



Advocacy Ask on Vaccine Equity

Engaging your Member of Parliament

Prior to the meeting:

- Review CJI's preparation guide (see Appendix 1)
- Determine whether you want to meet individually or with a group of people also concerned with the issue (If with a group, you need to be sure that the group is prepared).
- Get information from credible sources (verify your sources)
- Strive to get information from people close to the issue at stake
- Prepare a letter for the MP (or MPs) you intend to meet with (see key points below and follow instructions on how to address them here <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/protocol-guidelines-special-event/styles-address.html>)
- Prepare in advance a report that gathers the information collected (newspaper articles, scientific articles from reputable sources, first person accounts, etc.)
- Send a copy to the group that is joining you to meet the MP
- Prepare what you want to say in the meeting in advance (have a clear agenda that is timed; rehearse and ensure you stay on point, ensuring time for questions).

At the meeting:

- Keep it short, on point and leave time for discussion/questions.

After the meeting:

- i) Contact your representative and thank them! (Don't forget to thank their staff too)
- ii) In your communication, summarize what was said at the meeting and emphasize the expected actions (with clear timeframes and milestones).
- iii) Follow up on expected actions, depending on what was discussed.

Sample letter with specific asks:

*Please take note that a cabinet shuffle has been announced by the Federal Liberal Party for next week. This will have implications as to whom you will address your letter. The following is directed to the Minister of Health office and not the person who fills the office. (Please replace with the name of the Minister of Health once it is announced)

Dear *Minister of Health,

Canada's efforts to make sure Canadians have access to vaccines have meant that our country has one of the [highest](#) rates of per capita COVID-19 vaccination in the world today. While Canada enjoys exceptionally high vaccination coverage rates exceeding 80% of eligible populations, vaccine coverage across the continent of Africa is well below 10%.

Even with intense efforts to secure these vaccines, Canada is not immune to the global realities of a pandemic. Our own leaders have argued that the pandemic cannot end here until it ends everywhere, which means everyone, everywhere needs access to vaccines. Canada's actions can make a difference. We agree with the hundreds of health professionals and leaders across Canada who are calling upon their elected officials to ensure that Canada:

- fulfills and strengthens existing pledges to COVAX, with public reporting on its progress.
- Improves its delivery schedules through COVAS and African Union's African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) so that vaccines arrive where they are needed before they expire.
- Reduces barriers to the production and export of vaccines by taking steps at the World Trade Organization to ensure that the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) Agreement do not take priority over human life.

Always copy your own Federal MP in your own riding on any letter you send to a Cabinet Minister or to the Prime Minister

Additional Relevant Representatives at the provincial level- it is sometimes good practice to copy your MPP on a letter that you send to your Federal MP, even though they do not have jurisdiction on Federal matters.

Relevant Representatives:

Federal Health Minister– Liberal: (Might change pending Cabinet shuffle)

- Patty Hajdu (Health)

Your own federal MP

Newfoundland - Liberal:

- John Haggie (Health and Community Services)

Nova Scotia:

- Zach Churchill (Health and Wellness)

New Brunswick - Progressive Conservative:

- Dorothy Shephard (Health)

PEI - Progressive Conservative:

- Ernie Hudson (Health and Wellness)

Québec - Coalition Avenir Québec:

- Christian Dube (Health and Social Services)

Ontario - Progressive Conservative:

- Christine Elliot (Health)

Manitoba - Progressive Conservative:

- Heather Stefanson (Health and Seniors Care)

Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Party:

- Paul Merriman (Health)
- Everett Hindley (Mental Health and Addictions, Seniors and Rural and Remote Health)

Alberta - Conservative Party of Canada:

- Tyler Shandro (Health)

BC - BC New Democratic Party:

- Adrian Dix (Health)

Yukon - Yukon Liberal Party

- Tracy-Ann McPhee (Health and Social Services)
- Richard Mostyn (Responsible for Yukon Workers' Compensation, Health, and Safety Board)

Northwest Territories - N/A (Consensus government)

- Premier Caroline Cochrane (Responsible for COVID-19 Coordinating Secretariat)
- Julie Green (Health and Social Services)

Nunavut - N/A

- Lorne Kusugak (Health)

Websites:

- <https://www.gavi.org/news/media-room/canada-donates-doses-through-covax-nigeria-kenya-and-niger-receive-first-doses>
- <https://africacdc.org/news-item/african-vaccine-acquisition-trust-avat-announces-108000-doses-of-vaccines-arriving-in-mauritius-as-part-of-the-first-monthly-shipment-of-johnson-johnson-vaccines/>
- <https://www.unicef.org/supply/african-unions-african-vaccine-acquisition-trust-avat-initiative>
- <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations>
- <https://www.unicef.org/press-releases/statement-arrival-first-batch-covid-19-vaccines-haiti>
- <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article254269418.html>

