

ONTARIO SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

BETWEEN

RANDY HILLIER

Applicant

-and-

**HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF
ONTARIO**

Respondents

**AFFIDAVIT OF RANDY HILLIER
(Sworn September 14, 2022)**

I, RANDY HILLIER, of the municipality of Drummond-North Elmsley, in the County of Lanark, in Province of Ontario MAKE OATH AND SAY:

1. I am the Applicant herein, and as such have personal knowledge of the matters hereinafter deposed to, except where they are based on information and belief, in which case I verily believe them to be true.
2. I was born and raised in Ottawa with 8 siblings. My parents owned and operated a family T.V. repair business. I have lived in Lanark County for 38 years. I have been married to my wife, Jane, for 41 years and have 4 adult children and 7 grandchildren.
3. I am a former Member of Provincial Parliament (“MPP”) in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, where I represented the ridings of; Lanark, Frontenac, Lennox, and Addington, and the riding of Lanark Frontenac in Kingston from 2007 to 2022

4. Prior to my election as an MPP I achieved my diploma in electrical engineering from Algonquin College in Ottawa and for over 20 years was a licensed construction electrician and construction manager.
5. In 2002, I co-founded the Lanark Landowners Association, where I served as its first president. This association was founded by rural landowners, businesses and farmers who opposed the excessive and unwarranted intrusions by government agencies into the use, enjoyment, and ownership of their private properties. It began with 4 individuals and soon grew to over 2000 members in Lanark County, and I assisted in creating and establishing Landowner associations in over 30 other Ontario counties. In 2006 these county associations formalized their collaboration with the creation of the Ontario landowners.
6. In 2006, I became the first president of the Ontario Landowners Association (“OLA”). As president, I organized and managed 23 local chapters in approximately 35 counties in Ontario. Under my leadership, the OLA grew from its original 4 members to having 15,000 members.
7. I assisted in the creation of like-minded groups in other provinces, organized and hosted multiple property rights conferences with esteemed guest speakers, including Supreme Court Justice Russell Brown. I also acted as the OLA’s spokesperson, developed policy proposals, and liaised with elected members and the administrative branches of government.

8. As president of the OLA, I organized multiple peaceful demonstrations throughout Ontario to highlight the concerns of rural landowners. I also travelled extensively in Ontario and other provinces to speak at town hall events to inform people of the need for advocacy.
9. The OLA organized many peaceful rallies and protests to create awareness of the concerns and seek remedies. Some examples include, when we brought a cow to Queens Park, milked the cow and drank unpasteurized milk or when we brought cattle to Parliament Hill and simulated a cattle auction to protest the government's policy during Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) also known as Mad Cow Disease.
10. In organizing these peaceful protests, I provided direction to people, designated specific tasks to individuals, and as President had the authority to expend purchases or rental equipment (stages, sound systems, advertising etc.) and financially support the events. This was not the case in the two protests I have been charged with that are the subject of this *Charter* challenge.
11. In 2007, I resigned as president of the OLA. After over 5 years of almost 24/7 advocacy, I needed a break.
12. Subsequently, I sought the nomination for the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, which had become vacant. I viewed this as an opportunity to continue my advocacy for the improvement and inclusion of property rights into the *Constitution of Canada*, but to also expand my advocacy in the pursuit of freedom, justice, and democracy.

13. I have both the right and responsibility as a citizen to be engaged. I have always believed that it is a fundamental part of our democratic process to be able to conduct and participate in peaceful demonstrations, especially when it is in response to a law, government action or policy, which creates (or is perceived to create) an injustice or substantial negative consequence.
14. Peaceful civil disobedience is also practiced on occasions within our parliamentary chambers. The use of unparliamentary language is often utilized to emphasize the severity of a transgression. For example, another member and I were once temporarily suspended from the House due to our refusal to leave the chambers when we slept overnight in the legislature chambers and disrupted those proceedings for two days.
15. Elected members enjoy rights and privileges not afforded to the general public to ensure our responsibilities can be discharged without fear or favour and include; comments in the House having absolute privilege from prosecution or legal liability, law enforcement cannot arrest a member at the legislature nor serve them a summons. This ensures the members ability to inquire about all issues of concern.
16. Both prior to and during my tenure as an elected member, I attended and/or organized many peaceful public protests opposing government policies on the gun registry, high electricity costs, municipal-provincial zoning decisions, and restrictions on farmers markets.
17. I have studied historical figures, such as Mahatma Ghandi, Henry David Thoreau, Martin Luther King Jr., as well as organizations such as Greenpeace, which have guided and

informed my understanding of the practices related to peaceful, non-violent, civil disobedience. I also used and relied on former Ontario High Court Justice James Chalmers McRuer's Royal Commission Inquiry into civil liberties, as well as his definition of the "rule of law".

Initial Response to Covid-19 and Government Restrictions

18. In the early months of the first lockdown, commencing in March 2020, initially I was both concerned and cautious of the Declaration of Emergency. I wrote a letter to the Premier and Cabinet on the night of March 17, 2020, expressing my concerns, however I was willing to accept this unprecedented declaration due to the uncertainty and absence of facts, along with my belief that the legislated safeguards in place, would ensure any Orders implemented must be consistent with our *Constitution*. Moreover, it was my belief that the existence of the *Charter of Rights and Freedoms* would prevent any substantial or significant abuse through any forthcoming legislation. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "A"** to this my Affidavit is a copy of my letter to the Premier and Cabinet, dated March 18, 2020.
19. I initially abided by the spirit of the Declaration, limited my travel and social interactions, closed my office, and began responding to my constituents through phone.
20. However, it became evident during the first lockdown that the government was ill prepared to assist people, and the ambiguity of the law and regulations were amplifying, creating uncertainty, confusion and fear. It was apparent to me that the government did not have the resources put in place to deal with either the expected or unforeseen consequences. There

was no measure created to ensure Ministry staff were aware of problems, let alone seeking ways and means to remedy those problems. Myself, my staff and Ministerial administrators were left with more questions than answers and every week the Premier announced new recommendations, utterances or regulations, making it difficult to decipher whether these were requirements or the Premier's personal opinions.

21. The volume of calls and emails coming into my office exponentially exceeded any previous government policy, both in absolute numbers and magnitude of despair. The anguish, despair and abject fear conveyed to me over these policies were far greater than the concerns of the virus. These concerns were broad based and ranged across the entire spectrum of public policy. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "B"** to this my affidavit is a copy of an email from a constituent stressing these broad-based concerns.
22. There were economic concerns for employers, employees and those self-employed, and fears of the detrimental effects in which people would lose their homes and businesses. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit "C"**, **Exhibit "D"**, **Exhibit "E"**, **Exhibit "F"** and **Exhibit "G"** to this my affidavit are copies of emails from constituents emphasizing these concerns.
23. There were concerns related to health, with respect to the cancellation of surgeries, and the inability to receive medical diagnostics and treatment.
24. I received many calls from elderly people whose spouses were isolated and confined in Long Term Care homes, knowing their spouse was nearing end of life, but not being able

to attend and provide care, compassion, and love.

25. Through all these examples one can understand on a human level the helplessness, and demoralizing impacts on mental health when a loved one is prevented from being with their most cherished partner in the time of their greatest need and during a time when fear, uncertainty and unknowns have been amplified beyond the comprehensible.
26. People were concerned with how these COVID-19 related policies would impact their social and interpersonal lives. The absence of sports and recreation, and, most importantly, the isolation and prohibition of visiting friends, family, and comforting loved ones in hospitals, retirement homes and long-term care facilities was traumatizing for many Ontarians.
27. Education was another concern for many families. I received a very compelling call from a mom whose young child was having nightmares about bringing home the virus that he was made to believe would probably kill his mom, dad or other siblings. We all understand school has multiple functions beyond education, one of its essential functions is to help young children to learn how to socialize and interact with their peers and others and learning how to communicate and understand respectful and appropriate norms. These functions are further reinforced with sports and recreation activities at school while learning to be good sportsmen.
28. Unfortunately, as a result of lockdowns and restrictions physical activity was viewed as a danger, and safety was to be found in isolation, distance and idleness. During this time the

government was teaching children to be fearful of one another, that their playmates and themselves were dangerous or toxic pathogens.

29. It was the darkest days of my career as an elected representative to witness our peaceful, orderly society, with friends and family, plunge into an abyss of fear, confusion and desperation.
30. As the Legislature was essentially closed, sitting for only one day in April, along with the electoral offices initially, my ability to publicly convert my concerns on behalf of my constituents were limited. I lost my ability to use my office to engage in debates, committee hearings or questioning of the Premier & Cabinet. In May 2020, a few more sitting days were added, but as an independent member I was allotted one question every 8 sitting days and with the reduction in sitting days came a reduction in having the ability to ask the government questions, the ability to raise concerns of our community, or holding the government accountable for their actions. Although, the Legislature began to resume a few more sitting days there were still significant reductions which interfered with my ability to express opposition to lockdowns or to advocate for my constituents.
31. When the Legislature resumed in May of 2020, at the first opportunity I publicly advocated for an end to the declared “State of Emergency” and for a re-evaluation of the Orders, including a full return of the Legislature in order to resume our responsibilities. It was during this time that it became evident to me through discussions with other elected representatives, doctors, administrators, political staff and others, that the opposition to my advocacy was not due to risk from the virus, but rather the fear of public shaming. Attached

hereto and marked as **Exhibit “H”** to this my affidavit is a Hansard Transcript of myself speaking in the Legislature, dated May 12, 2020.

32. When the Legislature was open on brief occasions, I used my allotment of time during debate and question period to raise these concerns and offer alternative policy proposals. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “I”** to this my affidavit is a Hansard Transcript of myself speaking in the Legislature, dated May 12, 2020.

33. From April 2020 onwards, I advocated and spoke exclusively on the Ontario government’s pandemic response and the harms it was causing people, and the need to examine, analyze, and evaluate the costs and benefits of these policies. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “J”** to this affidavit is a Hansard Transcript of myself speaking in the Legislature, dated May 12, 2020.

34. In addition to raising my concerns regarding the lockdown in the Legislature, I wrote ministerial correspondence, and opinion pieces which were shared on my website and social media accounts. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “K”** to this my affidavit is an opinion piece shared on my website, dated April 22, 2020.

35. Prior to the peaceful demonstrations in question, I participated in one of the first peaceful demonstrations against the restrictive Covid-19 measures at Queen’s Park in April 2020, where I met and spoke with other peaceful demonstrators. It is my understanding that when Premier Doug Ford was asked during a press conference about my attendance, he referred to me and other protestors as “yahoos”. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “L”** to this

my affidavit is a CTV article detailing this event, dated April 25, 2020.

36. Although, there was a great sigh of relief and a restored sense of hope from a segment of my constituency after the province temporarily reopened during the summer of 2020, through my conversations with my constituents it was evident that there remained an excessive and heightened sense of dread and foreboding of a “second wave” and returning to lockdowns.
37. Following the public comments made in the Fall of 2020 about further restrictions returning, I once again used my allotted time of debate and question period to raise matters of utmost importance. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “M”** to this my affidavit is the Hansard Transcript of a video of myself addressing the Legislature, dated October 6, 2020.
38. While I was not charged with any offence at these events in October 2020 and early November, I was charged during a peaceful assembly that was held on the front lawn of Queen’s Park on November 26, 2020. This matter is still before the Courts.
39. In September 2021 the Legislature imposed mandatory COVID-19 vaccination to gain access to the Legislative Chambers. This rule prevented me from entering the Legislature and crippled my ability to discharge my duties as an elected member of provincial parliament. I was left with little alternative but to continue my advocacy in the public square.

Response to Threats of Second Lockdown

40. Following the implementation of the second lockdown, I continued to voice my constituents concerns about these restrictions and their impact on society through peaceful demonstrations.
41. The Premier announced on December 21, 2020, that the entire province, regardless of case counts or the presence or absence of any crisis regionally, would begin a four-week lockdown on Boxing Day. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “N”** to this my Affidavit is a copy of the province’s news release.
42. This province wide “shutdown”, severely restricted many of the activities of Ontarians, including restricting indoor organized public events and social gatherings, except with members of the same household. However, numerous businesses were granted exemptions, including but not limited to “big box” or discount retailers and liquor stores, provided they limited the number of persons inside to 25% of their building capacity; warehouses and distribution centres that support online retail (such as Amazon).
43. Based on my interactions with my constituents and Ontarians at large, I believe the restrictions that followed continued to fuel the division that had overtaken society and maintain or strengthen the level of fear among Ontarians. I believe the detrimental effects that began from the first lockdown on the various sectors of life, including economic, social and health only worsened.
44. It was imperative for me, as an elected representative, to peacefully assemble and voice my opinions and those of my constituents against COVID-19 mandates. A foundational tenet

of “the rule of law” is the unbiased application of the law, which is best illustrated through the adage “neither prince nor pauper is above nor beneath the law”. We had witnessed local mayors, the Premier Doug Ford and the Honourable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau be treated very differently than the shop owners and protestors for engaging in gatherings that were deemed to be unlawful due to COVID-19 restrictions. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “O”** and **Exhibit “P”** to this my affidavit are two news articles discussing these events.

45. There were also peaceful protests related to the First Nation’s rights, Israel-Palestinian conflict, Indian farmers, and Black Lives Matter which were treated different from those protesting against COVID-19 restrictions. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “Q”** and **Exhibit “R”** to this my affidavit is a news article discussing Prime Minister Justin Trudeau’s attendance at a rally during the pandemic. I strongly believe that all peaceful protests should be allowed, regardless of the cause.
46. Throughout these peaceful protests in response to the province-wide lockdown, we were often interacting with law enforcement. In some cases, I found law enforcement to be very accommodating when we were demonstrating, however, at other times they were very opposed and belligerent. Although I never sought out the support from law enforcement, there were those who were part of the police force who understood their priorities and responsibilities as ensuring peaceful non-violent assembly.
47. To the best of my knowledge there has never been a documented case of COVID-19 from any protest I was involved in. In fact, the CDC has stated that there has never been a

documented transmission of the virus linked to an outdoor activity anywhere in the world. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “S”** to this my affidavit is an article discussing outdoor spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Response to the Third Lockdown

48. On or about April 7, 2021, the province of Ontario declared a third provincial emergency under the *EMCPA* and issued a province-wide Stay at Home Order, requiring everyone to stay at home except for “essential” purposes, such as going to the grocery store or pharmacy, accessing health care services, for outdoor exercise or for work that could not be done remotely. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “T”** to this my affidavit is a news release covering this declaration.

The Kemptville Protest (South Bank Bistro) – April 8, 2021

49. In response to this declaration, I attended and spoke at a peaceful demonstration that took place on April 8, 2021. While I agreed to attend and speak, I took no role in organizing this protest.

The Cornwall Protest (Eastern Health Unit) – May 1, 2021

50. In a similar manner, I attend and spoke at a peaceful demonstration that took place in Cornwall, Ontario on May 1, 2021. While I agreed to attend and speak, I took no role in organizing this protest.
51. My motivations behind attending these peaceful demonstrations never changed. These demonstrations took place to stand up against restrictive measures implemented by the Ontario government, where Ontarians were prohibited from leaving their residences except

for what the government deemed essential purposes, and to put a stop to the harms that were being felt across the broad spectrum of society.

52. While Ontarians could not peacefully protest, big-box stores like the Walmart located within 2.6 km of the South Bank Bistro Restaurant or 1.2 km of the Eastern Health Unit, remained open throughout, with hundreds of people able to assemble there. LCBO stores, and others the government has deemed “essential” remained open.
53. While Ontarians could not peacefully demonstrate, a movie was filmed in Cornwall. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “U”** to this my Affidavit is a Cornwall Newswatch article detailing this story.

The Government’s Response – Charges and Contempt

54. I was issued a summons for attending the peaceful protest on April 8, 2021, on the charge of “failed to comply with an order under subsection 7.0.2(4) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, RSO 1990, c. E.9 (“EMCPA”), namely the Stay-at-Home Order (O. Reg 265/21), by attending a gathering at South Bank Bistro in Kemptville, Ontario, contrary to section 7.0.11 of the *EMCPA*, and “host a public event or other gathering where the number of people in attendance exceeded the number permitted under a continued section 7.0.2 order, namely O. Reg 82/20 (“Rules for Areas in Stage 1”), contrary to section 10.1 of the *Reopening Ontario Act*, SO 2020 c 17.
55. I was issued another summons for attending another peaceful protest on May 1, 2021, on the charge of “fail to comply with a continued Section 7.0.2 order, namely O. Reg 82/20

(“*Rules for Areas in Stage 1*”) Schedule 4 (“Organized Public Events, Certain Gatherings in Shutdown Zone”) by attending an organized public event of more than 5 people held outdoors, contrary to section 10(1)(a) of the *Reopening Ontario Act, SO 2020 c 17* (“*ROA*”), “fail to comply with an Order under subsection 7.0.2(4) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, RSO 1990, c. E.9 (“*EMCPA*), namely the Stay-at-Home Order (O. Reg 265/21), contrary to section 7.0.11 of the *EMCPA*, and “host and/or organize a public event or other gathering at a prescribed premises, namely the property of the Eastern Ontario Health Unit at 1000 Pitt Street, Cornwall, Ontario, where the number of people in attendance exceeded the number permitted under the continued Section 7.0.2 Order, namely O. Reg 82/20 (“*Rules for Areas in Stage 1*”), Schedule 4 (“Organized Public Events, Certain gatherings in Shutdown Zone”), contrary to section 10.1(1) of the *ROA*.

56. To the best of my knowledge, I have a total of 25 charges before the courts. Of the two charges relating solely to the Cornwall and Brockville protests, I am facing maximum penalties of over \$100,000 with jail time. My most recent court date for the Cornwall matter was on July 13, 2022, for a continued judicial pretrial with a October 4, 2022 return date, and September 21, 2022 for a continued judicial pretrial regarding the Brockville matter. To say that my *Charter*-guaranteed freedoms to peacefully assemble, associate, and express myself have been infringed is an understatement.
57. Additionally, I have been targeted relentlessly in the media and faced great many threats from members of the public, mostly on social media but also through email and phone calls. These messages are mostly full of anger, invective and foul coarse rhetoric; however, some members of the public have expressed a desire to inflict violence upon myself and

my family. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “V”** and to this my affidavit is a news article illustrating these public attacks.

58. I have also received an outpour of applause and accolades for my actions. This is evident of a great divide that has opened up within our communities as a result of what I consider to be unjust policies. A difference of views and display of dissent ought not create animus and hatred towards others, nor should attending a peaceful demonstration or speaking out generate such applause. What these COVID-19 lockdowns have done is an offence to the purpose of our *Constitution* to achieve “peace order and good government”. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “W”** to this my affidavit is an email from a constituent showing their support for my positions on the COVID-19 mandates. This is one reason why I continue to speak up and be a voice for our community, despite all of the backlash and negative media attention that I have received.

59. I was a Member of Provincial Parliament and was an elected representative in what was supposed to be a free country, I did not foresee the day when the consequences of gathering to peacefully protest in Ontario would be illegal.

60. The inconsistencies of our leaders and health officials over the pandemic only reinforced my perspective. While Ontarians could not peacefully assemble or associate outdoors, leaders such as former Health Table advisor and hospital executive, Dr. Tom Stewart, travelled to sunnier climates by air for vacation time while Ontarians were told to stay at home during the province-wide shutdown in December 2021. Attached hereto and marked as **Exhibit “X”** to this my affidavit is the news article containing this story.

Responding to Concerns of the Community

61. I believe it was beneficial to the mental, emotional, and physical wellbeing of Ontarians to be able to assemble in person together. During my conversations with constituents and discussions with mental health professionals, it became obvious that the lockdowns caused immense despair and depression across a broad spectrum of society, most acute in males under 30 years of age or who had not yet solidified their careers. At a time when these young men would generally be in an adventurous period of their development and path to maturity, developing a multitude of social relationships, many were without post-secondary opportunities, lost employment and devoid of any productive or meaningful purpose. Their future had become bleak. The use of opioids and other drugs increased substantially, along with alcohol consumption and suicides.
62. A great many of my constituents and supporters reached out to me emphasizing these concerns, either in person, at peaceful demonstrations, by phone or email. These interactions further compelled me to speak for those who had entrusted me as their representative.
63. I do not feel that it would have been the same nor reached the same level of impact had there been an online or virtual protest. I already attended many online meetings to voice these concerns regarding the lockdown measures, however the effectiveness of these online meetings were minimal if at all.

Freedom of Peaceful Assembly, Association and Expression, and the Role of an Elected Representative

64. I believe it is imperative for an elected representative to be able to participate in a peaceful protest, which fundamentally is an attempt to prove and restore faith in our democracy. It is also an attempt to provide hope for Ontarians and to demonstrate that not all was lost. That at least one elected member was empathetic to and shared these concerns and would raise them when possible.

65. To peacefully assemble and to peacefully protest government policy is an underpinning of representative government and is entrenched throughout our laws and is protected by the *Charter*.

66. No representative government can function without peaceful assembly. Indeed, it is the cornerstone of our Parliaments, derived from the term “to parley and a place to meet”. The prevention of peaceful assembly by the government is a blow to our democracy.

67. To be able to gather in person is a necessary component of the right to peacefully assemble. I cannot think of a single elected member who has not attended a rally/protest/demonstration. Indeed every week during my 15 years as an elected member there were often protests or rallies at Queens park, most of these rallies were attended by elected members from all parties. In addition, there are peaceful gatherings to recognize and express support for events such as Flag raisings and commemorative days. This need for in person peaceful assembly and peaceful protest, especially by elected government members, is evidenced by the attendance of our Honourable Prime Minister and Premier

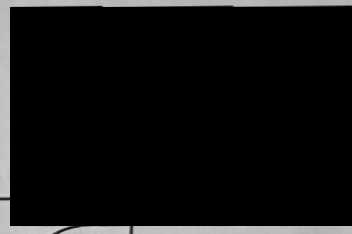
and express support for events such as Flag raisings and commemorative days. This need for in person peaceful assembly and peaceful protest, especially by elected government members, is evidenced by the attendance of our Honourable Prime Minister and Premier of Ontario as mentioned above.


68. I swear this affidavit *bona fide*, in support of our motion, and for no other or improper purpose.

SWORN REMOTELY by videoconference by)
Randy Hillier at the municipality of Drummond-)
North Elmsley, in the County of Lanark, in the)
Province of Ontario, before me at the City of)
Brampton, in the province of Ontario, this 14th day)
of September, 2022 in accordance with)
O.Reg. 431/20 Administering Oath or)
Declaration Remotely)




A Commissioner, etc.



 **RANDY HILLIER**

This is **Exhibit "A"** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

From: [Randy Hillier](#)
To: [Sayeh Hassan](#); [Chris Naimi](#); [Henna Parmar](#); [Darren Leung](#)
Subject: Exhibit A Fwd: Confidential: State of Emergency
Date: August 16, 2022 1:59:40 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Randy Hillier** <rah@randyhillier.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 18, 2020 at 3:20 PM
Subject: Confidential: State of Emergency
To: <cje@pc.ola.org>, <vaf@pc.ola.org>, Monte McNaughton <mgm@pc.ola.org>, LMac <LMac@pc.ola.org>, JAY (John Yakabuski) <jay@pc.ola.org>, <ljs@pc.ola.org>, <aeh@pc.ola.org>, SJC (Steve Clark) <SJC@pc.ola.org>, <jty@pc.ola.org>, <bhw@pc.ola.org>, <dgr@pc.ola.org>, <drd@pc.ola.org>, <doug.ford@pc.ola.org>, TAS (Todd Smith) <tas@pc.ola.org>, <ror@pc.ola.org>, <pac@pc.ola.org>, <peb@pc.ola.org>, <cml@pc.ola.org>, <kws@pc.ola.org>, <mkf@pc.ola.org>, <pss@pc.ola.org>, <rap@pc.ola.org>, <sfl@pc.ola.org>

Dear Colleagues,

I understand and appreciate the difficult decisions and significant pressure you all face right now, and commend you for demonstrating professionalism during this crisis.

However, while the Cabinet is seized with considering and implementing measures to “flatten the curve” of the virus, I ask that you also consider the consequential spike of unemployment, business closures, panic, disruptions in essential supply chains, and a looming economic depression.

On Tuesday, March 17th the imposition of emergency measures resulted in hundreds of thousands of people in the hospitality industry becoming unemployed and without any income to meet their financial obligations to many other businesses. Tens of thousands of businesses were also forced to close and without the means to meet their financial obligations to many other businesses. Furthermore, hundreds of thousands of parents are now unemployed and without income as all daycare operators have closed. With schools and daycares closed, parents, regardless if they are employed in essential supply chains or not, obviously cannot go to work.

The Premier explained during his announcement that “the supply chain” can’t be disrupted, which I fully agree with, but then announced measures that not only disrupted, but in this instance killed the end user of the supply chain, making every other link of it idle.

However, there are many other disruptions that are being realized as a result of the emergency measures announcement. Most every service business in my riding has

reduced their hours as a result of employees being fearful to go to work and in many cases have shuttered the business. Once again making the supply chain redundant.

Although we can all recognize the need and imperative to keep essential services continuing, many of those employees who provide these essential services are also deciding not to go to work, out of either fear or necessity.

We can see where these measures are leading and the destination is NOT GOOD. Do not be surprised that we will soon see many of the supply chains significantly diminished, disrupted and unable to provide the essentials and necessities of life.

Everything the government has achieved in the first 18 months of its mandate in improving Ontario's prosperity, reducing unemployment, and our "Open for Business" agenda, has been erased with one announcement on March 17th, and if not remedied will worsen.

There are good reasons that we elect representatives to make decisions on public policy and charge the bureaucracy or administrators to provide advice and guidance, but not authority. It would be detrimental if the Chief Medical Officer of Health in effect becomes both the de facto Premier and the Executive Council. Dr. David Williams' focus is far too narrow to have such an all encompassing responsibility over all of the provincial government's spheres of authority. Dr William's recommendations must be fully scrutinized for consequential and negative economic impacts, prior to adoption.

It appears the cure we are administering may eventually be worse than the disease we are attempting to treat. We have rolled a snowball down the hill and other provinces are being swept up regardless of the risk, needing to be seen as "doing something". I have been closely watching the data on COVID-19 and understand and appreciate the seriousness of the virus; I also understand the demographics of the spread.

I fear we have just swung a very blunt and powerful instrument without full regard on who and where it will strike, and the consequential damage. I encourage the Premier and the Cabinet to first recognize how effective the public responded to the public health recommendations, and secondly, utilize far more refined and nuanced policies that recognize that there are areas of non-existent spread, along with areas with great risk for transmission spread; and apply different treatments based on the facts and evidence as well as the consequences.

We cannot reasonably request people to stay calm in one breath, as we announce a "State of Emergency" in the next, while removing their paycheck and ability to provide for themselves and their families.

Sincerely

Randy Hillier
6134642063

This is **Exhibit “B”** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

May 27,
2020,
12:42 PM

to me, Elaine

Dear Mr. Hillier,

I am writing to you in response to this morning's announcement regarding the extension of Ontario's emergency orders. While we are all aware of concerns about the pandemic, the current government continues to gauge its response through a Toronto region lens. As the MPP for our extensive region, you are keenly aware at how successful the response has been in our region and that the time has come to start moving forward. Unfortunately, Doug Ford and his government are stuck on pause most likely out of concern for the perception that Ontario numbers are not declining as significantly as they are in the rest of the country. This myopic view is having a very negative and unnecessary impact on regions such as ours.

I am a retired accountant and have lived and raised my family in Almonte for the past 32 years. My wife is in a high risk category but she also agrees that it is time to look at a more tailored, regional approach. The impact to our local businesses and communities is far worse at this point than the virus we are trying to guard against. Worse than that, is the enormous loss in both dollars and health (and possibly lives) that we are incurring on a daily basis by allowing our healthcare system to idle along so dramatically under capacity. You are likely in contact with regional health authorities so are already well informed on just how extensive our idle capacity is. We are wasting scarce healthcare resources needlessly, resources we will never get back, because the Premier refuses to take a more pragmatic, reasoned approach to managing this pandemic.

