

Dear Hon. Seamus O'Regan,

The Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association (CPAA) is the bargaining agent representing over 8300 employees of Canada Post, most of whom are women and some of whom are single income earners. They serve YOUR constituents from any of the over 3,100 rural post offices located across all of Canada.

The pandemic proved beyond a doubt how important it is to have strong and immediate access to postal services. That is why we are writing about the Federal Government's mandate requiring all federally regulated workers to be vaccinated.

From the time COVID-19 first reached our shores until when the mandate was implemented, postal workers both vaccinated and unvaccinated worked side by side to serve your constituents. In fact, in some cases, they continued to do so even after the mandate was implemented. Throughout that entire time, no significant evidence has shown an increased risk to anyone's health, whether we're speaking of postal workers or the people they serve. In fact, we credit the many safety measures that were put into place before vaccines even existed for why transmission rates were low. On average CPAA operated post offices could have 1-4 people working daily and often there is only one employee working in an office at a time.

As a result of the vaccine mandate, many postal workers have since been declared "unfit" simply for choosing not to be vaccinated. The impact that this is having on your constituents cannot be ignored. Not only are some of them postal workers who can no longer earn a living wage, but those who are left to handle the workload, are struggling to maintain a level of service that Canadians have come to expect from their local post office. As a result, many of your constituents are forced to wait longer for service where outlets still operate, or worse, they're required to travel as much as an hour to a neighbouring community because their local post office has been temporarily closed.

In short, the removal of unvaccinated workers from the workplace has brought tremendous hardship to every single constituent who relies on Canada Post, either for income or for the services it provides. It is our view that unvaccinated workers, through a safe and effective testing process, should be able to return to the workplace and regain their employment and income security. After all, Canada Post Corporation is allowing those employees with approved accommodations to continue to work. The time has come to stop the division and to restore an environment where everyone can co-exist.

Along with many Canadians, we feel that Federal Government's current vaccination mandate needs to be reviewed considering the diminished risk as the pandemic becomes endemic and aligns with the rollback of provincial regulations across the country. We urge you, to not support proposed regulations under Part II of the Canada Labour Code to make vaccination mandatory in federally regulated workplaces.

CPAA looks forward to your written response.

Respectfully,



Brenda McAuley
National President, CPAA

