

June 25, 2021

Hon. Dennis King, Premier of PEI
5th Floor, Shaw South
95 Rochford Street
Charlottetown, PE
C1A 7N8

Re: COVID-19 vaccination timelines in relation to PEI's *Moving Forward* plan, and the PEI Pass

Dear Premier King;

On behalf of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to you seeking clarity and additional information regarding the status of PEI's vaccination rollout, and the rationale behind the newly implemented PEI Pass.

Prince Edward Island has become the envy of other provinces for its ability to contain the spread of COVID-19. As a result of this, residents of PEI have had the benefit of returning to a more normal lifestyle than that enjoyed by residents in other provinces.

Throughout the pandemic our members have been supportive of the Chief Public Health Office and its commitment to ensuring the health and safety of all Islanders. With that said, our members are wondering if the province is in a position to accelerate the vaccination roll out so that a higher percentage of Islanders will have received both vaccinations within a shorter time period than that currently forecasted, to facilitate the further reduction of restrictions currently in place, sooner, and the reasoning behind the implementation of the PEI Pass.

To address the concerns raised by our members, we are seeking clarity and further information, and therefore request a response to the following questions:

- 1) *Now that PEI has reached a vaccination level where 80% of eligible Islanders have received one dose of the vaccine, is there potential to accelerate the vaccination process so that 80% of Islanders can receive the second dose of the vaccine in advance of the intended target date (i.e., extended immunization clinic hours; filling vacant pharmacy appointments)?***
- 2) *If the province is unable to accelerate the vaccination process, what else might be done to accelerate the timelines in PEI's Moving Forward Plan so that visitors will be permitted to enter our province sooner and/or with fewer restrictions?***

- 3) What is the rationale behind implementing the PEI Pass, versus simply asking for proof of vaccination from those entering and exiting the province?**
- 4) What is the rationale for testing at points of entry? As this was not a requirement in the previous Atlantic Bubble, there is confusion among members as to why this is necessary now, and why it is necessary for all individuals entering the province, rather than only those who do not have proof of vaccination.**
- 5) Given the high volume of PEI Pass applications submitted thus far, are there sufficient resources in place to process these applications promptly?**
- 6) Given the current requirements for entry, does the province have sufficient resources in place to ensure entry to the province by visitors will not be a negative experience (i.e., very long wait times to enter and exit PEI)?**

The Island's business community has suffered greatly as a result of COVID-19, and we are eager to get back to business. While the end may be in sight, there are many operators who continue to struggle with the business impacts of the pandemic, and we are hoping that government can provide clarity so we can remain optimistic and know that we are moving in the right direction.

As a Chamber we have been supportive of the province's vaccination campaign and continue to encourage Islanders to get vaccinated. While we are excited to welcome visitors from within Atlantic Canada as of June 27, we want to ensure all options are explored so we can get back to normal as quickly as possible.

We look forward to hearing from you on these urgent issues.

Sincerely,



Nicole Bellefleur

Interim-CEO

CC: Dr. Heather Morrison, Chief Public Health Officer; Pam Williams, Chief of Staff; Adam Ross, Principal Secretary