



MODERATOR OF THE 2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris, B.A., M.Div., M.Th., Ph.D.

August 25, 2022

The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
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The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry
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The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities
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Dear Ministers,

I bring greetings from the General Assembly which met June 5–8, 2022. The General Assembly considered a report on global vaccine equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact worldwide. Millions of people have died. Many of those who have gotten sick are living with longer term impacts and complications of the illness even after recovery. The increased uncertainty in people's lives, communities and the economy over the past two years has also had a lasting impact, disproportionately affecting some communities more than others. Health systems and caregivers have been stretched and stressed in unprecedented ways.

We recognize the efforts of the government to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for priority populations in Canada, as well as international financial support for COVAX. Like other communities of faith, we have stated our support for the Canadian campaign, "Love My Neighbour," which has encouraged the Canadian government to support the temporary Trade-Related Aspects of the Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver, presented to the World Trade Organization. Global vaccine distribution has not been equitable and supporting the TRIPS waiver would go a long way to ensure that low- and middle-income countries can also protect their people.

We welcome the April 29, 2022, announcement that Canada is working to develop domestic vaccine production capacity. According to an Ipsos survey conducted on behalf of the Canadian Medical Association, 77% of Canadians believe that the Government of Canada should donate vaccines to developing countries. The Presbyterian Church in Canada also supports this and encourages you to institute a policy whereby a fixed portion of all vaccines produced in Canada

Clerks of Assembly: The Rev. Victor S.J. Kim and The Rev. Donald G.A. Muir

are allocated to low- and middle-income countries that face barriers to adequate vaccine supply. Such a step will help curtail the spread and harm of preventable diseases, including the coronavirus.

I look forward to hearing from you and please rest assured of our continued prayers for the important work you do.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert N. Faris". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a period at the end.

The Rev. Dr. Robert N. Faris
Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly