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**By email**

April 29, 2021

The Honourable Bill Blair  
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The Honourable Patty Hajdu  
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Dear Minister Blair and Minister Hajdu:

We are writing to you as a follow-up to our letter on April 26, 2021. We are once again writing to request immediate action at Canada's international borders.

While returning, international air travelers are required to quarantine at a federally designated hotel, it has become evident that individuals are able to bypass this requirement. There are reports of international travelers booking return flights into nearby United States airports, taking a taxi or limousine to a United States-Canada land border crossing, and subsequently walking or driving across the border. These reports are deeply troubling and further illustrate the extreme risk that inadequate border measures pose in the face of deadly COVID-19 variants.

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With several land border crossings between the United States and the Province of Ontario, this loophole represents a significant threat to the health and well-being of Ontarians due to the potential for further entry of COVID-19 variants into the province. In the past two weeks, over 150,000 people – not including essential commercial truckers – have crossed Canada's land borders. This includes dozens of individuals who crossed between April 24, and April 26, 2021, after travelling from countries where direct flights to Canada are currently banned. This is not just an Ontario problem – it is a Canada-wide problem.

To protect the lives and well-being of our citizens, and to stop the spread of new variants into our province, we are requesting that the federal government take immediate action to close this loophole. Specifically, we are requesting the implementation of a mandatory 3-day hotel quarantine in federally designated hotels at the highest traffic crossings including those in Niagara, Windsor, Sarnia, and Brockville. Some of these crossings, including the Rainbow Bridge in Niagara Falls, are located in close proximity to other crossings. It is important that all travelers in these regions are met with the same quarantine requirement, to ensure that all points of entry are protected.

We would also like to reiterate our request from April 26, 2021, regarding the critical nature of pre-departure COVID-19 testing for domestic flights. In addition to the 17 domestic flights into Toronto Pearson International Airport, there have been a total of 153 domestic flights across Canada with COVID-19 exposures since April 15, 2021 according to the federal government's own data.

We appreciate your urgent attention to this matter and look forward to hearing from you on these critical issues related to the safety of our border.

Sincerely,



Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier and Minister of Health



Sylvia Jones  
Solicitor General