



## Community Services

### Legislative Services

May 31, 2022

File #120203

Sent via email: [Justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto: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: ArriveCAN & COVID-19 Travel Measures to Enter Canada**

Please be advised the Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie at its meeting of May 30, 2022 passed the following resolution:

**Whereas** according to the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, tourism is a vital component of Ontario's economy with over \$36 billion dollars of the province's gross domestic product directly related to that industry; and

**Whereas** according to Niagara Economic Development, over two billion dollars annually are injected into Niagara's local economy, with 40,000 to 60,000 local jobs across the Region tied directly to the tourism industry; and

**Whereas** half of that tourism revenue generated in Niagara comes from American visitors to our Region who cross the Canada-US land border; and

**Whereas** a growing number of Canadian Infectious Disease physicians have questioned the utility and necessity of continuing COVID-19 travel measures, applications and mandates in an era of high community immunity and the Omicron variant infecting and transmitting among the vaccinated and unvaccinated alike; and

**Whereas** compulsory use of the ArriveCAN application to enter Canada at the land border acts as a barrier to tourism recovery for many reasons which include but are not necessarily limited to inequitable access to the technology necessary to use the app, unfamiliarity with the app, and information requested by the app changes and may not be available for entry; and

**Whereas** all COVID-related travel and border mandates required for entry to Canada act as a barrier and disincentive to tourism recovery in the Region of Niagara and the Province of Ontario by creating delays at ports of entry and apprehension about the state of rules and

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The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie  
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Office Hours 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Phone: (905) 871-1600 FAX: (905) 871-4022

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how they may apply to any individual in an era where these delays and apprehension are no longer required or necessary; and

**Whereas** according to observations by the international bridge authorities operating in Niagara, approximately half of the normal volume of traffic entering Canada use these crossings, with the majority of these returning Canadians rather than American visitors; and

**Whereas** due to much less stringent measures at the United States land border, Canadians can easily travel to the United States for tourism and recreation purposes without a reciprocal return of American visitors to Canada; and

**Whereas** jurisdictions that have embraced post-COVID tourism recovery have seen tourism revenue and activity rise to levels above those seen prior to COVID – an economic windfall which would benefit Niagara and other municipalities across Ontario but which is not being seen due to COVID-related border mandates and measures that remain;

**Now therefore be it resolved,**

**That:** The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Government of Canada immediately return all travel requirements and land ports of entry to pre-pandemic operation, which includes but is not necessarily limited to the removal of all COVID-related public health mandates and measures, returning to pre-pandemic staffing levels, as well as no longer requiring compulsory usage of the ArriveCAN application for entry to Canada at the land border, and further

**That:** The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie requests that the Chair of The Regional Municipality and the Mayors of the twelve Local Area Municipalities along with other stakeholders form a Cross-Border Tourism Recovery Task Force to advocate to the federal and provincial governments on the importance of tourism and operation of the land border to Niagara's post-COVID economic recovery, and to report to Niagara's local area municipalities on the progress of that Task Force, and further

**That:** The Municipal Council of the Town of Fort Erie extends a formal invitation to The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism (Canada) and The Honourable Lisa McLeod, Minister of Tourism, Culture and Sport (Ontario) to visit Niagara and meet with stakeholders to discuss tourism recovery and the impact border measures are having on that recovery, and further

**That:** The Municipal Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie extends a formal invitation to all four Niagara-area Members of Parliament to address Council on the steps they, as Niagara-area Members of Parliament, have taken to convey border-related issues of concern in Ottawa as our federal representatives, and further

**That:** This resolution be circulated to The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada, The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety, The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism (Canada), The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport (Canada), The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario, The

Honourable Lisa McLeod, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport (Ontario), all Members of Parliament representing constituencies of border crossing municipalities located along the Canada-US border, all Members of Provincial Parliament in Ontario, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, the Premiers of all Provinces and Territories in Canada that share a border with the United States, and further

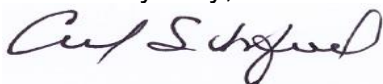
**That:** This resolution be circulated to the Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce and the Niagara South Chamber of Commerce for distribution to their membership, and further

**That:** This resolution be circulated to Niagara Regional Council and the Councils of all twelve local area municipalities in Niagara for their endorsement and support.

Also, attached please find a copy of similar correspondence from the City of Niagara Falls, which the Town of Fort Erie received and supported.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours very truly,



Carol Schofield, Dipl.M.A.  
Manager, Legislative Services/Clerk

[cschofield@forterie.ca](mailto:cschofield@forterie.ca)

CS:dlk

Attach

c.c.