Until recently, both my wife and I have been supportive our governments' approach, both provincially and nationally, thankful that we live in this country. We understand that mistakes have been and will be made given the rapid nature of global developments and our lack of reliable information concerning the nature of the virus itself. However, our trust and support is not a blank cheque. We feel, like many in this region, that a change in approach is required for the future wellbeing of everyone in this province.

As our representative at Queen's Park, I am hopeful you will continue to carry this message to Mr. Ford and push for the change in policy that is needed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

This is **Exhibit "C"** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the witness.

Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

From: [Randy Hillier](#)
To: [Sayeh Hassan](#); [Chris Naimi](#); [Henna Parmar](#); [Darren Leung](#); [Dave Shostal](#)
Subject: constituent exhibits 1
Date: August 19, 2022 10:42:13 AM

>> -----Original Message-----

>> From: [REDACTED].com]

>> Sent: March-17-20 9:52 AM

>> To: [REDACTED]

>> Subject: Line of Credit

>>

>> [EXTERNAL]

>>

>> Dear [REDACTED]

>> We have closed this morning to public and sent our staff home. We have no phones ringing, all cancelling appointments and staff are rather frightened giving services in close proximity. When you have no customers what else can you do.

>> With a state of emergency and gathering of 50 not recommended, I feel this is the best decision.

>> You can reach me by email or phone [REDACTED]. I am requesting an additional line of credit of \$ 75,000. I would like to be able to pay my creditors. Further can you lower the interest on my credit line based on resent dramatic rate cuts. Could both be provided. ASAP. I have always paid my obligations, and if I could have remained open we were otherwise having a pretty reasonable year.

>> Your prompt assistance would be appreciated. I hope your able [REDACTED] to work remotely. Stay safe for you and your family, we need you well.

>> Many thanks,

>> [REDACTED]

>> Sent from my iPhone

>>

>> ATTENTION : This email originated outside your organization. Exercise caution before clicking links, opening attachments, or responding with personal information.

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This is **Exhibit “D”** referred to in the
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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Wed, Apr
29, 2020,
8:47 AM

[REDACTED]
to scott.reid@parl.gc.ca, me, [REDACTED]

Honourable MP Mr.Scott Reid,

I [REDACTED] live in Smiths Falls since last September with my family. I worked hard to open a restaurant in Smiths Falls called [REDACTED]. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 pandemic I wasn't able to open.

Finally March 30 2020 I was able to open for takeout and delivery .

I spent close to \$150000 to start the restaurant. I am not eligible for government \$40000 loan .

I am trying to get rent relief program and landlord does not want to on board this program.

I am located at [REDACTED]

In Smiths Falls.

Please help me to get any funding from government and landlord. Government doesn't have anything for new business owners unless landlord agreed to rent relief .

Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

This is **Exhibit “E”** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

[REDACTED]@gmail.com>

Thu, Apr 16,
2020, 12:07
PM

to scott.reid, me

Hello,

I am writing to you as my representative because I have been left out of the COVID-19 financial relief plans. I am a psychologist who is not incorporated and does not employ staff, so I do not qualify for the loan program. I am working remotely for those patients who are able/willing to continue in that manner, but my income has been greatly reduced (to about 1/3 my gross income, before any expenses). Because I have some income, I do not qualify for CERB, even in its new iteration. While I personally think the needs of the less fortunate should be met first and am not looking to try to meet my full salary, I would appreciate some relief in terms of expenses. Namely, my commercial rent, which at this point is eating up 1/4 of my total income each month. I am right now working a week to pay rent on an office I cannot use. Secondly, in the longer term, I am concerned about whether I will be able to pay my taxes from last year. I am early in my career and last year was the first of any significant income - but now my family expenses are needing to be covered from my savings set aside for taxes. We as psychologists are being asked to provide pro bono services to those affected by the pandemic. I would love to do so but for those in my position of solo practice the financial aspect is making it difficult (versus those who were employed and therefore are receiving the relief benefits). I just wanted to point out that there continue to be those of us in your community who are falling through the cracks of these programs.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]


[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

This is **Exhibit “F”** referred to in the
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virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Re: COVID 19 Pay for ALL Hospital Workers

constituent exhibits

R

Randy Hillier <info@randyhillier.com>

Wed, May 13,
2020, 2:32 PM

to ■

Thanks for your inquiry. I will share your email with Mr. Hillier at the next available opportunity.

This wage bump for front line workers is a jointly funded federal/provincial program, however it is being administered by the provinces. That means each province decides who is, and isn't eligible.

The details of Ontario's program have now been published on this newly updated website here:

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/covid-19-temporary-pandemic-pay>

Today, the Minister of Health announced she was re-examining the eligibility criteria with an eye to expanding the list of workers who will qualify, but did not provide a timeline for her decision. Changes would be posted to the website above.

It is important to understand that under the current Emergency Measures, MPPs do not get to debate or vote on these decisions directly; that authority rests solely with Premier Doug Ford and Cabinet. I recommend you also share your concerns and recommendations with the Premier and the Minister of Health, as they will be the ultimate decision makers on this assistance. They can be reached at:

Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
premier@ontario.ca or 416-325-1941

Hon, Christine Elliott, Minister of Health
christine.elliott@ontario.ca or 416-327-4327

You can also ask questions and register your concerns directly to the program administrators at the link provided above.

Once again, I thank you for your inquiry, and I will make Mr. Hillier aware of your concerns.

Sincerely,
David Shostal
Chief of Staff
to Randy Hillier, MPP
Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston
P 613-267-8239

On Wed, May 13, 2020 at 2:25 PM [REDACTED] wrote:
Morning Mr Hillier. My name is [REDACTED]

My husband works at the [REDACTED] District hospital. My cell phone number is [REDACTED], and my e- mail is [REDACTED]

Mr Hillier - we would like you to consider contacting the Minister to ask why the Maintenance people are omitted from the COVID pay list at Ontario Hospitals . These maintenance workers are dispatched to rooms for problems with nurse call , beds , heating , negative pressure tests ect. Their jobs have increased and have to work in COVID area's as with any other frontline staff at the hospitals.


It is also noted that Maintenance people are included for Nursing homes, corrections and other sites.

Please explain why they feel the health of my husband is not as important as maintenance people at other sites?

Thank You

[REDACTED]

This is **Exhibit "G"** referred to in the
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virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

[Redacted]

Thu, Apr 2,
2020, 3:47
PM

to me

Dear Mr. Hillier:

I am the owner/operator of a summer camp located in your constituency—Lanark Highlands. The COVID-19 global pandemic is having a disastrous effect on my business. In fact, the camp industry as a whole is facing a perilous situation.

Camps are unique because we earn virtually all of our revenue in the summer months, while having expenses over a 12-month period. Summertime is the only opportunity that I have to secure revenue in any given year. If my camp is unable to open this year, the results will be devastating, not just for me, but also for the children who enjoy the cultural experiences and outdoor education they receive at summer camp, and for the young people we hire every year as camp counsellors.

The purpose of writing to you today is to bring to your attention a letter that my Camp Association of which I am a member, has sent to several Cabinet Ministers, including the Minister of Finance [see attached].

I would be very appreciative if you could bring our concerns to the immediate attention of your caucus colleagues and to the government as time is of the essence. Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours truly,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted] - Lanark

[Redacted]


Attachments area



ReplyForward

[Redacted]

This is **Exhibit “H”** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this ¹⁴ ___ day of September, 2022.



Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Ontario Hansard - 12-May2020

Mr. Randy Hillier: Speaker, both in this House and publicly, I have commended the government House leader and the Premier for their collaboration working with opposition members and independents to find our way forward through these challenging times.

The state of emergency was put in place as a temporary measure, and gave the executive branch the authority to address the pandemic while this House was going into recess and we were surrounded with uncertainty. Those circumstances have changed.

The members of this House were elected to be decision-makers and to represent their constituents. The time has come to return to that. Continuing under the state of emergency is unwarranted while this House is in session and able to meet, discuss and debate the many important decisions that we have been called upon to make.

Sir John A. Macdonald once said, “Parliament is a grand inquest with the right to inquire into anything and everything.” It’s time we returned to that spirit—one of inquiry, discussion and accountability. Speaker, it’s time for the government to end the broad and universal and unilateral powers we granted the executive in March under the state of emergency, and allow this House to make decisions in the spirit of collaboration and healthy debate, as is intended in a free society.

This is **Exhibit "I"** referred to in the
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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Ontario Hansard - 12-May2020

Mr. Randy Hillier: I'm pleased to debate this motion. The motion leads us to a singular question that this debate is meant to inform and answer: During a crisis, what is the best form of government? Is it a representative, democratic, elected government that is accountable for its actions, or is it an autocratic government where one person, the Premier, can create laws without debate or affirmation from the people? How we answer that question is vital.

For if we agree an autocratic government is best during a crisis, why then, by deduction, is it not best at all times, even without a crisis? Are elected members necessary, or are they only optional? Are 124 members worse at making decisions than the single member? The motion asks you to answer that question. Should we be disregarding the purpose we have all consented to, in reopening this Legislature?

Today we are being asked to reaffirm that Ontario is in a state of emergency. If passed, this would empower the Premier and his delegates to continue to make new unilateral and arbitrary emergency orders while halting and disregarding the function, purpose and responsibility of this assembly in the development of public policy.

In March, I supported the declaration of an emergency while understanding that those extraordinary powers that we granted to the Premier were temporary. The House had recessed, the risk of exigent circumstances arising was great, and granting those emergency powers was the prudent and wise path to take at that time. And let us not forget the circumstances back then: There were far more unknowns, far more uncertainty. There were more unknowns than knowns. Confusion was compounded with contradictory statements from the regime in China, from the World Health Organization. We were told one day that the borders should be opened, the next day that the borders should be closed. We were told that human transmission was not possible, then that it was. We were told that masks couldn't protect you but then that they could. All of these contradictory statements—misinformation, in some cases—and uncertainty dictated and justified, while the House was going into recess, that the Premier be granted these exigent and extraordinary powers.

We also didn't fully know how it spread. We didn't even really fully understand the symptoms. We didn't know if there was immunity or not. We didn't know what the lethality rates were. All these unknowns were present.

However, a time comes in a free and just society when the executive must return the powers conferred upon them by this House back to this House. I understand the fear we all have with ending the state of emergency. We fear a second wave. We think that these orders are necessary. I concur that there is still some level of uncertainty and that the existing orders ought to remain in place. However, we can keep those existing orders in place while returning the authority for future orders back to this Legislative Assembly.

The Premier has done his best, as we all have, but we must remember that as members of the House we were elected to make decisions for the people. Forgetting or abdicating that responsibility is denying the people their voice.

I've asked the government, why do you want to extend this authority to make unilateral decisions? Because that is what is at the heart of the declaration. That question has gone unanswered. It has been met with only silence. The government has failed or refused to offer any argument or evidence that would justify continuing these powers. It is through our collaboration that we have created and agreed to a framework for this House to resume its proper role. But apparently, the government does not want the assembly and its members to exercise our full functions—rather, more the appearance of democracy than functional democracy.

For absolute clarity, I am not suggesting—not for a moment—that we are out of this crisis. I'm simply saying that the time has come that the advice being received by the Premier alone from public health ought to be presented to this House. It ought to be discussed, it ought to be debated, and then we can make decisions on how to move forward, as is intended and required by our system of representative government.

COVID has caused a great deal of suffering for a great many people, and that cannot be overlooked or diminished. But there is another tragedy—another tragedy that is not so clearly seen, not so clearly understood. It doesn't make the headlines of the papers. It doesn't capture the nightly newscasts. For the last two months, every day, from morning to night, I have been on the phone, talking with constituents, hearing their trembled voices, listening to their despair. It has been the most emotional and troubling experience.

I spoke with a woman whose 58-year-old husband requires a live liver transplant. He is dying. But because that procedure requires the use of two ventilators, he cannot get a liver transplant. It was heartbreaking, really. The words cannot describe speaking to her. She had no mechanism to protect or save her loved one.

I spoke with another father whose younger daughter had been discovered to have a tumor, but because of COVID, she cannot get the procedure done. It is too dangerous to remove the tumor in a young woman because of COVID.

I spoke with a lady. Her husband is a roofer, self-employed. She called me many times, just absolutely overwhelmed. They are going to lose their house. They are going to lose their equipment. They are going to lose their business. They don't qualify for relief. Her husband, through all these confusing and contradictory clauses of the essential workplaces act, is too fearful of going to work because of possible fines.

The stories are endless. They're real. They're not in the newspapers. But I'm telling you, they're real. They are the unseen tragedy of what has happened. If I had 12 hours to debate this motion, I could not communicate all of those stories to the people in this House, to the public.

A man who had retired and invested his life-savings into a new bar and restaurant in Perth—he was meant to open on March 17, the day we shuttered the hospitality industry. All his pension money, all his savings money, everything that he owns is invested into this restaurant. He has his inventory of beer and spirits. He has his inventory of food. He can't pay his rent. He can't pay his credit lines. He will be bankrupted.

The stories, like I said, are heart-wrenching to listen to. I'm sure every member in this House has heard similar and equally despairing stories. These are the tragedy, the unseen tragedy of COVID, and they will continue to mount. That's important for us to understand. They will continue to mount under a renewed state of emergency, because that's the other element of the state of emergency: The state of emergency, the declaration, says that is our priority. All these other concerns must take a back seat.

These people are constituents. They've elected us. They've elected us to be their voice. They need a voice during this time because they're not being heard. And they are preventable. If we are allowed to do our work, if we are allowed to bring concerns and debate and discuss how policies impact people, we can maybe minimize or mitigate some of them, maybe many of them. I think we can. The spirit of collaboration that I've seen from people clearly demonstrates there is a desire. But we have to have their interests also represented in this House.

