



Protecting Health Care Workers and Supporting Safe Access to Health Services

Having safe access to essential health services is the backbone of our public health care system, especially during a pandemic. As we look to finish the fight against COVID-19, we must ensure that every Canadian can safely get vaccinated, can safely access essential health services, and that our health care heroes can safely do their job, free from obstruction, intimidation and threats.

Recent incidents at hospitals and other health services buildings have heightened Canadians' concerns on safely getting the medical care they need and caused unnecessary stress to health care professionals who are already exhausted from doing everything in their power to keep Canadians safe during this pandemic.¹

Protecting safe access to health care services includes protecting safe access to women's health care services and a women's right to choose without obstruction, intimidation and fear.

We all have a right to assemble and peacefully demonstrate and protest, but we cannot threaten access to these essential health care services.

That is why a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Move quickly to introduce legislation to make it a criminal offence to intentionally and willfully obstruct access to any building providing health services, including hospitals, vaccine clinics, testing centres, pharmacies and abortion clinics.
- Protect health care workers by making it a criminal offence to intentionally and willfully intimidate or threaten any healthcare professional carrying out their professional duties or Canadians from receiving medical care.

We will continue to do what is necessary to protect our healthcare heroes and the ability of Canadians to continue to have safe access to the health services they need by making these amendments to the Criminal Code.

To get back to normal, drive increased vaccination rates, and give Canadians confidence that it's safe to go to restaurants, shops and be out in their communities, we will also support businesses and organizations that fear legal challenges from refusing service or employment to unvaccinated Canadians.

As announced in our platform, a re-elected Liberal government will:

- Table legislation to ensure that every business and organization that decides to require a proof of vaccination from employees or customers can do so without fear of a legal challenge.
- Establish regulations under the Canada Health Act governing accessibility for sexual and reproductive health services so there is no question, that no matter where someone lives, that they have access to publicly available sexual and reproductive health services.

Finally, a re-elected Liberal Government will continue to pursue and enforce mandatory vaccination for all travellers on interprovincial trains, commercial flights, cruise ships and other federally regulated vessels, as well as across the federal public service. We will continue to support the safe restart of our economy and communities with aggressive measures to increase the rate of vaccination and support businesses and organizations doing their part in creating proof of vaccination requirements.

We will launch a \$1 billion COVID-19 Proof of Vaccination Fund to support provinces and territories who implement a requirement for proof of vaccine credentials in their jurisdiction for non-essential businesses and public spaces, and will ensure Canadians have free access to booster shots and second-generation vaccines as needed to finish the fight against COVID-19.

¹ <https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/ontario-hospital-association-says-anti-vaccine-protests-outside-hospitals-went-too-far-1.5572629>