



## Official Opposition · l'Opposition officielle

Ontario NDP Caucus • Groupe parlementaire du NPD de l'Ontario

May 12<sup>th</sup> 2020

Office of the Premier,  
Legislative Bldg,  
Queen's Park, Toronto,  
ON M7A 1A1

Premier Ford,

As you have indicated, Ontario is preparing for COVID-19 recovery. We are writing today to recommend immediate action to better-protect Ontario's workers: those currently working; as well as, those who will be returning to work as we recover from COVID-19 and our provincial economy begins to re-open.

We recommend that Ontario immediately strike a Workplace Safety Readiness Committee to help Ontario be more successful as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. This committee must include equal representation from health care, organized labour, business / industry leadership; and safety professionals. The Committee would be empowered to provide strong recommendations that can be immediately implemented to ensure a safe transition back to a fully functioning economy.

This recommendation becomes more urgent everyday – especially as we plan our recovery for Ontario as it comes out of the COVID-19 crisis. To that end, we are asking that your government work pro-actively to ensure that, as businesses re-open, they have the tools, resources, and PPE they need to follow the hierarchy of controls and the precautionary principle.

The provincial government must immediately provide employers, supervisors and workers with the information and direction they need to protect workers' health and safety in their workplace. A Workplace Safety Readiness Committee would ensure world-class workplace safety in Ontario, designed by Ontarians, for Ontarians. This forward-thinking approach would help Ontario's workplaces address hazards quickly, and more effectively.

Due to the severity of these concerns during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are requesting a written response to our recommendation that Ontario immediately strike a Workplace Safety Readiness Committee to help Ontario be more successful as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.



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As always, we remain willing to help you ensure that Ontario's workplaces are safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.W." followed by a stylized surname.

Jamie West, MPP  
Labour Relations  
Critic for the Official Opposition

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wayne Gates".

Wayne Gates, MPP  
Workplace Health & Safety  
Critic for the Official Opposition

CC:

Hon. Monte McNaughton  
Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development