



Suze Morrison

MPP Toronto Centre

October 1, 2021

Premier of Ontario

Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

Re: Supports Local Businesses Need to Implement Proof of Vaccination

Dear Premier Doug Ford and Minister of Health Christine Elliott,

I am writing to you on behalf of local businesses in the Church and Wellesley Village who have raised questions and concerns about the implementation of Ontario's proof of vaccination system.

I met with local business operators earlier this week and they raised a number of questions that require clarification.

1. Business owners are concerned about how to recognize inter-provincial and international proof of vaccination documents. Businesses in my riding are requesting the ministry provide examples of valid vaccine documentation from other provinces, countries, and Indigenous healthcare providers, so that their staff can correctly assess the documents they are being provided by customers.
2. Similarly, businesses are struggling to identify valid medical exemption documents. They have requested the ministry provide businesses with examples that they can train staff with. Staff with no medical expertise are having to review documents presented to them by customers with no ability to confirm the integrity of those documents.
3. Businesses requested additional clarity regarding children under 12. Specifically, what a business operator is supposed to do in a situation where an accompanying adult says a child is under 12 but this appears questionable to their staff. When and how should they confirm the age of younger patrons?

Additionally, concerns were raised about the equity impacts of vaccine certificates, in their current form, on the 2SLGBTQ+ community. A bathhouse in Toronto Centre shared that many of their patrons who are not open about their sexual orientation are scared of providing identifying information that could potentially out them. Queer and Trans communities deserve a safer more secure way of proving vaccination that does not put their identities at risk.

These businesses support the need for proof of vaccination. However, since September 22nd they have faced a number of issues that highlight significant gaps in the implementation of the vaccination certificate program. These issues pose a serious risk to the health and safety of staff and patrons.

Additional concerns were raised by businesses about what financial supports small businesses can expect from this government in the coming months.

Businesses in my community are at the brink. Carrying 100% of their rent, staff salaries, insurance, and other operating expenses while operating at 25% capacity is unsustainable. Particularly in a neighbourhood with some of the highest commercial rents in the country. Businesses want to do the safe thing and follow the public health guidelines on safe capacities, but they can not carry the burden of this lost revenue without assistance for as long as they have.

I look forward to hearing your response. The Church and Wellesley Village is in urgent need of clarity on the above mentioned points, as well as financial assistance to ensure they are able to stay in business throughout the fall and winter months.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suze Morrison', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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