



# Laura Mae Lindo

MPP Kitchener-Centre

Hon. Doug Ford  
Premier of Ontario  
Room 281  
Legislative Building, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Hon. Christine Elliott  
Deputy Premier of Ontario  
Minister of Health  
Ministry of Health  
5th Floor  
777 Bay St.  
Toronto, ON M7A 2J3

**Re: Provincial Pandemic Pay Exclusions**

June 15, 2020

Dear Premier Ford and Minister Elliott,

I am writing today to share my deep concerns about the provincial pandemic pay. There are a few key issues:

- 1) Many front-line workers have been excluded from the provincial pandemic pay. My office has received hundreds of emails and many phone calls about the impact of these exclusions on morale within workplaces and the mental health of workers who have often been praised publicly for their work but are not receiving the temporary top-up pay on their pay cheques.
- 2) Workers whose professions were on the list have not seen a single dollar of the wages that your government promised them over a month ago. This added stress is the last thing that front-line workers need during a global pandemic.

There have been tragic stories across the province of front-line workers who have died because of COVID-19. Front-line workers who work in health care and those who do not, are absolutely essential to keeping the province functioning, and these workers are also putting their lives on the line every single day.

Unfortunately, your government has excluded a long list of health care professionals, including jobs like Midwives, Medical Imaging Professionals, Physician Assistants, Harm Reduction Workers, Laboratory and Pharmacy Professionals, Radiation Therapists. Our hospitals and health care settings would not be able to function and care for patients without these health care professionals – full stop. There

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continues to ongoing confusion as your government has sporadically and quietly updated the list of eligible workers. For example, while it has been indicated that some Clerical Workers will be eligible, hospitals have yet to receive final direction on which Clerical Workers will be eligible, and there is concern among staff that there will not be uniformity regarding eligibility from hospital to hospital.

I would also like to highlight a few specific non-health care front-line worker professions that your government has excluded from the provincial pandemic pay.

Truck drivers have continued to work during the COVID-19 pandemic and without them we would be short many essential goods here in Ontario. Long haul truck drivers who have continued to travel to the United States to transport goods have put themselves at significant risk while on the job.

Canada Post employees and other delivery employees have worked incredibly hard to keep up with increased demand as the majority of Ontarians have done their part to stop the spread by staying at home.

Early Childhood Education Workers have long fought for decent work, and that fight has continued through the pandemic as many Registered ECEs continue to be needed throughout the pandemic specifically to provide service and care for the children of frontline workers.

These examples of professions that have been excluded from provincial pandemic pay are by no means exhaustive but I do hope that it has been illustrative of the many people who are continuing to show up for work in the midst of a global pandemic. Front-line workers should receive their pandemic pay immediately, and this pay needs to be retroactive to the very beginning of the COVID-19 crisis. Will your government commit today to making the provincial pandemic pay retroactive?

I understand that your government recently rolled out a timeline of “key milestones” for delivering the provincial pandemic pay. Please know that I will be closely monitoring that you honour this (overdue) timeline. It is unacceptable that you have called these workers heroes while fumbling to give them the small raise you promised within a reasonable timeframe.

Lastly, I am formally requesting that you review the list of front-line workers that are eligible for the temporary pandemic pay and provide a clear and transparent rationale for your decision on who will be eligible for pandemic pay. All front-line workers deserve pandemic pay – your list must be expanded to include all workers on the front-lines of the pandemic.

I look forward to hearing from you about this urgent matter.

Sincerely,



Laura Mae Lindo, MPP Kitchener Centre

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