

CANADA POST UPDATE



MP for Peace River—Westlock



WERE YOU AFFECTED BY VACCINE MANDATES FOR CANADA POST?

In rural Alberta, access to Canada Post is essential and the temporary closures of post offices is devastating. Post offices supply many things including clothes, packages, farm equipment, OAS, and pay cheques.

In November 2021, the Liberal Government enacted a Canada-wide vaccine mandate for all federal workers. As a Crown Agency, Canada Post extended this mandate to all its workers and post offices.

By the end of November, 340 hardworking staff who refused a vaccine in Alberta were put on leave without pay and 13 offices had to be closed with reduced hours at others.

This impacted rural communities in our riding like La Crete, Slave Lake, Fort Assiniboine, Jousard, Grimshaw, and Fort Vermilion.

As your Member of Parliament, my position has always been to oppose the Liberal vaccine mandates as divisive and unnecessary. Canada Post workers and their local communities are suffering due to the these mandates. I have also supported the unions of Canada Post workers who have called for non-vaccinated workers to use rapid access tests as an alternative.

I will continue to stand up for the rights of all Canadians.

Arnold Viersen
Member of Parliament

On the impact of Covid vaccine mandates in rural Alberta:

"Rural offices are quite a bit different than the cities simply because we know all of our customers. You know them by name, we know their brothers and their sisters and their uncles and you know, we're in the community. We're very involved in our communities....Alberta was hit probably the hardest with the closures."

Xan Moffat-Toews
Alberta president of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association



I and the Conservative Party have adamantly opposed all vaccine mandates as divisive and unnecessary.
- MP Arnold Viersen

CUT HERE



No Postage
Needed

Arnold Viersen, MP
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6

FIGHTING TO KEEP CANADA POST OFFICES OPEN

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HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River—Westlock



February 11, 2022

Hon. Filomena Tassi P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada
11 Laurier St, Phase III, Place du Portage
Gatineau, QC K1A 0S5

Dear Minister Tassi,

I am writing to you about the many residents of Peace River–Westlock who have been significantly impacted by post office closures including reduced service and prolonged delays in receiving their mail. They want action to ensure post offices remain prompt and open.

Post offices are essential for the functioning of rural communities. They supply many things including clothes, packages, farm equipment, and pay cheques. Rural connectivity is a challenge for Canadians and something that is so important.

I have spoken with countless people about how they did not receive their Christmas gifts and that there were stacks of parcels unsorted and undelivered. Others also mentioned how it takes weeks for mail to reach their friends, family, and customers who live in the exact same community. Minister, these delays, closures and reduction of services are unacceptable especially when for these communities, the post office is the major source of connection to the rest of the country.


The problems with Canada Post’s service and closures have been amplified by the vaccine mandates and job vacancies. The Canadian Union of Postal Workers have filed a challenge to use rapid testing as a solution to ensure rural post offices stay open and that service remains uninterrupted. Post offices are essential, and they must remain open.

I urge you to remove the vaccine mandate for Canada Post workers to help restore prompt service and meet the needs of all rural Canadians, especially the residents of Peace River–Westlock.

Sincerely,

Arnold Viersen, MP
Peace River–Westlock

Ministre des Services publics
et de l’Approvisionnement
Receveur général du Canada



Minister of Public Services
and Procurement
Receiver General of Canada

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0S5

March 17, 2022

Mr. Arnold Viersen, M.P.
arnold.viersen@parl.gc.ca; Arnold.Viersen.A1@parl.gc.ca;
[Redacted]


Dear Mr. Viersen:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituents regarding Canada Post’s services in Peace River – Westlock and the federal vaccination requirements’ impact on them. I want to thank you for your patience in receiving my reply.

As the Government of Canada announced a vaccine requirement for the federal workforce and asked all Crown corporations to mirror this direction, it should be noted Canada Post oversees its own policy in this regard, as well as the management of its workplaces and any employee-related concerns. There have been a few localized situations where post offices have experienced temporary closures or reduced hours due to staffing issues. While this is far from ideal, Canada Post has been regularly implementing contingency measures to minimize any impact on customers.

In view of my high-level accountability, the Corporation has established a team to promote communication between different levels of government and their staff. Mr. Don Cooper, Manager of Government and Community Affairs for your area, is available in this regard, and he may be reached at 403-703-3465 or at donald.cooper@canadapost.ca. Don’s role locally is to answer your questions and support you and your team and, as this situation evolves, I can encourage you to contact him directly for any issues related to Canada Post’s operations.

Thank you again for writing, and please accept my kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

The Honourable Filomena Tassi, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Services and Procurement

As you can see, the Minister deflected responsibility to Canada Post indicating they ‘oversee’ their own policy. This is despite the fact that she admitted that the Liberals directed all Crown Agencies to implement the same mandate.

So I went to Canada Post directly through Mr. Don Cooper as referenced by the Minister above. Mr. Cooper confirmed by email that Canada Post was acting at the ‘direction of the Government of Canada’.

Further to the Health and Safety Policy, Canada Post is committed to creating and maintaining a healthy and safe environment for all employees, contractors, visitors, and customers. Vaccination has been shown to be effective in reducing the transmission of COVID-19 and protecting individuals from severe consequences of this virus. At the direction of the Government of Canada, Canada Post has prepared this COVID-19 Vaccination Practice that mirrors the Policy on COVID-19 Vaccination for the Core Public Administration. Accordingly, this Practice sets out the COVID-19 vaccination requirements applicable to Canada Post employees, contractors, and visitors to protect against the spread of COVID-19.

What’s Next

Both Minister Tassi and Mr. Cooper work for you—the tax payer. While I will keep fighting for you in Ottawa, I would urge you to contact both directly to share how these mandates have affected you and express your frustration. This cannot happen again.

Minister Filomena Tassi

The Honourable Filomena Tassi
Minister of Public Services and Procurement Canada
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11 Laurier Street
Gatineau, QC K1A 0S5

Email: minister@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca

Don Cooper

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Stay Connected

I would like to receive more updates on your work in Parliament and across the riding.

☐ YES ☐ NO

If yes, sign up for updates below:

Name

Address

City/Town

Postal Code

Email

Canada Post closures affected me.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Canada Post Mandates were divisive and unnecessary.

☐ YES ☐ NO

Comments: