

ETT TOWN HALL MEETING

January 13, 2022

4:00 – 5:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Reading of the ETFO Human Rights Statement/Land Acknowledgment
- 3) Opening Remarks – Provincial and Local Advocacy
- 4) Update Regarding the Health and Safety meeting with the TDSB
- 5) Responses to Member Questions
- 6) Staying Safe
- 7) Review of Resources
- 8) Call to Action - Phone and Email Leaders
- 9) Adjournment

Phone Script

If someone answers:

Hello, may I speak to [Name of Politician],

or

Answering machine: This is a message for [Name of Politician],

My name is _____. I am an elementary school teacher in the Toronto District School Board. I am calling you today to express my deep concerns about your school re-opening plan for January 17. I completely agree that online classrooms are no substitute for in-person learning. However, I am deeply concerned about the inadequate plan you, Minister Lecce, and Dr. Moore have laid out.

I am shocked that students will not be regularly given COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests to take home, and that they would only be given 2 more when returning to school on Monday for the rest of the school year. I am even more alarmed to hear that instead, symptomatic children will be incentivized to first come to school, then be identified as symptomatic so that they can get tested, only to then be sent back home, if positive. Your plan is a recipe for disaster.

To keep schools safe and open, it is vital that:

1. Everyone working in or attending a school who can be safely vaccinated is vaccinated, and those who are unvaccinated be tested as per Ministry guidelines.
2. Ventilation systems in all schools are upgraded and functioning windows are installed wherever possible.
3. Class sizes are reduced to promote physical distancing.
4. Robust testing and contact tracing programs are implemented.
5. Teachers, students, and their families have access to free rapid antigen tests at home.
6. The paid sick leave program is expanded immediately to include 10 paid sick days for all workers in Ontario and 14 paid emergency days in a public health crisis.
7. Parents and teachers be informed about all COVID cases in their classrooms.

Thank you for your time.

Email Script

To [Name of Politician],

My name is _____. I am an elementary school teacher in the Toronto District School Board. I am writing you today to express my deep concerns about your school re-opening plan for January 17. I completely agree that online classrooms are no substitute for in-person learning and nothing makes me happier to see schools full of children learning and playing. However, I am deeply concerned about the inadequate plan you, Minister Lecce, and Dr. Moore have laid out.

While I am happy to hear that COVID-19 vaccination clinics for children and teachers will be established in schools, I am dismayed to hear a complete lack of details about how this will be implemented. I was also shocked to learn that students will not be regularly given COVID-19 Rapid Antigen Tests to take home, and that they would only be given 2 more when returning to school on Monday for the rest of the school year. I am even more alarmed to hear that instead, symptomatic children will be incentivized to first come to school, then be identified as symptomatic so that they can get tested, only to then be sent back home, if positive. Elementary schools are not emergency COVID-19 testing sites for elementary-aged children, teachers, and other educational workers. Your plan is a recipe for disaster.

Like you I want schools to be safe and remain open, but the course of action you, Minister Lecce and Dr. Moore have set out will only force schools to close. To keep schools safe and open, it is vital that:

1. Everyone working in or attending a school who can be safely vaccinated is vaccinated, and those who are unvaccinated be tested as per Ministry guidelines.
2. Ventilation systems in all schools are upgraded and functioning windows are installed wherever possible.
3. Class sizes are reduced to promote physical distancing.
4. Robust testing and contact tracing programs are implemented.
5. Teachers, students, and their families have access to free rapid antigen tests at home.
6. The paid sick leave program is expanded immediately to include 10 paid sick days for all workers in Ontario and 14 paid emergency days in a public health crisis.
7. Parents and teachers be informed about all COVID cases in their classrooms.

Yours sincerely,

Contacts for Conservative Government/Toronto

Please find below the contact information for:

- 1) Premier Ford
- 2) Minister of Health Christine Elliott
- 3) Minister of Education Stephen Lecce
- 4) 8 Conservative MPPs who represent Toronto ridings

Premier Doug Ford	Etobicoke North	doug.fordco@pc.ola.org	416-325-1941
Minister Christine Elliott	Minister of Health	christine.elliott@pc.ola.org	416-327-4300
Minister Stephen Lecce	Minister of Education	stephen.lecce@pc.ola.org	416-325-2600
MPP Robin Martin	Eglinton - Lawrence	robin.martin@pc.ola.org	416-327-4300
MPP Kinga Surma	Etobicoke Centre	kinga.surma@pc.ola.org	416-327-4412
MPP Stan Cho	Willowdale	stan.cho@pc.ola.org	416-327-9200
MPP Vincent Ke	Don Valley North	vincent.ke@pc.ola.org	416-325-6009
MPP Raymond Cho	Scarborough North	raymond.cho@pc.ola.org	416-314-0797
MPP Christine Hogarth	Etobicoke - Lakeshore	christine.hogarth@pc.ola.org	437-288-7903
MPP Vijay Thanigasalam	Scarborough - Rouge Park	vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org	416-327-9200
MPP Christina Mitas	Scarborough Centre	christina.mitas@pc.ola.org	416-326-7374

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RESOURCES

ETFO Health and Safety Home Page

<http://etfohealthandsafety.ca/site/>

ETT Health and Safety Home Page

<https://ett.ca/?s=Health+and+safety+>

<https://ett.ca/?s=COVID-19>

Ontario Federation of Labour

<https://ofl.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021-02-16-OFL-Health-and-Safety-Guide-For-Education-Workers-en.pdf>

Violence in Schools - School Boards Guide

<https://ett.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/workplace-violence-in-school-boards-guide-5.pdf>

Work Refusal

<https://mytdsb02.tdsb.on.ca/+CSCO+0h75676763663A2F2F6363732E6771666F2E62612E706E++/uploads/files/live/35/1833.pdf#page3>

Confused About Covid? University of Toronto

<https://dfcm.utoronto.ca/confused-about-covid>