

Premier Doug Ford
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1

September 2, 2021

Dear Premier Ford,

I'm relieved that you are finally seeing the importance of vaccine certificates in Ontario.

I'm writing to encourage you to work with opposition parties to improve and expedite the plan you announced yesterday because it falls short of what's needed to protect Ontarians, the health care system and small businesses.

It's confusing and sends mixed messages.

You need to be vaccinated to dine indoors, yet your server can be unvaccinated. You can be unvaccinated in a jam-packed mall, and in places of worship. But you must be vaccinated in a gym. And salons and barbershops, which were shuttered for months, do not require vaccine certificates.

Small business owners are asking important questions about enforcement, legal protection and training for staff.

Diverse stakeholders met with opposition parties earlier this week, and one of the clear messages they delivered was that we need a vaccine certificate that is simple, clear and consistent across the province.

Getting this right will help keep schools and small businesses open, avoiding another lockdown.

I recognize these are challenging times, and you, as Premier, have to make hard decisions.

Yesterday's announcement was a step in the right direction, but far more needs to be done to avoid the worst health and economic impacts of the fourth wave.

I urge you to convene a meeting with opposition party leaders and diverse stakeholders to discuss how Ontario can roll out the best possible vaccine certificate in a way that brings people together at a time when social cohesion is vital, yet frayed.

At a time when people are tired, frustrated and angry, when health care workers are burned out and feeling attacked by those who oppose public health measures, working across partisan lines will help build broad social support for the province's vaccine certificate system.

So will you join the Ontario Greens and the other opposition parties to work to improve the vaccine certificate to be more comprehensive, clear and better communicated?

Sincerely,



Mike Schreiner
Leader, Green Party of Ontario