



Canadian
Chamber of
Commerce

Chambre de
Commerce
du Canada

Because
Business
Matters.

Parce que les
affaires sont
importantes.

Sent via email

June 8, 2021

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

The Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, P.C., M.P.
Minister of National Revenue
7th Floor, 555 Mackenzie Avenue
Ottawa Ontario, K1A 0L5

Dear Ministers:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to support Canadians and the business community as we all navigate the pandemic. There is finally light at the end of the tunnel and we must redouble our efforts to ensure Canadians are fully vaccinated as fast as possible.

Our member businesses of all sizes have been working to encourage vaccinations among their staff and communities. Significant headway has been made to increase vaccine confidence across Canada. This is a credit to all involved, including the Government of Canada.

Many businesses have been able to offer paid time off to employees to receive their vaccinations. However, we can do more. Businesses, particularly SMEs, have been hard-hit over the past 15 months. To help businesses that want to do the right thing and provide their teams with paid leave to be vaccinated, government can facilitate businesses providing time off to employees, particularly hourly wage staff. This initiative should be coordinated with temporary paid sick programs which some jurisdictions already have in place.

We call on the federal government to support up to three hours of paid leave for vaccination by allowing employers to reduce a fixed amount per employee off their payroll remittances to the Canada Revenue Agency.

We are now at a point in this crisis where businesses are beginning to reopen, while simultaneously the vast majority of Canadians still need to receive their second vaccine dose. It is absolutely critical to ensure Canadians are able to receive second doses, without placing yet another financial burden upon the business community. By helping employers with this remittance measure, it would provide a tangible tool for businesses to encourage their employees to be vaccinated.

We look forward to our continued conversations and collaborations. By continuing to work together, we can navigate to the end of this crisis faster.

Sincerely,

Hon. Perrin Beatty, PC, OC

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Atlantic Chamber of Commerce*

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*Interim CEO
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