

March 23, 2022

BY E-MAIL
(premier@gov.pe.ca)

The Honourable Dennis King
Premier of Prince Edward Island
PEI Government Administration, Shaw Building
95 Rochford Street
CHARLOTTETOWN, PE C1A 3T5

Dear Premier King:

Re: COVID Phase-2 Reopening Concerns

I am writing to you today on behalf of over 3,000 CUPE PEI members. Our members work in healthcare, emergency medical services, long term care, education, municipalities, and many other public services.

The PEI government has just loosened COVID safety precautions as it enters “Phase 2”. I wish to point out that this virus has taught us that it is ever changing, and the science must evolve with it. No one ever thought we would still be dealing with lockdowns and isolation in 2022, but here we are the rates of infection are the highest in the country as I write this letter.

CUPE PEI believes government should not rush into easing safety precautions.

Safety precautions must match the science and at this point it doesn't seem that way. The long-term effects of COVID are yet to be known. We can only hope that people who have had it will not become the next wave of patients to overflow our hospitals and put the system in despair.

COVID-19 has revealed and amplified many inadequacies in our healthcare system. Many of these issues often existed prior to the pandemic. Your government has shown it takes these issues seriously and I am glad for this, but challenges remain. Just this past week, we saw how the privatized EMS is so short-staffed that their response times have become simply unacceptable.

A much-needed strong tourist season is just around the corner. If the Government wants to have a safe and wonderful summer for Islanders and visitors, then we believe our province should proceed with higher safety precautions at this moment.

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Your management of the crisis has been exemplary over the last 2 years, with its directions, vaccination recommendations, and public health guidelines. Let's stay the course.

Yours sincerely,



LEONARD GALLANT

President

Canadian Union of Public Employees – PEI Division

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cc: S. Harding, CUPE Maritimes Regional Director; S. Ouellette, CUPE Maritimes Region Communications Representative; K. Tsistinas, CUPE PEI; K. Morrissey, CUPE PEI; L. Jones, CUPE PEI; K. Noble, CUPE PEI; C. Ramsay, CUPE PEI; R. Kennedy, CUPE PEI; D. Gormley, CUPE PEI; N. Mourad, CUPE PEI; and P. Gass, CUPE PEI