And it's not only constituent concerns, but all these other elements that this House has an obligation to air and to ventilate. But under the state of emergency, the declaration of emergency, are we talking about services for autistic children? No, we're not. Are we talking about Lyme disease? No, we're not. Are we talking about the failures of the Family Responsibility Office? They have been growing under this time. There is some talk about long-term care, but long-term care has been a problem for decades—decades. I'm sure many members in this House have submitted many briefs to the current minister and former ministers on how to reform long-term care. I know I have, and I'm sure many others have. What has happened there is again another tragedy. I was not elected to ignore these issues. We all have the ability to partake in the legislative process.

COVID is not over. We've achieved the main objective of not having everyone get sick all at once. We have prevented our health care system from being overwhelmed. But it has come at a great cost, a great cost that is unseen by many. The FAO report has come out with unsurprising but very frightening facts. This ought to be

understood. We ought to be able to inform our constituents of what these consequences are that we'll be facing. But a reaffirmation of the declaration of emergency power will trump that consideration as well.

I do commend the Premier for voicing his concerns regarding our province's unpreparedness for pharmaceuticals, PPEs and our testing capacity. And I agree that we must make it a priority that products and tools are made in Ontario. We have to end our reliance and our dependency on less-than-trustworthy friends and allies. That has to come to an end.

But also, there's the underutilization of our health care, these empty beds. None of these powerfully important subjects are going to be discussed under the declaration of emergency. These are all important debates and discussions. They cannot happen earnestly while we are under this emergency. I believe it's time that we reclaim our rational inquiry and reasoned deliberations, remove them back from the hands of arbitrary and unilateral excess. It's time to end the decrees and edicts coming on the fly and sometimes by the seat of our pants.

1320


The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act remains bound by our constitution, yet no member of this House has had the opportunity to challenge the government on regulations that violate our protected rights of mobility and freedom of assembly.

Finally, I will add—and this came up through the discussions with the government House leader yesterday—that there is a huge and gaping loophole in the existing emergency management act. It is one that none of us understood was there. Within that statute, the loophole allows for the state of emergency to remain indefinitely at the will of the Premier. There is no means that this House can compel an end to the emergency under the existing legislation. I appreciate the House leader's commitment to me to amend the legislation expeditiously.

I also commend the House leader and the government in the manner that they have engaged and facilitated thoughtful negotiations and deliberations with all members of this House during these challenging times. There is work that needs to be done. Resolving, correcting, mitigating the many tragedies that this pandemic has exposed is on that list. Remaining locked into a state of emergency impedes and delays our efforts. Let us begin this work without delay, without fear and without trepidation. Let us lead by example.

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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Ontario Hansard - 12-May2020

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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario



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Scuttlebutt - Looking Forward

Posted by [Randy Hillier](#) 199.40sc on April 22, 2020

Over one month ago, we were faced with the realization of a pandemic, one which none of us actually had ever experienced, let alone fully understood the ramifications or consequences of. Uncertainty was the only sure thing we knew. However with time, more evidence has been uncovered, more facts revealed, and our ability to act and respond in an informed and knowledgeable manner vastly improved.

The Legislature is expected to resume sitting in a limited manner starting May 12th along with some committees resuming, and I will be attending to ensure the people of Lanark–Frontenac–Kingston are well represented. Our Parliaments, Legislatures, and representative government have essentially been suspended during this pandemic; whatever the future holds, I know that government and public policy can't be left in the hands of only a few to decide the path forward.

In the meantime, and as I have since the closure of the Legislature on March 13th, will continue to speak directly with members of Cabinet and appropriate Ministries to help limit and overcome the many contradictions and difficulties that have become apparent during this period of government by decree. I look forward to sharing this with you through these updates, as more details and easing of restrictions are realized.

In this Part Two of my COVID Scuttlebutt, I've decided to include statistics for your immediate reference along with a source from Stats Canada to help in the discussion of easing us back.

First, I would like to commend the many workers in our LTC, retirement homes, and those who have been providing healthcare in the home and hospitals, for not only their outstanding work ethic and commitment to help the most vulnerable, but the consequences they have endured.

I have spoken with many and those who have contracted COVID in helping others. It is apparent to me that although COVID has many similarities with the seasonal flu, the effects and symptoms are often far more severe and extreme for many. The word “essential” has a far greater meaning and deeper appreciation when listening to those who have been infected while at work to ease the suffering of others. Their actions need our recognition.

Socially distancing and other restrictions have certainly flattened “the curve” and thankfully, the most dire of predictions have failed to materialize, however it does not come without further consequences that need to be examined.

While our efforts have diminished the huge spikes in fatalities seen in other countries and has ensured our hospitals have not been overwhelmed, it has also lengthened or prolonged the time the virus will be present and for “herd immunity” to develop and become widespread. There is also considerable efforts underway to develop both vaccines and medications to alleviate the symptoms however currently, there are no timelines for these that we can rely on.

Although risks remain, they can now be measured against other similar risks with a much greater degree of knowledge. Even though there are differences,

COVID-19 may be compared to our seasonal flu, as they share many characteristics, their transmission is similar, their infection, symptoms, and fatality rates as well have much in common.

Here are some of the relevant facts (as of April 20th) that each and every person ought to consider as you determine the level of risk that is not only appropriate for you and your family, but also how we as a community and country move forward:

- Each year in Canada approximately 8,500 people die from flu related illness, thus far there have been 1,728 COVID related deaths.
- Each year over 12,000 people are hospitalized due to the flu, thus far 2,369 people have been hospitalized due to COVID in Canada.
- There have been over 1/2 million COVID tests of people thought to be at greatest risk or displaying symptoms, over 93% were negative and not infected.
- 64% of those hospitalized were over age 60 and 3/4 of them had underlying or chronic illness. Over half of the fatalities are in LTC Homes.

While it is evident that much more has to be done for the elderly in LTC, it is also apparent there has been a desperate need for reform which has been overlooked for decades.

This pandemic has also exposed our inability to provide for, and our reliance upon other Nations for medical essentials, medications and other necessities. As individuals and as a society we must reevaluate some of these relationships, and not only end our reliance upon untrustworthy regimes, but develop greater self sufficiency.

There is also strong evidence that some/many people have either an inherent immunity or have been exposed and have developed antibodies and immunity. This number however can't be determined with any certainty until either random and/or comprehensive serology testing is undertaken. While some countries have started this undertaking and many in Canada are calling for it,

so far there has been no action by Canada. You can read more on these efforts here: <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/immunity-tests-coronavirus-1.5535855>

I trust this information helps and assists you during these most astonishing and uncertain times.

Stats Canada COVID-19 Information is updated daily and can be found here: <https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/surv-covid19-epi-update-eng.pdf>

Finally, I must add another personal observation; It is abundantly obvious the vast majority of people have recognized the risks of this pandemic and have acted in the most responsible and respectful manners; respecting the need for social distancing, limiting interactions, and thoughtfully considering others. However, there is a less desirable characteristic that has become apparent in a minority of people which has led to very aggressive enforcement in some municipalities and a willingness to report on others of perceived non-compliance, these snitching attributes do not serve us well or benefit a civilized and free society. I would continue to encourage everyone to act responsibly, respect the freedoms and liberties of others, and ensure reasonableness is held in the highest of regards.

Please feel free to contact me or my staff if you require assistance at any time by email at info@randyhillier.com, or by voice mail at my office 613-267-8239.

Looking forward to a return of warm weather and sunny skies with our friends and family.

Sincerely,
Randy Hillier, MPP

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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

TORONTO | NEWS

'A bunch of yahoos,' Ont. premier says of people protesting COVID-19 emergency measures



Chris Herhalt

CP24 Web Content Writer

[@_Herhalt](#) | [Contact](#)

Published Saturday, April 25, 2020 2:25PM EDT

Last Updated Sunday, April 26, 2020 11:24AM EDT

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TORONTO -- Ontario Premier Doug Ford says he's furious at the "bunch of yahoos" who decided to flout physical distancing measures and emergency laws to protest outside Queen's Park Saturday afternoon, calling them "irresponsible, reckless and selfish."

About 100 people gathered in front of Queen's Park, chanting slogans demanding Ford "open up Ontario" and end all emergency measures, with some carrying signs claiming the novel coronavirus is a hoax.

Ford was visibly angry at the gathering, which violates the province's month-long order banning all gatherings of more than five people.

CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

- [Ontario expands eligibility for 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose, but healthy adults can wait until fall](#)
- [Ontario expands PCR testing and treatments for COVID-19. This is who's eligible](#)
- [Need a refresher? Here's what to do if you get COVID-19 in Ontario right now](#)
- [Full list of where to get free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in Ontario](#)
- [Ontario's mask mandate has ended in most places. Here's where you still need one](#)
- [Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada](#)

"We have healthcare workers down the street at these hospitals working round the clock, to protect the community and 99.9 per cent of people in this province are working together side by side, that's the reason we're able to see a flattening of the curve," Ford said. "But then we have a bunch of yahoos out in the front of Queen's Park sitting there protesting that the place isn't open,

as they are breaking the law. And putting everyone in jeopardy, putting themselves in jeopardy, putting workers in jeopardy and god forbid one of them ends up in the hospital down the street.”

He said he hoped Toronto police would ticket them.

Not keeping at least two metres apart from someone not in your own household currently carries a fine of \$880 in Toronto.

Some demonstrators complained about not being able to get a haircut for the past five weeks, while others called media reports about the virus’ spread “fake news.”

A few demonstrators also brought children to the rally.

“Imagine if we had every single Ontarian acted like the way they’re doing right now,” Ford said. “It would set us back months.

The virus has so far infected at least 13,000 Ontarians, killing 811.

A spokesperson for the Toronto police said no arrests were made and no tickets were issued following the protest, saying the crowd was compliant and exercised good social distancing.

RELATED IMAGES



Demonstrators gather during a protest to end the shutdown due to COVID-19 at Queen's Park in Toronto on Saturday, April 25, 2020. THE CANADIAN PRESS/ Tijana Martin

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Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Ontario Hansard - 06-October2020

Mr. Randy Hillier: Speaker, seeing that the front benches have emptied, I will pose my question to the Minister of Long-Term Care.

Over 1,300 public health scientists and 1,500 medical practitioners have—

Ontario Hansard - 06-October2020

Mr. Randy Hillier: The document is called the Great Barrington Declaration. It was drafted by professors from Harvard, Stanford and Oxford, and they are the most respected epidemiologists in the world. Their concerns are singular in focus: The prevailing COVID policies are having damaging physical and mental impacts on the public. They are aghast at the public health advice being provided to Western governments. It is contrary to the science and what we now know about COVID.

Minister, Nobel laureates and reputable world-leading experts on infectious diseases are telling governments that what they're doing is causing more harm than good. Will you heed their advice and endorse the Great Barrington Declaration, as I have?

Ontario Hansard - 06-October2020

Mr. Randy Hillier: I do thank the minister for her response. However, these pre-eminent experts have stated government policies are resulting in “lower childhood vaccination rates, worsening cardiovascular disease outcomes, fewer cancer screenings” and the erosion of mental health. They state that the “current lockdown policies are ... devastating” our “short- and long-term public health.”

They are asking all governments to shift gears and move towards a focused protection model that protects those at risk, while letting those who are healthy return to a normal life.

Minister, will you do the right thing and follow the advice being given by the most pre-eminent world leaders in this field? Or should the people of Ontario prepare themselves for further lockdowns, more bankruptcies, further medical delays? And now we see forced isolation in detention camps on the horizon—

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Ontario Announces Provincewide Shutdown to Stop Spread of COVID-19 and Save Lives

Government Providing Grants of up to \$20,000 to Small Businesses Impacted by New Public Health Measures

December 21, 2020

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — As COVID-19 cases continue to rise at an alarming rate, the Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is imposing a [Provincewide Shutdown](#). Additional restrictions will be put into place and reinforce that Ontarians should stay at home as much as possible to minimize transmission of the virus and prevent hospitals from becoming overwhelmed. The Provincewide Shutdown will go into effect as of Saturday, December 26, 2020, at 12:01 a.m.

Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Stephen Lecce, Minister of Education, Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, and Dr. Naveed Mohammad, President and CEO, William Osler Health System.

"The number of daily cases continue to rise putting our hospitals and long-term care homes at risk," said Premier Ford. "We need to stop the spread of this deadly virus. That's why, on the advice of Dr. Williams and other health experts, we are taking the difficult but necessary decision to shutdown the province and ask people to stay home. Nothing is more important right now than the health and safety of all Ontarians."

In response to these exceptional circumstances, the Provincewide Shutdown would put in place time-limited public health and workplace safety measures similar to those in other jurisdictions. It would help stop the trend of high COVID-19

- alone may consider having exclusive close contact with one other household.
- Prohibiting in-person shopping in most retail settings - curbside pickup and delivery can continue. Discount and big box retailers selling groceries will be limited to 25 per cent capacity for in-store shopping. Supermarkets, grocery stores and similar stores that primarily sell food, as well as pharmacies, will continue to operate at 50 per cent capacity for in-store shopping.
 - Restricting indoor access to shopping malls - patrons may only go to a designated indoor pickup area (by appointment only), essential retail stores that are permitted to be open (e.g. pharmacy, grocery store), or, subject to physical distancing and face covering requirements, to the food court for takeout purchases. Shopping malls may also establish outdoor designated pickup areas.
 - Prohibiting indoor and outdoor dining. Restaurants, bars and other food or drink establishments will be permitted to operate by take out, drive-through, and delivery only.

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, all Ontarians are advised to stay home as much as possible with trips outside the home limited to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, or supporting vulnerable community members. Employers in all industries should make every effort to allow employees to work from home.

The current [COVID-19 Response Framework](#) will be paused when the Provincewide Shutdown comes into effect. The impacts of these time-limited measures will be evaluated throughout the 14 days in Northern Ontario and 28 days in Southern Ontario to determine if it is safe to lift any restrictions or if they need to be extended. The Chief Medical Officer of Health will assess and apply lessons learned thus far to the COVID-19 Response Framework to ensure appropriate and effective measures are in place to protect the health of Ontarians and enable economic recovery after the Provincewide Shutdown ends. This will include an assessment of how a revised approach for the safe reopening of retail may be operationalized, according to the latest available evidence.

"This was not an easy decision before the holidays, but we have reached a tipping point," said Minister Elliott. "We continue to see sharp increases in hospitalizations

The government is also providing \$12.5 million to implement a High Priority Communities Strategy to contain the virus in high-risk communities. The strategy will take a tailored, community-based approach to fund community agencies in 15 priority communities in the York, Peel, Durham, Ottawa, and Toronto regions. The funding will also allow for the hiring of community ambassadors to make people aware of available services and assistance, for coordination of increased testing opportunities and for the arrangement of wraparound supports for those who are COVID-positive. Additional funding of \$42 million will also be available to establish isolation centres.

The province will work with our local municipal partners to establish new isolation centres to help those who may need to isolate following testing.

"We continue to see the number of cases in the province grow and the trends in public health indicators worsen. Additional measures are needed provincewide in order to interrupt this concerning growth," said Dr. Williams. "We must work together to enable everyone to follow these new and time-limited restrictions and protect our health system and our communities."

The government is working to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in workplaces by supporting essential businesses in doing whatever is necessary to keep workers safe. The Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is leading a multi-ministry COVID-19 Safety Team. The team will partner with local authorities to carry out additional enforcement blitzes in sectors where they are needed most.

New School Protocols

While transmission in schools remains low, all publicly funded and private elementary and secondary schools are to move to teacher-led remote learning when students return from the winter break on January 4, 2021. This action is being taken in support of the Government's broader efforts to limit the spread of COVID-19.

Schools located in the following Public Health Unit regions can resume in-person instruction on January 11, 2021 for both elementary and secondary students:

- The District of Algoma Health Unit

- Timiskaming Health Unit

For schools in all other Public Health Unit regions, elementary school students are planned to be able to return to in-person learning on January 11, 2021, and secondary school students will continue learning remotely until January 25, 2021, at which point they may resume in-person learning. During this period, child care centres, authorized recreational and skill building programs and home-based child care services will remain open. From January 4-8, 2021, when elementary students move to remote learning, before and after school programs will be closed and emergency child care for health care and frontline workers will be provided. As part of the government's efforts to protect the most vulnerable, boards will be required to make provisions for continued in-person support for students with special education needs who cannot be accommodated through remote learning for whom remote learning is challenging.

"While our schools are not a source of rising community transmission, we can play an important part of the solution to save lives from COVID-19," said Minister Lecce. "During this period, students will pivot to teacher-led online learning, with child care provided for our frontline workers. We are taking proactive and preventative action to protect schools following the holiday break to ensure kids can continue in-class learning — something we believe is so important — for the remainder of the year."

The New Ontario Small Business Support Grant

The government recognizes that small businesses impacted by these necessary public health measures will require additional support so they can continue serving their communities and employing people in Ontario once the COVID-19 pandemic is over. That is why the government is announcing the new *Ontario Small Business Support Grant*, which will provide a minimum of \$10,000 and up to \$20,000 to eligible small business owners to help navigate this challenging period.

"Ontario's business owners have shown remarkable resolve and ingenuity throughout the pandemic. They know better than anyone what they need to come through this very difficult time, so they can continue to serve and employ people in their communities." said Rod Phillips, Minister of Finance. "The new *Ontario Small*

Small businesses required to close or restrict services under the Provincewide Shutdown will be able to apply for this one-time grant. Each small business will be able to use the support in whatever way makes the most sense for their individual business. For example, some businesses will need support paying employee wages or rent, while others will need support maintaining their inventory.

Eligible small businesses include those that:

- Are required to close or significantly restrict services subject to the Provincewide Shutdown effective 12:01 a.m. on December 26, 2020;
- Have less than 100 employees at the enterprise level; and
- Have experienced a minimum of 20 per cent revenue decline in April 2020 compared to April 2019.

Starting at \$10,000 for all eligible businesses, the grant will provide businesses with dollar for dollar funding to a maximum of \$20,000 to help cover decreased revenue expected as a result of the Provincewide Shutdown. The business must demonstrate they experienced a revenue decline of at least 20 per cent when comparing monthly revenue in April 2019 and April 2020. This time period was selected because it reflects the impact of the public health measures in spring 2020, and as such provides a representation of the possible impact of these latest measures on small businesses.

Essential businesses that are allowed to remain open will not be eligible for this grant. More information about the *Ontario Small Business Support Grant* is [available here](#). Further details, including how to apply, will be announced in January 2021.

Businesses that are impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown will also be eligible for the property tax and energy cost rebates. In November, the government launched a program to provide rebates to offset fixed costs such as property tax and energy bills for businesses that are required to shut down or significantly restrict services due to provincial public health measures. These rebates will continue to be available for businesses impacted by the Provincewide Shutdown and earlier restrictions. Business can apply for the rebates [here](#).

Quick Facts

- Ontario currently has 915 COVID-19 patients requiring acute care, 265 patients in ICU, with 152 on a ventilator.
- Based on the latest modelling data, cases across the province are continuing to grow and the number of people requiring an intensive care bed is projected to rise well above 300 people within the next 10 days.
- Some jurisdictions around the world, including those in Canada have implemented similar time-limited measures to respond to a dramatic resurgence in cases. Based on their experiences, measures of four to six weeks are expected to interrupt transmission of COVID-19 in Ontario.
- Municipalities and local medical officers of health may have additional restrictions or targeted requirements in their region.
- Get tested if you have symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or if you have been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert App. Visit [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest) to find the nearest testing location.
- The Ontario Small Business Support Grant is part of the Province's more than \$13.5 billion in support for people and jobs outlined in the 2020 Budget, Ontario's Action Plan: Protect, Support, Recover. It is also in addition to \$4.8 billion to address critical areas to support a strong long-term recovery that helps workers, employers and communities get back on their feet, while building the foundation for recovery and growth.
- To find the right supports, visit COVID-19: Support for People, which has information about the many available and free mental health services and supports.
- To stay safe you can download the COVID Alert App free from the Apple and Google Play app stores.
- To date, as part of the province's COVID-19 immunization program, over 3,000 frontline health care workers have been vaccinated.
- Schools continue to be safe, and according to data reported by school boards, as of Friday, December 18: approximately 99.64 per cent of students in Ontario have not reported a case of COVID-19; approximately 92 per cent of schools across the province have had either no cases or one case reported within the last 14 days; and approximately 80 per cent of schools do not have an case of COVID-19.

- [Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebates](#)
 - Visit Ontario's [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from COVID-19.
 - [COVID-19: provincewide shutdown](#)
 - If you have questions about what will be open or impacts to your business or employment, call the Stop the Spread Business Information Line at 1-888-444-3659.
-

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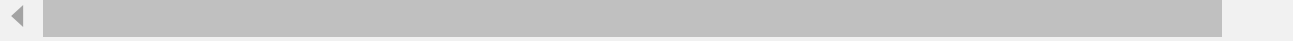
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POLITICS

Trudeau under fire for Easter trip despite urging Canadians to 'sacrifice' plans



By [Amanda Connolly](#) · Global News

Posted April 14, 2020 2:25 pm ▾

Video will begin after these messages...

plan, they will be required to quarantine in a hotel – Apr 14, 2020



-A A+

Despite repeatedly urging Canadians to stay home for Easter amid the [coronavirus](#) pandemic, even if it meant not seeing their families, Prime Minister [Justin Trudeau](#) is defending the decision to go see his.

The pandemic forced Canadians across the country to abandon hopes of travel to see loved ones and also came amid warnings from public officials for people not to travel to cottages unless that is already their primary residence — and really, just not to leave their homes at all.

READ MORE: [Premier Doug Ford urges city residents to stay out of cottage country on Easter weekend](#)

But shortly after [calling on Canadians to “stay home”](#) and “Skype that big family dinner,” Trudeau crossed the provincial border from Ottawa into Quebec to visit his wife and three children at Harrington Lake.

[Harrington Lake](#) is the name of a federally designated heritage building maintained by the National Capital Commission that serves as the country residence of Canadian prime ministers.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

Video will begin after these messages...

While only a half-hour drive from Ottawa, getting to the residence requires crossing the provincial border into Quebec, something police [recently set up checkpoints](#) in a bid to limit.

Trudeau defended the travel when questioned by journalists on Tuesday at his daily briefing.

“After three weeks of my family living up at Harrington and me working here, I went to join them for Easter weekend. We continue to follow all the instructions from public health authorities,” he said.

“Yes, but did somebody tell you this was OK?” asked the journalist.

“All over social media, people are wondering why this exception was OK for you, why it was OK for you to go see your family at the cottage.”

“My family has been living there for three weeks,” Trudeau repeated. “This is where my wife and my children live.”

[[Sign up for our Health IQ newsletter for the latest coronavirus updates](#)]

READ MORE: [Coronavirus causes pain, grief for many as Canadians mark Easter](#)

Speaking on background, a government official said the prime minister should be considered an essential worker and, therefore, allowed to cross the border into Quebec.

Video will begin after these messages...

1:12

Coronavirus outbreak: Trudeau calls on people to ‘sacr...

Coronavirus outbreak: Trudeau calls on people to ‘sacrifice’ Easter celebrations to protect Canadians – Apr 12, 2020

The official also suggested the travel should be viewed as the prime minister travelling between his work location and a new primary residence for his family.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

But the Trudeaus [live at the 22-room Rideau Cottage](#) in Ottawa’s New Edinburgh neighbourhood — that was where Sophie Grégoire Trudeau completed her quarantine [after being diagnosed with COVID-19](#).

That diagnosis came on March 12, and [he](#)

It’s also the neighbourhood where his chi

Video will begin after these messages...

It is not clear why Grégoire Trudeau and the Trudeau children have decided to live there or why they chose not to come back to Ottawa for Easter.

Unlike from Ottawa into Gatineau, non-essential travel from Gatineau into Ottawa is not restricted — however, it is possible that had the family returned to Ottawa, they might not have been allowed to go back to their country residence afterwards.

Ontario Premier Doug Ford urged Ontarians not to travel to cottages over the Easter weekend.

“Please, this long weekend, do not go to your cottage. We can’t stress that enough,” Ford said last week.

Quebec Premier Francois Legault was asked about Trudeau’s trip by journalists on Tuesday.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

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Specifically, one asked him whether he w

READ MORE: [How many Canadians have the new coronavirus? Total number of confirmed cases by region](#)

Trudeau isn't the only leader facing questions about his Easter travel, either.

Conservative Leader [Andrew Scheer](#), his wife and five children flew to Ottawa on Friday ahead of the Saturday wage subsidy bill vote on a nine-seater government aircraft along with the Green Party's [Elizabeth May](#).

The close confines of a small aircraft raised questions about why he would bring his wife and children with him when physical distancing cannot be realistically practised on board.

A spokesperson for Scheer said the flight was scheduled to go from Vancouver to Ottawa and stopped to pick up the whole Scheer family in Regina.

Scheer defended the move as requiring less travel than if he had to fly back and forth every time the House of Commons sits, and his spokesperson said the family will now be based in Ottawa until June.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

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1:29

Coronavirus outbreak: Scheer questioned over flight t...

Coronavirus outbreak: Scheer questioned over flight to Ottawa – Apr 14, 2020

With files from Global News' Abigail Bimman.

Canadian COVID-19 Status

CURRENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

4,784

(7-day change: -337)

CURRENT ICU ADMISSIONS

287

(7-day change: -7)

DEATHS

44,158

(7-day average: 44)

Source: Esri Canada

Data is updated weekly on Fridays for all provinces and territories due to a change in our data provider's collection schedule.

Check out our [Coronavirus Tracker](#) for more details and maps Last Updated: September 3, 2022, at 4:00:14 am EST

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JOURNALISTIC STANDARDS



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Justin Trudeau

Coronavirus Cases

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Doug Ford went to his own Muskoka cottage on Easter weekend to check on plumbing

Cottage country mayors 'are asking visitors to help them fight the spread of COVID-19 and hold-off travelling to these regions,' Doug Ford said

Adrian Humphreys

May 07, 2020 • May 8, 2020 • 5 minute read •  466 Comments




Ford urged cottage-goers to practise public health measures, such as social distancing and avoiding non-essential travel, but stopped short of banning the seasonal dwellers from travelling to their lakeside homes. PHOTO BY STOCK/GETTY IMAGES

Fear and feuding over an influx of cottage owners from Ontario cities with high COVID-19 caseloads to rural wooded and lakefront communities, expected in earnest starting Victoria Day, sparked a call for caution from Ontario Premier Doug Ford but not the ban many cottage country mayors had hoped for.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

“This year, however, they are asking visitors to help them fight the spread of COVID-19 and hold-off travelling to these regions.



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“I know Ontarians are eager to enjoy the great outdoors, but there will be plenty of long weekends to come.”

Both sides in the acrimonious debate between seasonal property owners and full-time cottage country residents looked to the premier to rally to their side. Each had reason to expect sympathy.

For most of the pandemic, Ford has been a facts-forward leader carefully listening to medical experts and mounting a firm fight against the spread of the coronavirus.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

And Ford himself had already visited his own Muskoka lakefront cottage, on Easter Sunday, to check on the plumbing.

RECOMMENDED FROM EDITORIAL



'We do not want to start a civil war': Fight grows over seasonal access to cottages during COVID-19

Almost 100 mayors or deputy mayors of cottage country municipalities in Ontario took part in a conference call with the premier Wednesday afternoon.

Most, if not all, have concerns of visitors from large cities bringing the coronavirus into their small, rural communities that have little healthcare infrastructure. Some fear cottagers will drain the limited resources, such as food, or crowd small businesses beyond their capacity to enforce physical distancing.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

There are significant differences between cottage country communities, bringing some nuance to the broad issue of travel, tourism and seasonal property during a pandemic.

Some regions such as Brockton, 190 kilometres northwest of Toronto, have just 8 per cent of its property owned by seasonal residents while Muskoka, where wooded lakefront mansion-cottages are 200 kilometres due north of the city, has 80 per cent seasonal property ownership.

