

Letter by email

January 12th, 2022

The Honourable Omar Alghabra
Minister of Transport
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0A6

Subject: Proof of vaccination requirement for truck drivers crossing into Canada

Dear Minister Alghabra:

As you may know, the Canadian Federation of Independent Business (CFIB) is a non-partisan, not-for-profit organization representing the interests of 95,000 small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) across Canada, of which almost 500 are in the trucking sector. From time to time our members contact us to provide us with valuable feedback on a variety of issues, and it is for this reason that we write to you today.

We have recently been contacted by many members in the trucking industry who are extremely concerned about the proof of vaccination requirements for all truck drivers crossing from the U.S. into Canada which will start on January 15th. For example, one of our members in Manitoba expressed that they have been dealing with an ongoing driver shortage that has been further intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. This proof of vaccination mandate will be an additional burden on their operations.

We are also concerned with how this mandate will impact small businesses outside of the trucking industry and the Canadian economy in general. In addition to the impact COVID is having on the level of sales for many SMEs, small businesses have been struggling with shortages of labour and supply chain disruptions that have led to a rising cost of doing business.

Considering the major economic impacts that the pandemic is already having on Canadian small businesses, and the harm to many trucking companies this new vaccine mandate will have, we ask that you re-examine the timeline of this mandate and not move forward as planned on January 15.

Thank you for considering our members' concerns. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss this issue further, please feel free to contact us at our Ottawa office at (613)-235-2373 or by e-mail at Corinne.Pohlmann@cfib.ca or at Jasmin.Guenette@cfib.ca.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jasmin Guénette', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jasmin Guénette

Vice-President, National Affairs

cc

The Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety

The Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Health