



grandmothers
Advocacy Network



Mouvement de soutien des
grands-mères

World Vision



Save the Children

GLOBAL
CITIZEN

Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister

April 27th, 2021

Dear Prime Minister,

We are writing to ask you to present a clear plan for Canada to start donating some of its vaccines to COVAX in parallel to our own vaccination efforts, with the excess having being fully donated once Canada has secured enough doses to meet domestic demand.

COVID-19 continues to spread and Canadians are rightfully worried about getting sick and losing their livelihoods, and are frustrated with ongoing cycles of lockdown. But with spring arriving, hope is on the horizon. Canadians can be confident that very soon, we can all be vaccinated.

Most other nations are not so fortunate. Fewer than 1% of all doses have been administered in low-income countries. On current trends, over 60% of the world's population might not get access to a COVID-19 vaccine until 2022 or even later. The impacts of the pandemic on the world's most vulnerable populations — including children, refugees, migrants and others living in extreme poverty — will only worsen and reverberate further into the future unless we take action now.

This is extremely worrying not only from an equity point of view, but for the safety and well-being of Canadians. As long as the pandemic rages anywhere, more lives will be lost, new variants will emerge, and no one will be safe. Ending the pandemic is also essential for us to open up our borders and start to rebuild our economy. Unequal access to vaccines could cost the global economy up to \$9.2 trillion, with half the cost borne by wealthy countries like Canada. Avoiding those losses requires a global approach.

We salute Canada as one of the earliest and strongest supporters of COVAX. While we are happy to see vaccination starting in developing countries, COVAX faces a critical supply issue. Minister Gould has stated that we need to muster a spirit of global cooperation to ensure that COVAX's supply continues to increase. Countries like Canada that have ordered more vaccine doses than they need are best placed to start sharing them as soon as possible, leading by example.

Canada is on track to receive at least 48 million doses by the end of June. This is more than enough to give every Canadian at least the first dose — and real world evidence from the CDC now shows that one dose of mRNA vaccines can provide as much as 80% protection against COVID-19. By the end of September, Canada will have received at least 117 million doses (with more still on the way) — enough to give two doses to all Canadians with plenty to spare. We project this year that Canada will not only have enough doses to vaccinate 100% of its

population, but enough to vaccinate an additional 52 million individuals in lower income countries. This is enough to protect the entire populations of Haiti, Rwanda, and Sri Lanka combined. And this only accounts for doses secured, not Canada's outstanding contract options.

We recognize and commend your previous commitment to share any excess vaccines with countries in need. But to restore the gross imbalance in vaccine access between countries and put the world on a path to ending the pandemic this year, donations should start as soon as possible, in parallel to Canada's own vaccination campaign. Given the large supply expected in the coming weeks, this could be done without preventing any Canadian from getting his or her shot on time.

For example, the government could start donating just 1 out of every 10 doses for Canadians, totaling 4.8 million doses shared by the end of Q2, which would leave more than enough doses for every Canadian to receive 1 shot in that same period. In Q3, this could increase to 1 out of every 2 doses for Canadians, still with more than enough supply to ensure every Canadian can receive their second dose. By the fall, once Canada's vaccination campaign is nearly complete, the remainder of our excess doses should be donated.

Donations should be free of charge for receiving countries and done through COVAX rather than bilaterally, to ensure equity and the most effective use of vaccines. Sharing of doses should be planned as early as possible with COVAX so that doses can be shipped directly from the manufacturer, allowing rapid deployment and maximizing shelf-life. Donating while Canada continues its domestic rollout could help to protect front-line health workers and the highest-risk populations around the world, with the potential to save thousands of lives. It could also help prevent new variants developing, and end the pandemic sooner.

With the UK-hosted Summit coming-up in June, G7 countries must send a signal to the world that they support vaccine equity. France announced that they will donate at least 500,000 doses by the end of June, New Zealand will transfer 1.6 million of its own Covax purchases to low-income countries, and Spain will start sharing once 50% of its population has been vaccinated. The US also announced that they will donate the entirety of their AstraZeneca supply to other countries. Canada, as one of the countries with the largest and more diverse vaccine portfolios among them, has a responsibility to do the same and more, as soon as possible.

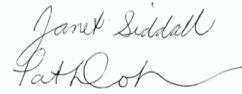
With kind regards,



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CC: Minister Gould, Minister Hajdu, Minister Anand, Minister Garneau, Minister Freeland