Some beach communities, like Sauble Beach, Wasaga Beach and Port Dover, have more concerns with transient tourists visiting the beach.

Ford acknowledged that diversity, Thursday.

“While Ontario is vast and regions are facing the challenges of COVID-19 differently, it is more important than ever that we stick together and fight COVID-19 as one team,” he said.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

AFTER HIS TALK WITH THE MAYORS, HIS MESSAGE SEEMED STEMMED AGAINST TRAVEL.

“With the Victoria Day long weekend and cottage season just around the corner, we need to stay vigilant. We are still battling a terrible virus, so we are asking seasonal residents travelling to their cottages to practice the same public health measures as usual, including no public gatherings, avoiding nonessential travel as much as possible, and continue to practice social distancing.”

Phil Harding, mayor of Muskoka Lakes Township, who grew up summering in Muskoka before settling in the area full time, said he knows how divisive the issue is and has had harsh feedback from all sides.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

He wants visitors and tourists to stay away — but doesn’t consider seasonal property owners visitors; they’re residents and he wants all residents, year-round or seasonal, to be able to attend their property.

“We’re really not open to tourism,” said Harding. “But the locals need the seasonal residents to survive. We need to work as one and respect each other.”

He urged residents to not consider this a typical Victoria Day long weekend and to limit their exposure: “Don’t think of it as a holiday weekend. It’s an isolation weekend.”

Kristal Chopp, mayor of Norfolk County, which stretches along part of the Lake Erie waterfront, was also on the call with Ford. The medical officer of health for Norfolk and neighbouring Haldimand County earlier issued a sweeping emergency health order banning seasonal owners from occupying their property during the COVID-19 emergency, backed up by the threat of daily fines of up to \$5,000.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

Although the province recommended against the order, it remains in place.

On Thursday afternoon, cottage owners in the Long Point Rotaract Association filed an appeal of the

“Whether or not people listen will be the question, and I was not the only one that expressed concerns with enforcement, but he did say he would be willing to work with us,” Chopp said.

The premier’s office confirmed to the National Post that Ford drove to his family’s cottage in Muskoka on Easter Sunday to check on the property and its plumbing after the winter.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

He did not socialize or stay overnight, his office said. The cottage has been undergoing extensive renovations that have been delayed by the pandemic and Ford’s inability to travel while handling the emergency.

Over Easter, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau crossed from Ottawa into Quebec to visit his wife and three children at Harrington Lake, the official country home of the prime minister.

Trudeau was criticized for leaving on the trip shortly after his public address telling Canadians not to travel over the holiday.

“This long weekend, we all have to stay at home. We can’t get together for dinner,” Trudeau said on Good Friday. Over the Easter weekend, however, his wife, Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, posted a cheerful photo on social media of the family out together.

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Trudeau defends decision to attend protest despite advice to avoid large crowds during COVID-19

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a rally against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, on June 5, 2020. PHOTO BY BLAIR GABLE/REUTERS/FILE

OTTAWA – Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said it was important for him to attend a Black Lives Matter

“To look out the windows of my office and see thousand upon thousands of young people, of Canadians of all ages stand in solidarity, wanting to see change happen, I felt it was important for me to be part of that,” he said. “To be able to listen, to be able to hear people and to be able to understand and to share with people how important it was to act.”

Trudeau joined the large protest Friday afternoon on Parliament Hill with thousands of people and kneeled with other demonstrators in recognition of the death of Minneapolis man George Floyd, who died after a police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.



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Several members of his cabinet either joined the prime minister or took part in similar events in other parts of the country.

Most of the protesters in Ottawa wore masks, but they were also packed together during the event leading to concerns COVID-19 could spread during the event.

The Liberal government has encouraged people to avoid large events for weeks and suspended parliament due to the public health risk from COVID-19. Trudeau said he took precautions at the event, but maintains it was important for him to be there.

“As best I could, I followed social distancing measures, wearing a mask, keeping distance where possible. But I recognize that it is a difficult situation where we are trying to balance very important competing interests.”

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

The Ontario government's rules as of Friday discouraged any gathering of more than five people and advised people to stay home as much as possible to limit the spread of the virus.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau takes part in a rally against the death in Minneapolis police custody of George Floyd, on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, on June 5, 2020. PHOTO BY BLAIR GABLE/REUTERS/FILE

Conservative leader Andrew Scheer said he believes Trudeau sent a conflicting message to Canadians by attending the protests.

“I can understand why people are upset and confused after months of being told that they need to stay home, after months of being told that they need to listen to the advice of public health officials,” he said. “After all the hardship that people have gone through, to see the prime minister completely ignore those guidelines.”

Canada’s chief public health officer said protests are important, but that doesn’t change the science

“Canadians have a right to protest and racism, anti-Black racism is a longtime in the making and is a health-equity issue,” she said. “On the other hand, mass gatherings, particularly situations where there are large crowds, where physical distancing is difficult to achieve, does create a public health risk.”

She advised anyone who attended a large demonstration to monitor their symptoms and said health authorities would be looking for trends.

“It is quite a difficult situation to control and I think public health will be looking for any increases in transmission, because it is a setting of risk.”

I can understand why people are upset and confused after months of being told that they need to stay home

On the broader issue, Trudeau said his government has taken some steps, including collecting more race-based data through Statistics Canada, but a lot more needs to be done to solve the problem.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW

“The intention has been there to fight systemic discrimination in this country. We now need to do even more in terms of actions to make sure that gets done,” he said.

“The reality is that many people in this country simply do not feel protected by the police. In fact, they’re afraid of them.”

Trudeau said he intends to discuss body cameras with provincial premiers this week and he personally believes police should wear them and is hopeful there won’t be broad resistance to the measure.

“These are discussions we need to go forward on, on the logistics, on the cost, on the cost to provinces where there is contract policing in place. But the challenges that I’ve heard are more logistical and economic concerns.”

He said policing is a major issue of concern, but it is not the only place he sees systemic racism and he intends to address the whole issue.

“Systemic discrimination and racism in Canada goes much further than just policing. It’s about poverty and mental health. It’s about the fact that people are all too often treated like criminals, instead of receiving the support that they need.”

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Israel's Canadian supporters rally, more pro-Palestinian demonstrations held as violence continues in Gaza

Jewish groups accuse pro-Palestinian demonstrators of assault in Toronto, NDP MP joins rally in N.L.

CBC News · Posted: May 16, 2021 6:08 PM ET | Last Updated: May 17, 2021



Pro-Israel demonstrators held an outdoor rally, followed by a car convoy, in Ottawa on Sunday. Cities across Canada have seen demonstrations amid the ongoing violence between Israeli forces and Palestinians. (Krystalle Ramlakhan/CBC)

A prominent Canadian Jewish advocacy group hosted a virtual event in solidarity with Israel on Sunday, and pro-Palestinian demonstrations continued in Canadian cities, amid ongoing violence between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants in Gaza.

"Even the remarkable Iron Dome defence system cannot protect Israeli citizens — young and old, Jew and Arab — from the trauma of an endless barrage of alerts and rockets," Andrea Freedman said [at the beginning of the pro-Israel virtual event](#), which was organized by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs (CIJA).

"Jewish Canadians want peace, and we are very concerned that antisemitic violence is taking root here in Canada," said Freedman, the president and CEO of the Jewish Federation of Ottawa.

CIJA said almost 1,000 people attended the event, which featured prayers from students and Holocaust survivors as well as remarks from Ohad Kaynar, the deputy head of mission at Israel's embassy in Canada.

- [Demonstrations held across Canada amid escalating conflict between Israel and Palestinians](#)
- [Israel stages new round of heavy airstrikes as Hamas continues to fire rockets from Gaza](#)

The virtual event came amid a weekend that saw pro-Palestinian demonstrations in cities across Canada, with particularly large crowds in Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and Vancouver on Saturday.

"People are tired. People want to see justice. People want to see the Canadian government help Palestinians in their fight for justice," Shahed Helmy, a Canadian-Palestinian student at the

#Ottawa Police estimate about 2,000 to 3,000 people attended the rally organized by organizations representing the local Palestinian community condemning the ongoing violence. Many here told me they are worried about family overseas. **#ottnews**

Watch on Twitter

3:13 PM · May 15, 2021



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On Sunday, Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City flattened three buildings and killed at least 42 people, Palestinian medics said — [the deadliest single attack in the latest round of violence](#).

Hamas also pressed on, launching rockets from civilian areas in Gaza toward civilian areas in Israel. One slammed into a synagogue in the southern city of Ashkelon hours before evening services for the Jewish holiday of Shavuot, Israeli emergency services said; no injuries were reported.

'Don't give up'

Harris said the protest against ongoing violence might be part of a broader awakening that could result in progress. "Let's fight for it, don't give up, we have people on your side around the world," he told the crowd.



About 200 people attended a pro-Palestinian rally outside the Colonial Building in St. John's on Sunday. (Heather Gillis/CBC)

Pro-Israel demonstrations were also held in person in Canadian cities on Sunday.

In **Ottawa**, a few hundred people gathered at a pro-Israel rally in the parking lot at Tom Brown Arena west of the city's downtown calling for peace in the region. Organizers said the purpose of the rally was to show support for people in Israel and their right to live in peace.

Following the rally, a car convoy drove through downtown past Parliament Hill, as car horns honked and Israeli flags flew outside vehicles. Ottawa police estimated that about 100 vehicles took part in the convoy.

In **Montreal**, police deployed tear gas after pro-Israel and pro-Palestinian demonstrations were held just a few blocks apart downtown, leading to clashes.

Jewish organizations in Montreal said a group of pro-Palestinian protesters attacked the pro-Israel demonstrators with rocks.



Pro-Palestinian protesters run from police following a demonstration in Montreal on Sunday. (Graham Hughes/The Canadian Press)

Police intervened with tear gas to disperse the crowds, according to Radio-Canada. It was not immediately clear whether anyone was injured in the clashes or whether police had made arrests. Police didn't say who was responsible for starting the violence.

- [Montreal police use tear gas to disperse clashing pro-Israel, pro-Palestinian protesters](#)

children have trauma, too. It's terrible on all sides. It shouldn't be this way.

"There's no reason we can't come to some sort of agreement where we can all live together."

In **Calgary**, a car convoy with hundreds of pro-Palestinian demonstrators demanded an end to Israeli airstrikes targeting the Gaza Strip.

- [Hundreds in Calgary join convoy in solidarity with Palestinians](#)

"It's really important that we stand here and we educate the world about what's going on," said Maha Al-ghoul, one of the rally's organizers. "Because as far as the average Canadian person ... they need to know what's going on because as Canadians we are peace-loving people — this is against what we believe in."

Allegations of assault at Saturday rally in Toronto

In **Toronto**, several Canadian Jewish organizations published a statement early Sunday alleging that pro-Palestinian demonstrators, who gathered for a rally in Nathan Phillips Square on Saturday, [assaulted pro-Israeli demonstrators](#).

"We condemn in the strongest terms these brazen acts of assault, intimidation, and hate targeting members of Toronto's Jewish community and supporters of Israel," said the statement from CIJA, B'nai Brith Canada, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies and the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

"There is absolutely no justification for political violence in the streets of Toronto, whatever one's cause may be."





Toronto police separated pro-Palestinian and pro-Israeli demonstrators at Nathan Phillips Square on Saturday. (Chris Young/The Canadian Press)

Toronto police said in a news release Sunday they are aware of a video circulating online that shows a man being assaulted. Police said the incident happened outside of Nathan Phillips Square and officers are investigating.

- [**Toronto police arrest 3 men following anti-lockdown, pro-Palestinian protests**](#)

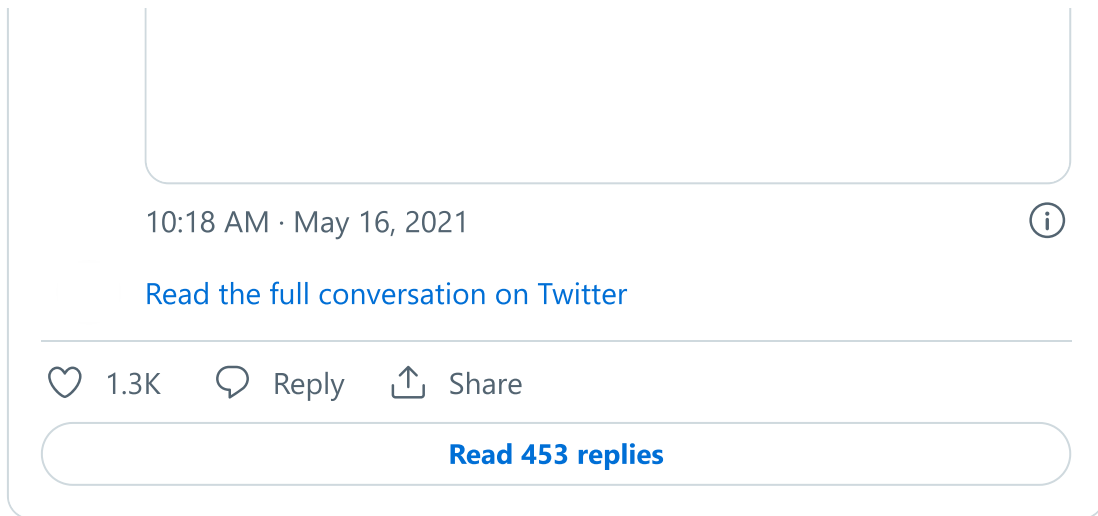
The statement from the Canadian Jewish organizations was shared on Twitter by Conservative Sen. Linda Frum, while federal Conservative Party Leader Erin O'Toole [retweeted her and commented](#): "acts of violence and antisemitism on the streets of Toronto and elsewhere in Canada are disturbing and unacceptable."

Toronto Mayor John Tory also posted a similar statement, adding that he's been in contact with interim police chief James Ramer and asked to be informed of the steps police are taking to investigate "a particularly disturbing incident" from Saturday.

John Tory 
@JohnTory · [Follow](#)



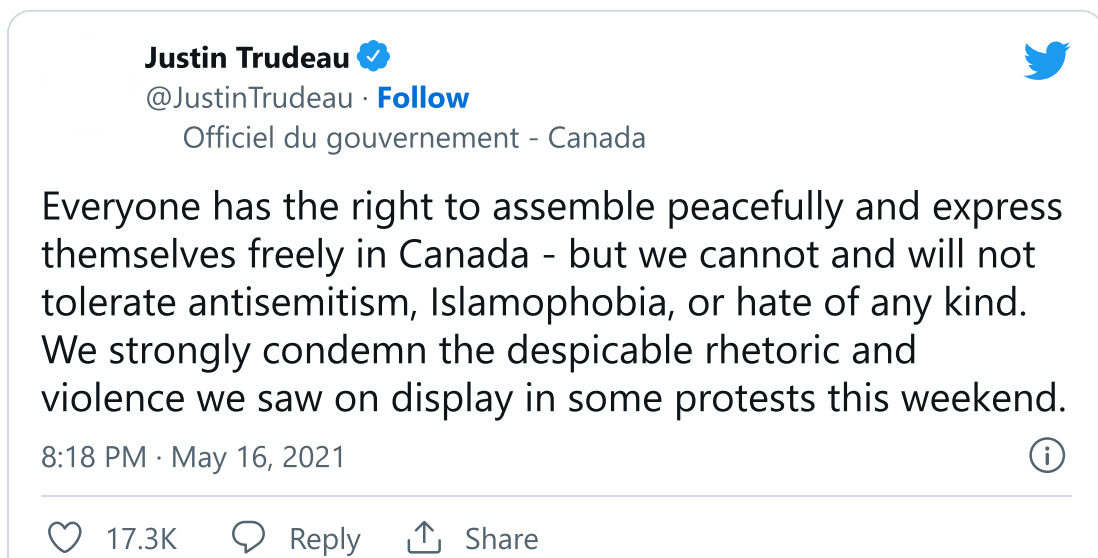
Hate, anti-Semitism and violence have no place in our city. Any violence against our city's Jewish community or members of any other community in Toronto is absolutely unacceptable.



"Discrimination or hatred of any kind against any community in our province should never be tolerated," Ontario Premier Doug Ford said in a [series of tweets posted Sunday evening](#).

Toronto police announced on Sunday that they arrested and charged two people following Saturday's demonstrations at Nathan Phillips Square, as well as one person at an unrelated event at Queen's Park.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau weighed in on the weekend's demonstrations. "Everyone has the right to assemble peacefully and express themselves freely in Canada — but we cannot and will not tolerate antisemitism, Islamophobia, or hate of any kind," he wrote on Twitter.



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Outdoor transmission of COVID-19 is far lower than statistics suggest, expert says



[Hannah Alberga](#) CTV News Toronto Multi-Platform Writer
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Published Wednesday, May 12, 2021 3:53PM EDT Last Updated Wednesday, May 12, 2021 4:10PM EDT

TORONTO -- With the current-stay-at-home order [expected to be extended](#) until at least June in Ontario, infectious disease experts are urging officials to reopen outdoor amenities as the weather warms, pointing to the low risk of transmission outside.

On Tuesday, Dr. Peter Jüni, scientific director of Ontario's COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, said outdoor activities like golf, tennis and beach volleyball are [low-risk](#). "Science is telling us that safe outdoor recreation is important," Dr. Jüni said.

Under the current [stay-at-home order](#), outdoor sports are not permitted across the province. The only outdoor recreational areas open are parks and playgrounds.

CORONAVIRUS

COVERAGE

[Ontario expands eligibility for 4th COVID-19 vaccine dose, but healthy adults can wait until fall](#)

[Ontario expands PCR testing and treatments for COVID-19. This is who's eligible](#)

[Need a refresher? Here's what to do if you get COVID-19 in Ontario right now](#)

[Full list of where to get free COVID-19 rapid antigen tests in Ontario](#)

[Ontario's mask mandate has ended in most places. Here's where you still need one](#)

[Tracking every case of COVID-19 in Canada](#)

The Centre for Disease Control (C.D.C) has said “less than 10 per cent” of COVID-19 transmission has occurred outdoors, but Hamilton infectious diseases physician Dr. Zain Chagla said outdoor transmission is actually far lower than 10 per cent.

“I think that 10 per cent figure...is actually much, much closer to less than 1 per cent,” Chagla said.

In reality, Chagla said that “99 per cent of transmission is indoors. 0.1 per cent is outdoors.”

Within the “many studies” the C.D.C cites as evidence for the “less than 10 per cent” figure, the majority of outdoor transmission cases occurred at construction sites in Singapore. In one of the studies, 95 of 10,926 cases of COVID-19 were linked to outdoor transmission. And, all 95 of the cases occurred at the construction sites.

In the study, the construction sites were defined as “outdoor spaces,” but Dr. Chagla points out, these people would have been working in close proximity to one another. Layered on top of that, Singapore is an exceptionally humid environment, which could lead to gathering indoors as relief from the heat.

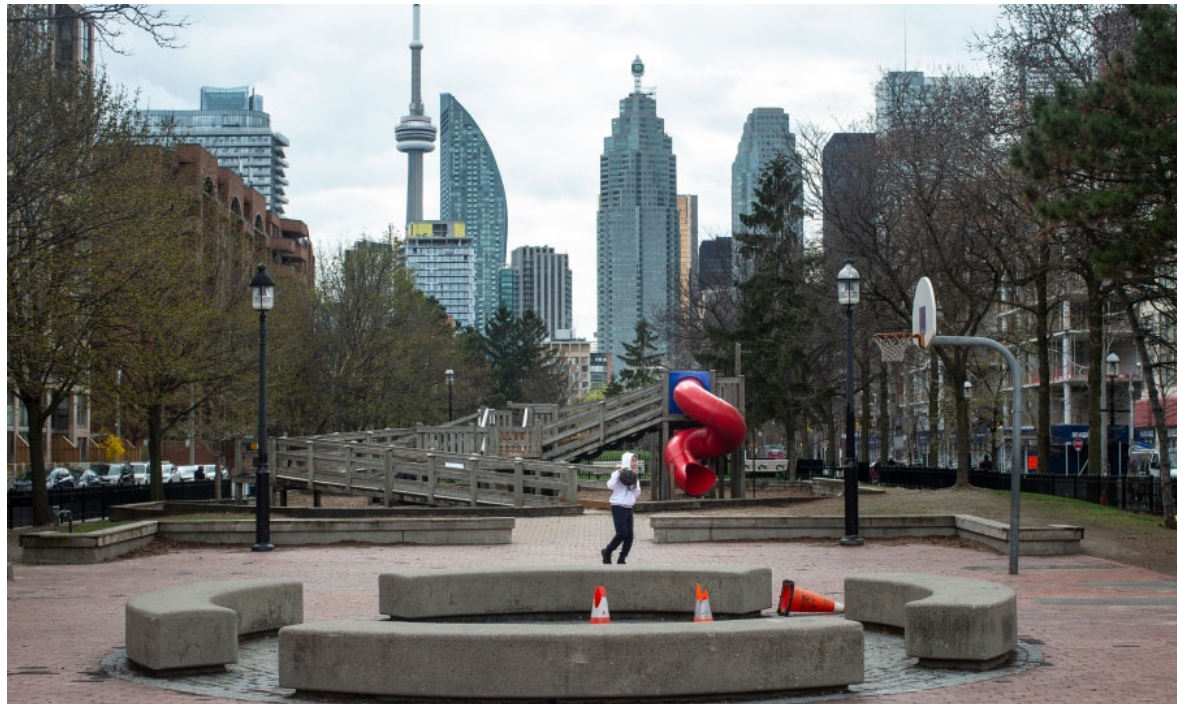
There is no data available in Canada or Ontario on outdoor transmission, but a study of case numbers in Ireland found that just one in every thousand confirmed COVID-19 cases was traced to outdoor transmission. Population

wide, that means 0.1 per cent of total cases was linked to outdoor transmission.

At the onset of the third wave of the pandemic, British Columbia took a harm reduction approach, permitting outdoor gatherings of 10 people, keeping case numbers down, without imposing large scale outdoor restrictions.

Now, as the Victoria Day long weekend approaches in less than two weeks, Dr. Chagla says it's time to start pivoting to an "outdoor focused strategy," shifting gears from discouraging being outdoors to encouraging it.

RELATED IMAGES



A youth plays basketball in an otherwise quiet court in Toronto. Public health experts are raising their eyebrows at Ontario's decision to restrict outdoor gatherings, saying the latest evidence suggests the measures won't do much to cut down on COVID-19 transmission. THE CANADIAN PRESS/Chris Young

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Ontario Enacts Provincial Emergency and Stay-at-Home Order

Additional measures needed to protect health system capacity and save lives during third wave of COVID-19

April 07, 2021

[Office of the Premier](#)

TORONTO — The Ontario government, in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health and other health experts, is immediately declaring a third [provincial emergency](#) under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMPCA). These measures are being taken in response to the rapid increase in COVID-19 transmission, the threat on the province's hospital system capacity, and the increasing risks posed to the public by COVID-19 variants.

Details were provided today by Premier Doug Ford, Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, Solicitor General Sylvia Jones, and Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health.

"The COVID-19 situation is at a critical stage and we must act quickly and decisively to stay ahead of these deadly new variants," said Premier Ford. "By imposing these strict new measures we will keep people safe while allowing our vaccination program to reach more people, starting with our high risk population and identified hot spots. Although this is difficult, I urge everyone to follow these public health measures and together we will defeat this deadly virus."

Case rates, hospitalizations, and ICU occupancy are increasing rapidly, threatening to overwhelm the health care system. The number of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the province have increased by 28.2 per cent between the period of March 28 and April 5, 2021. In addition, between March 28 and April 5, 2021, Ontario has seen the number of COVID-19 patients in intensive care escalate by 25 per cent. While every

health care services (including getting vaccinated), for outdoor exercise , or for work that cannot be done remotely. As Ontario's health care capacity is threatened, the Stay-at-Home order, and other new and existing public health and workplace safety measures will work to preserve public health system capacity, safeguard vulnerable populations, allow for progress to be made with vaccinations and save lives.

Retail

In addition, the province is also strengthening public health and workplace safety measures for non-essential retail under the [provincewide emergency brake](#).

Measures include, but are not limited to:

- Limiting the majority of non-essential retailers to only operate for curbside pick-up and delivery, via appointment, between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m., with delivery of goods to patrons permitted between 6:00 am and 9:00 pm, and other restrictions;
- Restricting access to shopping malls to limited specified purposes, including access for curbside pick-up and delivery, via appointment, with one single designated location inside the shopping mall, and any number of designated locations outside the shopping mall, along with other restrictions;
- Restricting discount and big box stores in-person retail sales to grocery items, pet care supplies, household cleaning supplies, pharmaceutical items, health care items, and personal care items only;
- Permitting the following stores to operate for in-person retail by appointment only and subject to a 25 per cent capacity limit and restricting allowable hours of operation to between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. with the delivery of goods to patrons permitted between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m.:
 - Safety supply stores;
 - Businesses that primarily sell, rent or repair assistive devices, aids or supplies, mobility devices, aids or supplies or medical devices, aids or supplies;
 - Rental and leasing services including automobile, commercial and light industrial machinery and equipment rental;
 - Optical stores that sell prescription eyewear to the public;

cellphone or for repairs or technical support.

- Permitting outdoor garden centres and plant nurseries, and indoor greenhouses that engage in sales to the public, to operate with a 25 per cent capacity limit and a restriction on hours of operation to between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m.

These additional and strengthened public health and workplace safety measures will be in effect as of Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 12:01 a.m.

Education

Keeping schools and child care open is critical to the mental health and well-being of Ontario children and youth. Schools and child care will remain open for in-person care and learning in public health regions where it is permitted, with strict safety measures in place.

In addition, beginning next week, education workers who provide direct support to students with special education needs across the province, and all education workers in select hot spot areas, will be eligible to register for vaccination.

Vaccinations will commence during the April break starting with priority neighborhoods in Toronto and Peel, then rolling out to priority neighborhoods in other hot spot regions, including York, Ottawa, Hamilton, Halton and Durham. This will be followed by a rollout across the province as supply allows.

"While our government took decisive action by implementing the provincewide emergency brake, more needs to be done to protect against the threats to our health system resources and the continued health and safety of individuals and families across the province," said Christine Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. "By further strengthening public health and workplace safety measures, we can work to reduce transmission of the virus while we work to rollout Phase 2 of our vaccine distribution plan, and put more needles in the arms of Ontarians."

"The rapid and increasing spread of COVID-19 and the variants of concern pose significant threats to our health care system and the well-being of Ontarians, requiring immediate and decisive action," said Solicitor General Sylvia Jones. "The declaration of a third provincial emergency is necessary to provide the government

As part of Phase Two of its COVID-19 vaccine distribution plan, people living in regions with the highest rates of transmission will be prioritized to receive a vaccine, starting with the most at-risk in the Peel and Toronto public health regions. This initiative will be expanded to additional "hot spot" regions based on established patterns of transmission, severe illness, and mortality.

To support this expanded vaccination effort, mobile teams are being organized to administer vaccines in high-risk congregate settings, residential buildings, faith-based locations, and locations occupied by large employers in hot spot neighbourhoods to individuals aged 18 or over. Pop-up clinics will also be set-up in highly impacted neighborhoods, including at faith-based locations and community centres in those hot spots, in collaboration with public health units and community organizations within those communities. The province will provide additional resources to support these mobile and pop-up clinics in the hardest-hit neighbourhoods.

The government will also extend booking for COVID-19 vaccination appointments to more age groups through its [provincial booking system](#), for public health regions with highly impacted neighbourhoods, on Friday, April 9, 2021. Booking eligibility will be extended to include individuals aged 50 and over for COVID-19 vaccination appointments at mass immunization clinics in high-risk areas as identified by postal code, using the provincial booking system.