Chair, Regional Municipality and Mayors, Local Area Municipalities: [jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca](mailto:jim.bradley@niagararegion.ca), [jeff.jordan@niagararegion.ca](mailto:jeff.jordan@niagararegion.ca), [sandra.easton@niagararegion.ca](mailto:sandra.easton@niagararegion.ca), [jdiodati@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:jdiodati@niagarafalls.ca), [betty.disero@niagararegion.ca](mailto:betty.disero@niagararegion.ca), [marvin.junkin@niagararegion.ca](mailto:marvin.junkin@niagararegion.ca), [bill.steele@niagararegion.ca](mailto:bill.steele@niagararegion.ca), [walter.sendzik@niagararegion.ca](mailto:walter.sendzik@niagararegion.ca), [terry.ugulini@niagararegion.ca](mailto:terry.ugulini@niagararegion.ca), [kevin.gibson@niagararegion.ca](mailto:kevin.gibson@niagararegion.ca), [frank.campion@niagararegion.ca](mailto:frank.campion@niagararegion.ca), [dave.bylsma@niagararegion.ca](mailto:dave.bylsma@niagararegion.ca), [wredkop@niagararegion.ca](mailto:wredkop@niagararegion.ca)

The Honourable Marco Mendicino, Minister of Public Safety [marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca](mailto:marco.mendicino@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Randy Boissonnault, Minister of Tourism (Canada) [randy.boissonnault@parl.gc.ca](mailto:randy.boissonnault@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Omar Alghabra, Minister of Transport (Canada) [omar.alghabra@parl.gc.ca](mailto:omar.alghabra@parl.gc.ca)

The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario [premier@ontario.ca](mailto:premier@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Lisa McLeod, Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport (Ontario) [Lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org](mailto:Lisa.macleodco@pc.ola.org)

Members of Parliament representing constituencies of border crossing municipalities along the Canada-US border [Terry.Sheehan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Terry.Sheehan@parl.gc.ca), [Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marcus.Powlowski@parl.gc.ca), [Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marilyn.gladu@parl.gc.ca), [eric.duncan.p9@parl.gc.ca](mailto:eric.duncan.p9@parl.gc.ca), [michael.barrett@parl.gc.ca](mailto:michael.barrett@parl.gc.ca), [Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Chris.Bittle@parl.gc.ca), [Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tony.Baldinelli@parl.gc.ca), [Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Vance.Badawey@parl.gc.ca), [Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Carla.Qualtrough@parl.gc.ca), [kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca](mailto:kerry-lynn.findlay@parl.gc.ca), [Tako.VanPopta@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Tako.VanPopta@parl.gc.ca), [ed.fast@parl.gc.ca](mailto:ed.fast@parl.gc.ca), [Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Cannings@parl.gc.ca), [Rob.Morrison@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Rob.Morrison@parl.gc.ca), [John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Barlow@parl.gc.ca), [Glen.Motz@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Glen.Motz@parl.gc.ca), [Jeremy.Patzer@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Jeremy.Patzer@parl.gc.ca), [Robert.Kitchen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Robert.Kitchen@parl.gc.ca), [Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Larry.Maguire@parl.gc.ca), [candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca](mailto:candice.bergen@parl.gc.ca), [Ted.Falk@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Ted.Falk@parl.gc.ca), [Richard.Bragdon@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Bragdon@parl.gc.ca), [John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca](mailto:John.Williamson@parl.gc.ca), [Claude.DeBellefeuille@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Claude.DeBellefeuille@parl.gc.ca), [Brenda.Shanahan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Brenda.Shanahan@parl.gc.ca), [Christine.Normandin@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Christine.Normandin@parl.gc.ca), [Lyne.Bessette@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Lyne.Bessette@parl.gc.ca), [Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Marie-Claude.Bibeau@parl.gc.ca), [Luc.Berthold@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Luc.Berthold@parl.gc.ca), [Richard.Lehoux@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Richard.Lehoux@parl.gc.ca), [Bernard.Genereux@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Bernard.Genereux@parl.gc.ca), [Maxime.Blanchette-Joncas@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Maxime.Blanchette-Joncas@parl.gc.ca)

All Members of Provincial Parliament (MPP)

Association of Municipalities of Ontario [AMO@amo.on.ca](mailto:AMO@amo.on.ca)

Premiers of Provinces and Territories in Canada that Share a Border: [premier@gov.bc.ca](mailto:premier@gov.bc.ca), [premierministre@quebec.ca](mailto:premierministre@quebec.ca), [premier@gnb.ca](mailto:premier@gnb.ca), [premier@leg.gov.mb.ca](mailto:premier@leg.gov.mb.ca), [premier@gov.ab.ca](mailto:premier@gov.ab.ca), [premier@yukon.ca](mailto:premier@yukon.ca), [premier@gov.sk.ca](mailto:premier@gov.sk.ca)

Mishka Balsom, CEO, Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce [mishka@gncc.ca](mailto:mishka@gncc.ca)

Dolores Fabiano, Executive Director, Niagara South Chamber of Commerce [dolores@wellandpelhamchamber.com](mailto:dolores@wellandpelhamchamber.com)

Niagara Region

Local Area Municipalities



May 16, 2022

Public Health Agency of Canada  
130 Colonnade Road  
A.L. 650 1H  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Cross Border Travel and ArriveCAN**

Please be advised that at the May 10, 2022 meeting of Niagara Falls City Council, the following motion was passed:

**Ordered on the motion of Councillor Vince Kerrio, Seconded by Councillor Chris Dabrowski that Council endorse the letter received from the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Authority to ask the Government of Canada to continue to market the ArriveCAN application as an "optional" tool when crossing the border and that it no longer be a mandatory requirement; And that a copy of the letter and Council's motion be forwarded to the Public Health Agency of Canada, bordering municipalities across Ontario, Members of Parliament for Niagara and Local Area Municipalities in Niagara for support.**

The background to the above motion is relating to the current mandatory ArriveCAN application at border crossings to enter Canada. A copy of the letter from the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and the Buffalo and Fort Erie Bridge Authority is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly.

