The Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Health

carolyn.bennett@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry

francois-philippe.champagne@parl.gc.ca

The Hon. Dominic LeBlanc, P.C., M.P.

Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs, Infrastructure and Communities

dominic.leblanc@parl.gc.ca

Dear Ministers:

I am a member of [NAME] Presbyterian Church in [PLACE]. In 2022, The Presbyterian Church in Canada wrote the federal government, asking for continuing and even stronger efforts to address the climate crisis. I am writing to affirm this with you and your government.

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 care givers have been stretched and stressed in unprecedented ways.

I 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. I support 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 counties can also protect their people.

I welcome the announcement from April 29, 2022, 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. I also support this and encourage you to institute a policy whereby a fixed portion of all vaccines produced in Canada 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 rest assured of my continued prayers for the important work you do.

Sincerely,

[Your name]