Workplace Inspections

Health and safety inspectors and provincial offenses officers will increase inspections and enforcement at essential businesses in regional hot zones to continue protecting essential workers while on the job. There have been 19,500 COVID-related workplace inspections and investigations across the province since the beginning of 2021. During those visits, over 450 COVID-19 related tickets have been issued and OHS inspectors have issued over 14,446 OHS orders and stopped unsafe work related to COVID-19 a total of 24 times.

Rapid Testing

Rapid testing continues to be deployed in workplaces for asymptomatic staff in key

rates of transmission to increase access to testing, and the process for enrollment in the screening program will be streamlined to allow for quick access to these supports.

"As we continue to see COVID-19 variants of concern drive this third wave of COVID-19, it is evident stronger public health and workplace measures are needed to help interrupt the spread of the virus," said Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health. "By all of us staying at home, while still taking some time to enjoy the outdoors with the people we live with in our local neighbourhoods and maintaining two metres physical distance from others, we can reduce our mobility, minimize transmission, protect our loved ones and our communities, safeguard health system capacity, and save lives."

Quick Facts

- Over the past week, the province's positivity rate is 5.1 per cent, well above the high-alert threshold of 2.5 per cent, and as of April 6, 2021, there has been a total of 2,483 cases with one of the three variants of concern (VoC). The percent of cases in the last week that tested positive for a mutation or VOC was 63.1 per cent.
- On Saturday April 3, 2021, in response to an alarming surge in case numbers and COVID-19 hospitalizations across the province and in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the government imposed a [provincewide emergency brake](#), implementing additional time-limited public health and workplace safety measures, including encouraging remote work in all industries to the greatest extent possible and the closure of additional workplaces, further capacity limits on some essential businesses which are able to remain open, and strengthened advice on limiting trips outside of the home for essential reasons.
- On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, all Ontarians are asked to limit trips outside the home to necessities such as food, medication, medical appointments, supporting vulnerable community members, or exercising outdoors with members of their household in our their communities. Individuals should remain in their local communities and avoid all non-essential

and 500 critical care and high intensity medicine beds. This includes \$1.8 billion in 2021–22 to continue providing care for COVID-19 patients, addressing surgical backlogs and keeping pace with patient needs through its [Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#).

- The Ontario government continues to implement its [High Priority Communities Strategy](#) to provide targeted supports to communities hardest hit by COVID-19. In these communities 1,000 Community Ambassadors have been mobilized, 30 community testing sites have been opened and nearly 36,000 PPE kits have been distributed to community members.
 - Get tested if you have COVID-19 symptoms, or if you have been advised of exposure by your local public health unit or through the COVID Alert App. Visit [Ontario.ca/covidtest](https://ontario.ca/covidtest) to find the nearest testing location.
-

Additional Resources

- [Ontario Implements Provincewide Emergency Brake](#)
 - [Ontario Moving to Phase Two of COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Plan](#)
 - [2021 Budget - Ontario's Action Plan: Protecting People's Health and Our Economy](#)
 - The [Digital Main Street program](#) helps main street businesses build their online presence and reach more customers.
 - [Property Tax and Energy Cost Rebates](#)
 - Visit Ontario's [COVID-19 communications resources web page](#) for resources in multiple languages to help local communication efforts.
 - Visit Ontario's [COVID-19 vaccine web page](#) to view the latest provincial data and information on COVID-19 vaccines.
 - Visit Ontario's COVID-19 information [website](#) to learn more about how the province continues to protect the people of Ontario from the virus.
 - For public inquiries call ServiceOntario, INFOLine at 1-866-532-3161 (Toll-free in Ontario only).
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Province of Ontario

Netflix movie shoots scenes in Cornwall



A caravan from Muse Entertainment and MELS Studios lines the south side of Montreal Road in Cornwall, Ont. on Monday, May 3, 2021. The film crew was in the city to shoot scenes for an upcoming Netflix film. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)

CORNWALL – A Montreal film production company shot scenes in downtown Cornwall for an upcoming Netflix movie.

Local residents couldn't miss the caravan of large trucks stretched along the south side of Montreal Road and parked at the Cornwall Civic Complex Monday morning.

A spokesperson for Muse Entertainment told Cornwall Newswatch they were shooting for one day in a downtown store.

The spokesperson, who asked not to be named, says they were “supposed to shoot scenes near the river” and

Crew members could be seen carrying makeup cases and other articles in and out of the side entrance at the back of 149 Montreal Road. Two pop-up tents were at the back of the building where some of the staff were under umbrellas in the alleyway.

The studio representative noted they were bringing business to the city, as the 85-member production crew stayed the night at two hotels, plus they ordered local takeout and rented the parking spaces from the city.

The film is purported to be a Christmas-themed romantic comedy called "Single All The Way." A release date is not known.

An email to Netflix media relations requesting comment for this story was not returned.



Crew members gather in the alleyway next to 149 Montreal Road in Cornwall, Ont. on Monday, May 3, 2021 during filming of an upcoming Netflix film. Around 85 crew spent the night in the city at local hotels. (Newswatch Group/Bill Kingston)

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- [Cornwall man targeted with race-based graffiti: relative](#)

This is **Exhibit “V”** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.

Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

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POLITICS


More municipalities speak out against Randy Hillier's COVID-19 rhetoric



By [Darryn Davis](#) & [Alexandra Mazur](#) • Global News

Posted March 26, 2021 10:46 am

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A motion initiated in South Frontenac to denounce MPP [Randy Hillier](#)'s stance on the [COVID-19](#) pandemic is getting attention and support from other municipal councils in his riding, Lanark-Frontenac-Kingston.

The motion was put forward by Coun. Ron Sleeth, who wrote that Hillier has shown a “blatant disregard for those restrictions and regulations put in place for the safety of residents in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.”

READ MORE: [South Frontenac council votes to denounce Randy Hillier over COVID-19 rhetoric](#)

Along with sending those sentiments to Queen’s Park, council promised to forward the motion to other local municipalities in Hillier’s riding, asking them to denounce the MPP.

So far, Global News has heard back from leaders in four other municipalities who said they have voted or will soon vote on similar motions.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

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During a committee of the whole meeting on March 22, Smiths Falls Mayor Shawn Pankow called Hillier's behaviour "reckless and irresponsible."

"As much as we're exhausted with the pandemic situation, we're more exhausted and frustrated with his continued resistance," Pankow said.

Two other municipalities have yet to discuss the matter but are planning to do so.

On Wednesday, Perth's Mayor John Fenik said they have yet to receive the motion, but told Global News that council will debate the resolution if it's brought forward.

Still, Fenik went on record condemning Hillier's actions.

"Randy Hillier has continually disregarded public health measures, he's said we don't need to wear a mask, he's talked about this pandemic being a hoax and people being lied to, this isn't the case," Fenik said.

Video will begin after these messages...

2:04

'It's infuriating': Constituents

“It’s just a bunch of rhetoric, he just keeps spewing out the same misinformation,” Higgins said.

“He’s not representing the constituents in his riding.”

In fact, Higgins has promised to run against the longtime MPP in the next election and take Hillier’s spot for the Progressive Conservatives. Hillier is currently representing the riding as an independent after being kicked out of the PC caucus in 2019.

In a phone interview Thursday, Hillier says his stance has always been that lockdowns are not constitutionally sound, that they are ineffective in preventing the spread of COVID-19 and that they do more harm to people than they help.

Hillier said he’s become a target because dissenting views are attacked, especially representative has been temporarily banned from social media posts referring to COVID-19.

Video will begin after these messages...

READ MORE: [Ontario budget to spend billions on emerging from COVID-19 pandemic](#)

He said throughout the pandemic, his office has received numerous calls from people who are being harmed by the lockdowns and their pleas are being ignored, including by the councillors speaking out against him.

STORY CONTINUES BELOW ADVERTISEMENT

As of Thursday, Hillier said he hasn't spoken to any of the local politicians who have voiced their disapproval of him.

When asked if he believed he was representing the views of his constituents, he said he knows those in his riding do not have a "singular, homogenous" point of view.

Canadian COVID-19 Status

CURRENT HOSPITALIZATIONS

4,784

(7-day change: -337)

CURRENT ICU ADMIS

287

(7-day change: -7)

Video will begin after these messages...

This is **Exhibit “W”** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.

Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

[REDACTED]

Mon, Apr
27, 2020,
7:02 PM

to me

Excellent piece Randy. Somehow I don't think you could have written this as a sitting member of the government. Good on you. I'm one of those waiting for a knee replacement which was scheduled for May 6th after waiting for almost two years. God only knows when it'll take place after all this.

Thanks again Randy, keep up the good work.

[REDACTED]
Westport

On Fri, Aug 19, 2022 at 10:47 AM Randy Hillier <rah@randyhillier.com> wrote:

This is **Exhibit "X"** referred to in the
Affidavit of **Randy Hillier** sworn before me
virtually this 14 day of September, 2022.

Barrister and Solicitor in the
Province of Ontario

Hamilton

Ontario hospital CEO who vacationed in Dominican Republic resigns from health panels

Dr. Tom Stewart has resigned from 3 advisory panels, says health ministry

[Bobby Hristova](#) · CBC News · Posted: Jan 05, 2021 7:10 PM ET | Last Updated: January 6, 2021



Dr. Tom Stewart has resigned from the Health Coordination Table, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, and the LTC Incident Management System Table according to the province's Ministry of Health. (Niagara Health)



The CEO of Ontario's St. Joseph's Health System in Hamilton and Niagara Health vacationed in the Caribbean over the holidays despite government advisories to stay home as the number of COVID-19 cases soared across the province.

Dr. Tom Stewart, who sat on a number of health advisory boards, including a COVID-19 panel that advises Premier Doug Ford, resigned from those groups Tuesday after news of his trip to the Dominican Republic was made public.

The COVID-19 advisory panel Stewart sat on consists of scientific experts and health leaders who evaluate and report on emerging evidence relevant to the pandemic, to inform Ontario's response.

In a statement, Stewart apologized for taking the trip.

"I regret this non-essential travel and I'm sorry," Stewart's statement said. "Everyone should be avoiding non-essential travel now, including me."

- [CEO of Niagara Health dropped from role after 'regrettable' Dominican holiday](#)
- [Hamilton Conservative MP Sweet travelled to U.S. over holidays, resigns from ethics committee](#)

"As a health system leader, my actions in no way reflect the tireless dedication and commitment of the staff at St. Joseph's Health System, who continue to live the legacy of our organization every day."

The Ministry of Health confirmed Stewart's resignation to CBC News in an email statement late Tuesday.

Ontarians made 'countless sacrifices,' says ministry

The statement said Ontario's deputy minister of health, Helen Angus, accepted Stewart's resignation from the Health Coordination Table, the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table, and the LTC Incident Management System Table.

"The people of Ontario have made countless sacrifices during the pandemic and it remains critically important that everyone continues to follow public health advice. We all have a part to play to stop the spread of COVID-19."

St. Joseph's Health System includes six health facilities in southern Ontario, including St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, St. Mary's General Hospital in Kitchener, St. Joseph's Health Centre in Guelph, St. Joseph's Home Care, St. Joseph's Lifecare Centre in Brantford and St. Joseph's Villa in Dundas.

Niagara Health is also a network with five hospitals.

Patrick Moore, the senior public affairs specialist at St. Joseph's Health System, told CBC News via email that Stewart was on approved vacation from Friday, Dec. 18 until Tuesday.

WATCH | Provincial ministers resign following holiday travel abroad

It's unclear who approved the vacation or why it was permitted. It's also unclear how many of his vacation days were spent in the Dominican Republic and if he has returned to Canada.

Moore said the CEO will isolate at home for two weeks. He's been CEO since Aug. 1, 2018.

St. Joseph's Villa in Dundas has had a COVID-19 outbreak since Nov. 20, which has seen 55 infections and eight deaths. There was a facility-wide outbreak at the Greater Niagara General Hospital after [more than 100 people tested positive for COVID-19](#). The St. Catharines General site also has an outbreak.

Elected officials in Ottawa, Ontario, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Quebec have faced consequences for travelling, some of them outside the country, when their governments have asked residents to stay put in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

- **ANALYSIS** [With pandemic travel scandal, Kenney faces conservative kryptonite: elitism](#)

News of Stewart's vacation comes as Ontario reported another 3,128 cases of COVID-19 and 51 more deaths of people with the illness on Tuesday, as the number of active infections and hospitalizations in the province both reached pandemic highs.

There are now 25,840 confirmed, active cases of the illness throughout Ontario, and the seven-day average of new daily cases surpassed 3,000 for the first time.

Unions disappointed by CEO's vacation

Michael Hurley, president of the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions/CUPE, said he was "disappointed" to learn of Stewart's vacation.

"People in a position of leadership need to show leadership," Hurley said in a phone interview late Tuesday.

"You would hope someone in a senior position in a major hospital system would get that it's important to not only respect health orders but to be seen to be respecting them because you would think you would have a much more profound understanding of why those orders were in place."

Morgan Hoffarth, president of the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario, said Stewart's choice was irresponsible.

"We have been working tirelessly day in and day out," Hoffarth said. "I work at a nursing home in an outbreak, so for front-line health-care workers to be at work every single day and not able to take a day off, and to have leaders that are travelling internationally or abroad for pleasure is not something I think people will respond favourably to."

- [Hamilton sees 11 new deaths, 209 new COVID cases Tuesday](#)

Sharleen Stewart, president of SEIU Healthcare, a union which represents more than 60,000 front-line health-care workers in Ontario said "There cannot be one set of rules for hospital CEOs making over half-a-million dollars a year and a different set of rules for frontline workers, like PSWs, (personal support workers), who are still waiting for the temporary wage increase promised to them by the premier last October."

None of the union leaders called for Dr. Stewart's resignation.

"I think that's something he needs to reflect on ... I'm not a big fan of making an example out of people who fail," Hurley said.

"This is an example of a significant portion of Ontario society that still doesn't get we're in a terrible pandemic and can't be travelling as we always did much as we would like to."

Corrections

- An earlier version of the story had said in the headline that Stewart had vacationed for weeks in the Dominican Republic. In fact, Stewart had vacationed in the Dominican Republic for an unknown period of time.

Jan 05, 2021 8:25 PM ET

With files from CBC News

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