

March 3, 2022

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau

Prime Minister of Canada
Prime Minister's Office Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau Regarding Testing at the Land Border

Dear Prime Minister,

As Canada's border community mayors and elected representatives, we are writing you jointly to urgently ask that the federal government drop all testing requirements for all fully-vaccinated travellers at the Canada/US land border.

Your government has led the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic and imposed numerous measures to protect Canadians. As you know, border communities have been at the forefront of the federal strategy and have paid a heavy price with the border being closed to all but essential travel for 20 months. Even now, the border remains under very strict testing guidelines that are not justified by current science and are out of line with public health officers' mandates.

Your health minister has spoken publicly about these border requirements being under constant review and consideration, however, department officials are telling border industries that these in fact, will not be reviewed until the end of March 2022. The time to end testing at the land border is now. In March, Canadians will soon witness full capacity in NHL games with 20,000 fans with no testing requirement, but fully vaccinated American tourists will not be able to cross over the border in their own family car without an unnecessary, expensive test administered by a health professional. This absurdity will undermine Canadians' confidence in all levels of government.

Respectfully, border communities have suffered greatly during this pandemic. Your government acted quickly to put these measures in place, and your government must act quickly to remove them in these early days of March.

Signatories:

Mayor Arthur Slipp – Woodstock, New Brunswick
Mayor Lucie Dagenais – Frelighsburg, Quebec
Mayor Glen Grant – Cornwall, Ontario
Mayor June Caul, Fort Frances, Ontario
Mayor Jim Diodati – Niagara Falls, Ontario
Mayor Betty Disero – Niagara on the Lakes, Ontario
Mayor Mike Bradley – Sarnia, Ontario
Mayor Drew Dilkens – Windsor, Ontario

Mayor Judy Swanson – Boissvain, Manitoba
Reeve Dave Carlson – Emerson-Franklin, Manitoba
Mayor Roy Ludwig – Estevan, Saskatchewan
Mayor Marcel Roy, Weyburn, Saskatchewan
Mayor Jim Willett – Coutts, Alberta
Mayor Ron Toyota – Creston, BC
Mayor Sue McKortoff – Osoyoos, BC

Cc: Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Honourable Marco Mendicino
Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos