

MAVERICK PARTY COVID-19 STATEMENT

The Maverick Party believes Prime Minister Trudeau and his government have mishandled Canada's approach to dealing with Covid-19 from the beginning. The Maverick Party has been critical of this failure in the past and our criticism will undoubtedly continue in the future.

However, the Maverick Party will not be forced to become involved in the on-going emotional debate over restrictions imposed by the Premiers of different provinces versus infringement of citizens' rights or freedoms.

Maverick is a federal party. Many Canadians in the various provinces across Canada have taken it upon themselves to speak out against the imposed restrictions (as is their freedom to do so). Canadians from coast to coast have the right to speak out, rally and protest if they so choose. However, governments also have the responsibility of protecting their citizens and must weigh that responsibility carefully.

The restrictions and/or lockdowns decreed and enforced are done provincially. Province-by-province. As previously stated, Maverick is a federal party.

It would be highly hypocritical for the Maverick Party to criticize the federal government for encroaching into provincial jurisdiction with their carbon tax (amongst many other issues) and then turnaround and impose ourselves in provincial jurisdiction over healthcare restrictions or the lockdowns.

We believe that from the very beginning the Trudeau Liberals have **failed** to respond appropriately and expeditiously to the Covid virus threat.

1. Failure to close travel from China once it became evident that the virus posed a serious threat of migrating to Canada.
2. Failure (at a minimum) to ensure anyone arriving in Canada from infected countries were tested and quarantined.
3. Failure to ensure adequate PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) was retained in Canada for our essential health workers and **NOT** send 16 tonnes of PPE to China.
4. Failure to support vaccine development and production *in* Canada, such as *Providence Therapeutics* (because it's western?)
5. Failure to secure contracts with Europe and the United States to provide vaccines once developed and rigorously tested - rather than relying on supply from China.
6. Failure to work cooperatively with the provinces to ensure the most vulnerable were properly isolated (sheltered in place) and protected wherever they lived.
7. Absolute failure to provide proper communication that informed Canadians of the degree of risk and consistent messaging about protective measures to ensure safety.

Maverick Party believes that the majority of Canadians were, and are, willing to sacrifice to protect themselves, their families and their community.

This initial willingness to **temporarily** set aside individual rights and freedoms for the greater common good has been abused and eroded by government decisions.

Imposed restrictions have been mis-timed, miscommunicated, and misdirected. Too often the way restrictions have been decreed and enforced have **not made sense to citizens**.

For more than a year Canadians have been looking to all levels of government for leadership, a responsible approach and a measured response to this threat.

Governments are expected to have the required information to determine the best balance between protecting the most vulnerable versus the freedoms and livelihoods of the many.

It is their responsibility to communicate that balance credibly, honestly and consistently in order to secure the support of the people and make the best-informed decisions regarding the safety of all society.

In summary, the Maverick Party believes Canadians still have choices. They can choose to social distance, or not. They can choose to wear a mask, or not. They can choose to be vaccinated, or not. However, governments are elected to take whatever action they feel appropriate in these areas.

If some people believe such actions are inappropriate, they have the right to raise their voices in opposition, and that is what they are doing. If they truly believe their provincial government has overstepped its authority, they will hold them accountable in the next election.

Regardless of where Canadians find themselves in this controversial situation, the Maverick Party believes that in a healthy democracy, citizens should always exercise their democratic right to speak out and express their opinion.

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