



grandmothers
Advocacy Network



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grands-mères

World Vision



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Canada

Prime Minister Trudeau: We have enough vaccines. Others don't.

Canada will have at least 20m excess vaccines by the end of September, enough to fully vaccinate every healthcare worker in Africa and more. We need to share them now.

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

July 9th, 2021

After one of the most challenging years Canadians have had to face in recent history, Canada's vaccination campaign against the COVID-19 virus is speeding-up, targets are being met in many provinces and Canadians are feeling more optimistic with the return of normal daily life.

Most other nations are not so fortunate. In Africa, less than 3% of the population has received a first dose, while we have already reached 69% in Canada. We witness this vaccine injustice at a moment when the region is on the cusp of a potentially brutal third wave. According to the Wall Street Journal, developing countries in South America, Asia, and Africa now account for more than 80% of daily cases and three-quarters of daily deaths. To prevent the next catastrophe like India, and the next deadly variant which could reverse progress made at home, countries like Canada need to donate COVID-19 vaccines now before new waves hit.

Because of this, we were relieved to see the G7 announcement that Canada would forgo its self-financing allocation of 13 million doses from Covax, and that some of these would be made available immediately. But we can and must do much more, fast, towards ultimately donating all of our excess and protecting tens of millions of lives. While Canadians are optimistic about re-openings, they remain highly attuned to the potential that outbreaks and variants in other parts of the world could have a major impact on a return to lockdowns and other restrictions. Sharing more vaccines imminently is critical to save lives here in Canada and in the world's poorest countries.

By the end of July, Canada will receive a total of 68 million doses, enough for over 90% of Canada's total population (even counting under-12s who remain ineligible) to be fully vaccinated. This means that by the end of the month, vaccine supply will exceed demand in Canada, while most other countries are left in desperate need.

Here is what we think a strong vaccine-sharing commitment from Canada could look like:

1. Commit to donate the at least 20 million excess Pfizer and Moderna vaccines that Canada is confirmed to receive by the end of September to COVAX. This excess is based on the Government's own planned delivery schedule, and would allow for 100% of the Canadian population being allocated 2 doses. *These excess doses alone would be more than enough to fully vaccinate every healthcare worker in Africa several times over.*

2. Commit to share Canada's excess AstraZeneca, Johnson & Johnson, and Novavax vaccines with COVAX (over 82 million doses) as soon as each becomes available, including providing open communication regarding forecasting and delivery based on production. Given Canada has ordered 35 million additional Pfizer booster shots for 2022, and even more the year after, none of these should be stockpiled when vulnerable countries remain in desperate need of vaccines.

3. Ensure all doses are unearmarked so that COVAX can distribute them equitably, and provide funds for ancillary shipping and logistics costs to get all the doses to their destination without drawing down COVAX resources.

More than ever, a majority of Canadians are following the global dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic with a keen understanding of the impact on their daily lives. Compared to this time last year, an Abacus poll commissioned by World Vision Canada found that the number of Canadians who felt Canada's global response has been too little has more than doubled. In contrast, Canadians are very supportive of what we are calling for: **over 80% of Canadians support sharing vaccines with countries in need** and agree that we cannot end Covid-19 here until we end it everywhere. Now that Canada is weeks away from having fully met the needs of its own citizens, our excess must be shared right away.

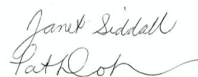
Kind Regards,



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CC: Deputy Prime Minister Freeland, Minister Hajdu, Minister Anand, Minister Gould