

Readout: PM Call with Premier Ford - February 9 2022

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Date: Thu, 10 Feb 2022 02:46:54 +0000

Hi all,

See below for a readout from this evening's call with Premier Ford.

The Premier has committed to returning to the PM with more information on next steps/resources needed for the Ambassador Bridge by tomorrow.

Call with Premier Ford

PMJT: Hey Doug!

PDF: Hi PM, how are ya?

PMJT: It's a busy time, but I'd love to hear how you're doing

PDF: Similar to yours, you never know what's going to happen and then things crop up. I understand and we all agree with peaceful protests but I'll start off with Ottawa vs. Toronto. I'll say that the police chief and Ottawa Mayor totally mismanaged this. The Toronto PD and Toronto Mayor did a great job. They've entrenched themselves in Ottawa. The bigger one for us and the country is the ambassador bridge and the state ground there. What I think is we gotta stop the spread of these protests and we protect Niagara and Sarnia and others. It's costing \$500-600M of trade and we'll be up to \$3.1B by tomorrow. What we can recommend and what we can work together on is that I've asked our AG to look at legal ways to give police more tools and exhaust legal remedies because the police are a little shy and I can't direct them. So that's one area we can focus on. We can't take their polar licenses, we checked that. We can shut down their fuel consumption and cordon off highways. That's where we're at.

PMJT: First of all, they're not a legal protest. They're occupying a municipal street and are not legally parked. You shouldn't need more tools – legal tools – they are barricading the ON economy and doing millions of damage a day and harming people's lives. At a time we're trying to draw in investments, a whole bunch of people are looking at this and saying we can't even clear up a protest on a bridge? I always wonder if they are not very smart people trying to think about shaming Canada in all sorts of ways and hurting economy and getting jobs back to the US. We've got to respond quickly to this. The bridges and tunnels act means the federal government has responsibility over the

bridge and border, so there is a role for us to play and we're happy to play it. But nobody can get on the bridge because they're on municipal land being blocked. So we'll give you whatever resources you in. The police of jurisdiction needs to do their job. If they're saying they can't do it because they don't have enough officers or equipment, we need to remove that excuse as soon as possible so they can do their work and we can prevent ON becoming a laughing stock

PDF: I'm just as frustrated as you and if I could direct the police, I would. There is one thing to have a protest in a city, but when you are impacting the economy and costing jobs, it's a problem

PMJT: Are you saying the OPP can't help?

PDF: I can't direct them. I can't call them and say get your asses in there and kicking ass. It's up to the OPP

PMJT: does the mayor have to direct the local police?

PDF: local police have to direct OPP and then the OPP come up with their plan. I understand they are working with RCMP and we may need their help. The other problem is that no tow truck wants to tow the trucks on the bridge

PMJT: has Windsor asked of anything of the OPP? Have they made a formal request to make a formal request to support them

PDF: they've put that request in through the solicitor general. I spoke to the Mayor and that was the plan. SG was in touch as well and I understand the request is going forward

PMJT: RCMP told me they don't have jurisdiction and said they need to get asked and they need an in there. I told them to be prepared to respond to any ask and if they need more resources we need to be there at whatever cost.

PDF: I agree. I'll check with the solicitor general, but I understand they passed a regulation to have the RCMP act as local police. They did it for Ottawa, but I'll check to see if it applies to the whole province

PMJT: this was passed recently?

PDF: RCMP would work in conjunction with local police. We did it for Ottawa basically immediately and I'll check to see if it's applicable province wide

PMJT: s.38

PDF: that would be great

PMJT: we'll all have to figure out what to do with these tow trucks who are not doing their job and fulfilling their duties with the city – there has to be a serious reckoning afterward. If you need tow trucks, we'll get the us to help, and it'll be embarrassing for us but if the US is offering, we need to take it

PDF: I agree

PMJT: what are the next steps? You've said the OPP are going in. are they keeping you apprised and do they understand the urgency? They can't talk this out for 3 weeks, they need to act immediately

PDF: they'll act, but without directing them, it's hard to describe their game plan. They'll have a plan unlike Ottawa whet her they didn't have a plan. I'll get briefed tomorrow from the solicitor general and we'll keep you updated. This is critical, I hear you. I'll be up their ass with a wire brush.

PMJT: We're there with resources. Bill Blair will coordinate on our side, but you can reach out to Leblanc or me. You and I need to work together on this. People will be reassured by the two of us working together and we need to demonstrate this is not a place of lawlessness

PDF: agreed. You'll get an update tomorrow

PMJT: On Ottawa – it'll go through stages of OPP to RCMP and we'll have a plan. City of Ottawa has been struggling but as soon as OPP leans in a bit more, we'll have more clarity on things. The federal government has no jurisdiction over Wellington street so it's an area we need to work through together. If the Ottawa residents have to go through another weekend like the past few weeks, it won't go well

PDF: I agree. The problem is, if I can be frank, I've spoken to senior police officers, he's lost command and police officers are going off sick daily. They've lost command.

PMJT: those are your decisions not mine. There are PDs that know how to handle this like QC and Toronto – so let's make sure the other PDs know how to respond. We can't continue to get outflanked

PDF: 100% will keep you updated by tomorrow

PMJT: reach out to me and reach out to Dom if you need anything

PDF: Thanks so much PM.

Tahiya Bakht

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