



Community Services

Legislative Services

April 27, 2021

File #120203

Sent via email: Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau,
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Honourable and Dear Sir:

Re: Federal Government Providing Transparency with Regard to Plans to Reopen the Canada-US Border

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of April 26, 2021 passed the following resolution:

Whereas in March 2020 the unprecedented step was taken to close the Canada-United States border to all non-essential discretionary traffic to prevent the spread of COVID-19, and

Whereas that closure has been extended 30 days at a time for over a year, with only limited travel exceptions available for purposes deemed essential by the federal government, and

Whereas the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie passed a resolution May 4, 2020 requesting that the border remain closed until such a time that the situation in the United States has improved, and

Whereas the health threat caused by COVID-19 currently remains, vaccination efforts in both countries are accelerating with the intended objective of having at least one vaccine dose available for all adults in both countries by Summer, and

Whereas the border closure continues to have an incredible social and economic impact on the communities located along it, including spouses, children and other loved ones who remain separated from each other, and

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Whereas Canada shares the longest undefended border in the world and our largest trade partnership with the United States, and it would be desirable to resume the free movement of goods and people across that border when it is safe to do so, and

Whereas United States President Joe Biden has signed an executive order directing the US work alongside the Canadian and Mexican governments to plan for the eventual withdrawal of existing land border restrictions, and

Whereas despite assurances by the Canadian federal government that the border will reopen, there has been no transparency on efforts being undertaken to achieve that goal, and no plan provided outlining the steps and metrics necessary to achieve that goal or what that opening will look like;

Now therefore be it resolved,

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that Canadian and US officials continue to work together to formulate the plan necessary to permit the safe eventual full reopening of the Canada-US border to all traffic, and further

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Canadian Federal government provide transparency on the steps and metrics necessary to reopen the border and what a reopened border will look like and any phasing in, as deemed appropriate, and further

That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie requests that The Public Health Agency of Canada coordinate with their provincial and municipal counterparts to immediately vaccinate our front-line Canadian Border Services Agency officers, and further

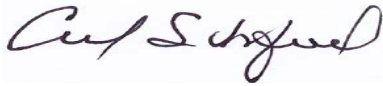
That: The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie extends their appreciation to all officials in both Canada and the United States involved for their continual efforts on conveying the concerns and challenges border communities have faced during the pandemic, and further

That: A copy of this resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health (Canada), Joe Biden, President of the United States of America, Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Secretary of Homeland Security, Tony Baldinelli, Member of Parliament for Niagara Falls, Brian Higgins, US Congressman for the 26th District of the State of New York, Chris Jacobs, US Congressman for the 27th District of the State of New York, United States Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, all Members of Parliament representing constituencies of border crossing

municipalities along the Canada-US border, the Co-Chairs of the United States Congress Northern Border Caucus, and all border crossing Mayors of municipalities along the Canada-US border.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.
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C.C.

Mr. Joe Biden, President of the United States of America dl.legislative@whmo.mil / correspondence@who.eop.gov

The Honourable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety Bill.Blair@parl.gc.ca

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