Sincerely,

William G. Matson  
City Clerk

cc.

Tony Baldinelli, MP, Niagara Falls [tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca](mailto:tony.baldinelli@parl.gc.ca)  
Wayne Gates, MPP, [wgates-co@ndp.on.ca](mailto:wgates-co@ndp.on.ca)  
City of Windsor, [mayoro@citywindsor.ca](mailto:mayoro@citywindsor.ca)  
City of Sarnia, [mayor@sarnia.ca](mailto:mayor@sarnia.ca)  
Local Area Municipalities

**RECEIVED**

**MAY 30 2022**

**BY COUNCIL**

***Working Together to Serve Our Community***

Clerks  
Ext 4342 Fax 905-356-9083  
[billmatson@niagarafalls.ca](mailto:billmatson@niagarafalls.ca)



May 10, 2022

**VIA EMAIL**

Mayor Jim Diodati and Councillors  
City of Niagara Falls  
4310 Queen Street  
Niagara Falls Ontario  
L2E 6X5

Dear Mayor Diodati and Councillors

**Re: Cross Border Travel and ArriveCan**

The Covid-19 pandemic has decimated cross border traffic. Even after the Covid testing requirements to enter Canada were lifted on April 1, 2022, auto traffic for the month of April was down 52% at the bridges of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission and 43% at the Peace Bridge, compared to pre-pandemic April 2019. This has had a devastating impact on our toll revenues, the tourism industry and other border dependent businesses.

The Government of Canada's **mandatory** ArriveCan app to enter Canada is a major contributing factor to depressing discretionary travel. This is due to a number of factors:

- For travelers by air, airlines require and assist passengers in completing ArriveCan and in airports people are much easier to move than cars. ArriveCan simply works better and is more applicable at an airport than at a land port of entry.
- ArriveCan is not known in the U.S. The result is people arriving at the border without ArriveCan and then completing it at the inspection booth or having technical difficulties (especially prevalent at borders with competing U.S. and Canadian cell towers and roaming) resulting in inordinately long processing times, sometime exceeding ten minutes. Meanwhile, compliant drivers behind such a vehicle have no place to go and are also delayed leading to lengthy border wait times. CBSA processing times have increased dramatically compared to pre-pandemic processing.
- The technology discriminates against a large population of senior travelers. A January 2022 PEW Research survey found *"that 96% of those ages 18 to 29 own a smartphone compared with 61% of those 65 and older, a 35 percentage point difference."* 50% of Niagara tourism revenue comes from Americans and with 39% of Americans over 65 not having a smartphone it will undoubtedly have a negative impact on their ability to enter Canada and therefore Niagara tourism revenue. 40,000 people in the Niagara Region rely on tourism to provide for their families.

- Even for people aware of ArriveCan, the requirement to use the app for every border crossing is a disincentive to discretionary travel. Unlike air travel, the nature of this bi-national community is being able to cross frequently to visit friends or family, for dinner, a show, a winery tour, a baseball game, shopping, beach, etc without going through the process and inconvenience of having to file with ArriveCan each and every time. People just won't bother to cross the border for discretionary travel as they have enjoyed for decades.
- CBSA/Government of Canada will at some point declare success and say that a high percentage of travelers are using ArriveCan. That will **not** account for the half of the population that has decided it is no longer worth the inconvenience and delays to cross the border. That will be devastating to the Niagara tourism industry and other border dependent businesses.
- While CBSA has not provided us with the American/Canadian split of entrants to Canada, we believe, based on our license plate observations, that it is overwhelmingly Canadians returning to Canada after spending time and money in the U.S., as the U.S. is much simpler and easier to enter with no digital app requirement.

ArriveCan was developed in April 2020, to provide mandatory travel information before and after entry to Canada including the filing of quarantine plans. As of April 25, 2022 it is no longer necessary to file a quarantine plan to visit Canada or for Canadians returning to Canada. Both Canada and the U.S. only allow vaccinated individuals to cross the border. The exception is Canadians who are able to return to Canada unvaccinated but at this stage that number would be very small. Accordingly, ArriveCan now provides very little public health benefit while depressing border traffic and the tourism economy. ArriveCan does have potential traffic facilitation benefits for CBSA as it relates to pre-arrival information and for this reason it should be marketed as such and made optional at the land border.

The Victoria Day and Memorial Day holidays are only couple of weeks away. This is also the traditional start of the summer tourist season. Continuing to mandate ArriveCan will insure another disappointing season for traffic and tourism, not much better than the pandemic summers of 2020 and 2021.

Yours truly,



Kenneth Bieger  
CEO  
Niagara Falls Bridge Commission



Ron Rienas  
General Manager  
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority