



Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Main Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A2

Dear Speaker,

We are writing today to express our Caucus' concerns with regard to the scheduled return of the legislature on September 13th amidst the fourth wave of COVID-19.

Over the last several months, we have seen how wide-spread vaccination rates have proven critical in reducing the spread of disease in our communities and have allowed for a faster reopening of Ontario's economy. However, as we move into the fall, daily COVID-19 case counts are once again rising, our hospitals are again filling up with vulnerable and unvaccinated patients, risking lives and the economic progress we've sacrificed so much for.

We have a collective responsibility to do everything possible to show leadership and protect Members, Assembly staff and their families from the risk of transmission in our workplace.

We would like to share that all Ontario Liberal MPPs and their staff are fully vaccinated. As a caucus, we feel that vaccine transparency is needed to keep everyone we work with safe. Yet, the vaccination status of other members and their staff remains unknown, potentially putting others at risk. According to a media report from last week up to 27 MPPs have not reported their vaccination status.

Ontario Liberals feel that further steps must be taken to protect members, legislative staff and their families from the COVID-19 variants, while continuing to fulfill our legislative duties during this crisis. This includes asking from ourselves the same thing we are asking everyone else on the front lines. Therefore, in advance of the return of the Legislature, I ask that you mandate vaccinations for all MPPs accessing the precinct, while adhering to the Human Rights Code. In addition, there is also a need for the creation of clear protocols for unvaccinated visitors and staff.

This would ensure the safe continuation of Parliament while reducing the possibility of members and those that assist them from inadvertently contracting COVID-19 and unintentionally transmitting the virus to their families or other vulnerable people in the community.

Sincerely,



Steven Del Duca,  
Leader  
Ontario Liberal Party



John Fraser  
House Leader  
Ontario Liberal Party