly focused on COVID-19 vaccines, boosting vaccination rates in Ontario, and proof-of-vaccination, proper consideration should be given to COVID-19 therapeutics, such as monoclonal antibodies, that have Health Canada interim order authorization or approval in Canada.

Since the virus will likely remain a part of our everyday lives for the foreseeable future, the province should not neglect other tools that can complement continued vaccination and rapid testing efforts.

Various COVID-19 therapeutics have been approved by Health Canada as effective and safe. They can reduce the risk of severe COVID-19 disease, improve patient outcomes, prevent hospitalizations and even death. Moreover, these therapeutics could alleviate some of the pressure facing Ontario's overburdened health care system and, in so doing, prevent future lockdowns that have a devastating effect on all Ontarians, the economy, and business community.

**Accordingly, the Government of Ontario should consider the following recommendations:**

- **Develop an implementation plan as it relates to the availability, required infrastructure, and appropriate usage of COVID-19 therapeutics;**
- **Identify an accountable lead within Ontario Health to facilitate the use of COVID-19 therapeutics; and**
- **Develop a plan to improve awareness among patients as it relates to COVID-19 therapeutics.**

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 support to business.

Sincerely,



Rocco Rossi  
*President and CEO*  
*Ontario Chamber of Commerce*

CC: The Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario