

# COALITION OF BC BUSINESSES

## Advancing Labour Policies that Work

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9 April 2021

Honourable Harry Bains, MLA  
Minister of Labour  
Parliament Buildings  
Victoria, BC V8V 1X4  
Via Email: lbr.minister@gov.bc.ca

Re: Mandatory paid leave for vaccinations

Dear Minister Bains,

Thank you for the opportunity for members of the Coalition of BC Businesses to consult with you yesterday (April 8) on the issue of mandatory paid leave for vaccinations.

Employers in all sectors represented by the Coalition are dedicated to encouraging their employees to get vaccinated. It is critical to the future of our economy that we reach a level of vaccination that allows us to restore operations and return to some measure of normalcy. We also understand that many workers are reluctant to take unpaid time to get vaccinated. However, with respect to mandatory paid leave for vaccinations, the Coalition would like to reinforce the following concerns:

- Many sectors, particularly in the hospitality and tourism industries, have faced significant hardship and loss of revenue. Many businesses are only able to continue operations due to the ongoing support of the federal and provincial governments. By adding new costs government would demonstrate a lack of understanding or concern about how serious the situation is.
- Many of these industries have the flexibility to adjust schedules to the degree that employees can be given adequate time to get a vaccination, without having to reduce hours or otherwise miss paid time.
- Many employers already eligible for vaccination have used a variety of ways to encourage their employees to get the vaccination. Some have provided paid time off while others have chosen other ways to encourage vaccination. This flexibility is important to allow employers to work with their employees to secure the best possible outcome.

Thank you again for the opportunity to consult on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Andrew Wynn-Williams,  
Chair, Coalition of BC Businesses