

January 22, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Ontario Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON, M7A 1A1

### OPEN LETTER

Dear Premier Ford,

I am writing to you today regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic in Ontario, and a sector of our economy that has been overlooked since the beginning of the crisis in March of last year.

While we are encouraged that your government has placed security guards in all Long-Term Care (LTC) homes to ensure the safety of residents, and that your government listened to us and has modernized the testing of security guards by moving testing online during this time of increased demand for guards, we hope that it is merely an oversight that security guards working in LTC homes and hospitals have not been placed on the priority list to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

You will recall that in the initial lockdown, for grocery stores, LCBOs, shopping malls, and other services that were deemed essential, in most instances professional security guards were employed at these establishments to ensure orderly conduct and safety for the public and staff. That was in addition to the many nursing homes, hospitals, and other municipal, provincial, and federal buildings where licensed security guards were tasked, and continue to be tasked, with providing their services.

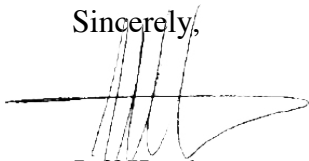
After the first wave of the pandemic, many businesses stopped using security guards, but security services were and are still in demand at hospitals, nursing homes, and other health care service providers.

With the second wave of the coronavirus upon us, and the number of positive cases growing daily, the services of security guards are even more in need.

Throughout the crisis, security guards have been working with other workers who have been deemed essential, yet guards have been overlooked. At many Long-Term Care homes, they are tasked with not only providing security, but transporting those who have passed to funeral service providers. In hospitals, they are tasked with guarding entrances to emergency departments and COVID-19 testing centres and are thus exposed to symptomatic and asymptomatic carriers of the virus while providing their essential services.

Mr. Premier, we hope that it has simply been an oversight by your government that security guards who have worked and continue to work side-by-side with other essential workers have been overlooked for prioritization for the COVID-19 vaccine. We are asking for security guards to be properly recognized for the essential work that they do. Due to the hazardous work that security guards perform at hospitals, nursing homes, and other businesses and institutions, we are asking for guards to be included in the priority list of workers to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Jeff Ketelaars  
Secretary-Treasurer  
UFCW Canada Local 333