March 23, 2020

Honorable [Name of Provincial representative here]

[Please add the address of your representative here]

Dear [Representative Name]: Re Covid-19 Workers Health and Safety

With the ever-increasing number of cases of Covid-19 here in [province or territory] and the very strict requests being made by all levels of government to stay home unless you provide an essential service; I am finding it increasingly difficult following the ever-changing recommendations of the Officers of Health.

We are told that masks are only necessary if you are a front-line worker with a potential to be exposed to contagious persons. Most of the government appears to be looking at this from a health care perspective and yet there are other workers that cannot keep a six-foot distance when dealing with the public.

I realize that a number of airport workers will be laid off very soon; in the meantime, they are being exposed daily to likely contagions in their workplace. As you know, the first point of transmission have been airports, and the traveling public. CATSA, and airport employers are saying that they only have to abide by what the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in the US has recommended for the general public and that masks are not a requirement. Workers in healthcare, particularly those working in community settings are facing the same uncertainty when it comes to their health and safety. Other employers in manufacturing and the service industry have followed that very same principle and I simply cannot believe it is based on any science, but rather one of supply and demand. We do not have the supply necessary. We need to immediately begin to mass produce more masks and other protective equipment to keep our all workers safe. In a pandemic situation, frontline can mean many things, from healthcare workers, to airport workers, to janitorial staff, all are equally exposed to the virus.

I understand that masks may be in short supply; I also realize that they may provide a false sense of security if they are used improperly. Each and every workplace where we cannot keep the workers distanced from either the general public or each other should be using masks to keep their workers as safe as possible. In addition to this, employers should follow the precautionary principle and ensure all sanitizing protocols are followed, as well as, any practice that is thought to protect workers. New information becomes available on a daily basis giving new understanding of COVID-19; our workers, and communities cannot wait, employers need to err on the side of caution.

Every Province and the Federal Government must make this announcement as soon as possible to keep our workers safe at work. Employer policies can also help curb the spread of the Coronavirus, and employers, as well as individuals, should be held to a high standard of safe practice.

Respectfully,

[Your name here]