

The Honorable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario

April 22, 2021

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing you out of grave concern for the members of our faith and broader communities.

Despite evidence and advice from physicians and epidemiologists in our Province you have determined not to institute sick pay for our people who work amongst others out of economic necessity. We see this as a devaluation of their lives, and we are holding you accountable for what happens to them.

We ask you to immediately legislate paid sick leave at least until the end of this calendar year for those with symptoms of Covid-19, those who require testing and are awaiting results and those who have been exposed to a known case, so they may isolate at home and not spread the virus to their co-workers and back into the community.

With respect, and urgent concern,

On behalf of **Faith in the City coalition**:



Endorsed by:

Aliza Spiro, Creative Director, The Song Shul, Toronto
Almos Tassonyi, St. Clements- Eglinton
Anne Heemskerk, Chaplain with RC Church and school system
Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Rabbi Emeritus Beth Tzedec Congregation
Bernard West, St Clements Eglinton Outreach Committee
Betty Lou, Knox Sister of St. Joseph, Toronto
Bosco Tung, Regional Relationship Manager, Compassion Canada
Brian McIntosh, Bloordale United Church
Cantor Jeremy Burko, Beth Radom Congregation
Chander Khanna, former Vice President Hindu Institute of Learning
Deb Farrell, St Clements Anglican Church; Community Outreach
Dr. Brian Walsh, Toronto School of Theology

Elaine Gareau, member of Saint-Antoine-Daniel, Barrie, ON
Elin Goulden, Social Justice & Advocacy Consultant, Diocese of Toronto
Elizabeth McLean, member, Grace United Church, Barrie, ON
Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
Emily Albert, Holy Blossom Temple Interfaith Committee Member
Ena Cord
Flo Cook, member Anglican Diocese of Toronto Social Justice and Advocacy Committee
Francine St Pierre
Genevieve Anderson, Chaplain, Catholic
Heidrun Fiebig, member of Neighbourhood Interfaith Group, and St. Ansgar Lutheran Church
Humber Valley United Church
Imam Habeeb Alli
Imam Irshad Osman
ISARC, Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition
James D. Wilson, Toronto Area Interfaith Council
James Keenan, ordained minister, Saint Luke's United Church
Jennifer Auger, DLM, Norval United Church Georgetown
Jesse James, Willowdale House Church, Church Planter
Jill Strapp, Manor Road United Church
Jo-Anne Atherley - Community Member - ISSRA
Joanne Robinson, St. Joseph's church Grimsby
Joel Tang, Youth Pastor, North York Chinese Baptist Church
John Deacon, lay minister, Regent Park Community Ministries
John Joseph Mastandrea
John Meiboom, Chair of Council, Willowdale Christian Reformed Church, Toronto
John Ryerson Faith in the City Co Chair
Jörg Wacker, Pastor at Reach North York/ Liebenzell Mission of Canada
Kevin Carpenter, Co-Chair, Toronto Neighbourhood Interfaith Group
Kevin Moore,- Community Minister Regent Park Community Minister
Laura Puiras, Associate Pastor at Toronto LifeSpring Christian Fellowship
Laura Schlee, Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Lily Cheng - Executive Director, NeighbourLink North York
Linda Sparling, Parishioner St Clement's Anglican Church
Lynn Lawrence OUTREACH BLOORDALE UNITED CHURCH
Maria Christina Conlon, Davenport Perth Community Minister, United Church of Canada
Marilyn Bacon, Chair of Council, Lawrence Park Community Church
Muneeb Nasir, Executive Director - Cordoba Centre for Civic Engagement & Leadership
Nancy Audley, St. Clement's Outreach Committee member
Nancy Hood, Chair of Outreach Committee, St. Clement's Anglican Church, Toronto, Ontario
Pandit Suraj Persad. Hindu Minister & Chaplain, Toronto Police Service, Toronto
Paul Dowling, Animator for Social Justice, Beach United Church

