

President
of the Treasury Board



Présidente
du Conseil du Trésor

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0R5

Mr. Dany Richard
Co-Chair, National Joint Council and
President of ACFO-ACAF
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Dear Mr. Richard:

Thank you for your letter, dated December 17, 2021, regarding your request for a centralized guidance to deputy heads. I appreciate you taking the time to raise this matter.

As has been the case since the beginning of the pandemic, the health and safety of employees and Canadians is our top priority.

The updated guidance issued by Health Canada Public Service Occupational Health Program's (PSOHP) asks departments and agencies to pause any planned increases to building occupancy, review current occupancy levels and consider increasing remote work, as required. As you know, we have issued guidance to deputy heads in light of the updated guidance from PSOHP. However, recognizing that each department will have its own operational requirements, there can be no one-size-fits-all approach, and as it has been the case throughout the pandemic, there are some public servants whose work cannot be done remotely.

Deputy heads are responsible for the health and safety of their employees. They will continue to work with their Occupational Health and Safety units and committees, taking into account local COVID-19 considerations and public health advice, and adapt their plans to their operational requirements.

All federal public servants are encouraged to receive a booster dose of a COVID-19 vaccine when they are eligible to do so in their province or territory. As you know, immunization is a provincial/territorial responsibility with the exception of federal populations (e.g., federal inmates).

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We will continue to monitor the public health context, remain adaptable, and update our guidance as required to protect the health and safety of employees and maintain the quality of services to Canadians.

Again, thank you for raising this issue with us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Fortier', written in a cursive style.

The Honourable Mona Fortier, P.C., M.P.

c.c.: Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada
Canadian Association of Professional Employees
Association of Canadian Financial Officers
Association of Justice Counsel
Professional Association of Foreign Service Officers
Research Council Employees' Association
CUPE Local 104
Canadian Merchant Service Guild
IBEW Local 2228
Federal Government Dockyard Trades and Labour Council (West)
Federal Government Dockyard Trades and Labour Council (East)
Canadian Federal Pilots Association
Federal Government Dockyard Chargehands Association