Paul McKenna Roman Catholic Church
Rabbi Aaron Levy, Makom: Creative Downtown Judaism
Rabbi David Seed, President, Toronto Board of Rabbis
Rabbi Edward Goldfarb Holy Blossom Temple (retired)
Rabbi Eli Courante, Jewish, The Lodzer Centre Congregation
Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, City Shul
Rabbi Irit Printz, B'nai Shalom v Tikvah, Ajax
Rabbi Jennifer Gorman
Rabbi John Moscovitz Holy Blossom Temple
Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Temple Anshe Sholom, Hamilton
Rabbi Jordan Helfman
Rabbi Joshua Corber, Beit Rayim Synagogue and School, USCJ
Rabbi Julia Appel
Rabbi Mark Smiley Smilovic - TBR
Rabbi Michael Dolgin, senior rabbi, Temple Sinai Congregation of Toronto
Rabbi Shalom Schachter - Lead, Employment Policy Working Group - Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition Interfaith
Rabbi Stephen Wise, Shaarei-Beth El Congregation of Oakville
Rabbi Steven Wernick Beth Tzedec Congregation
Rabbi Yael Splansky
Rabbi Zachary Goodman, Rabbi at Holy Blossom Temple
Ralph Carl Wushke, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Toronto M5B 18X
Rebecca Barrett
Rena Arshinoff, Rabbi, Baycrest
Rev Fiona Ng; PAOC credential minister; Lead of OURCHURCH YYZ
Rev Karen Dale, in ministry with Beach United Church
Rev. Alexander Wilson Leaside Presbyterian Church
Rev. Cordelia Karpenko, Ordained Minister, St. Paul's United Church Ajax
Rev. Douglas duCharme, Fairlawn Avenue United Church, Toronto
Rev. Dr. Cameron Watts, Minister of Forest Grove United Church
Rev. Dr. Cheri DiiNovo CM Trinity St Pauls Centre for Faith Justice and the Arts
Rev. Dr. Eric Bacon, member of Lawrence Park Community Church
Rev. Dr. Kristin Philipson, Rosedale United Church
Rev. Dr. Paul Hutchison, Lead Minister, Eglinton St. George's United Church
Rev. Dr. Todd Thomason, Senior Minister, Kingsway Baptist Church
Rev. Emily Gordon, Leaside United Church
Rev. George Moore Grace United Church, Barrie
Rev. Michael Stainton, retired, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Rev. Mr. Robert Paterson-Watt, pastor, Woodbine Heights Baptist Church
Rev. Paul Ivany, Lead Minister, Norval United Church
Rev. Roberta Howey, Rosedale United Church

Rev. Shawn Newton, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto
Rev. Stephen Milton, Lawrence Park Community Church
Rev. Susan Eagle, United Church of Canada, Barrie Ontario
Rev. Wayne Walder Neighbourhood Unitarian Universalist congregation
Rev'd Maggie Helwig, Church of St Stephen-in-the-Fields (Anglican)
Reverend Earl Smith, Church of Scientology Toronto
Robert White, Secretary, Toronto Area Interfaith Council
Ruth McDonald, volunteer associate minister, Burton Avenue United Church, Barrie Ontario
Samira Kanji, President, Noor Cultural Centre (Toronto)
Samuel Kaharabata, St. Clements Anglican
Selene Courjaud-Taylor, Burton Avenue United Church
Sidney Ikeda
Sister Susanne Prue, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine
Social Planning Toronto
Sr. Georgette Gregory, CSJ; Congregational Leader, Sisters of St. Joseph of Toronto
Stephen Margles Beth Tzedec Congregation
Stephen McDonnell
Sue Ennis, Fairlawn Avenue United Church
Susan Colacitti, St Clement's Church
Suzi Morris - Chair, Executive Council, Manor Road United Church
The Rev. Jim Houston, church of the Holy Trinity Anglican
The Rev'd Andrea Budgey, Poverty Reduction Subcommittee, Anglican Diocese of Toronto
The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto (Anglican Diocese of Toronto)
Virginia Mills, United Church of Canada
Zul Kassamali, President, Toronto Area Interfaith Council