

The Freedom Convoy in the Rearview Mirror

Ross McKittrick

February 23, 2022

To save anyone the bother of looking it up, I am on the leaked list of convoy donors, having first sent \$100 through GoFundMe on January 27, then after it was bounced back I re-sent it through GiveSendGo on February 6. Now with the Emergencies Act revoked and world attention on the Ukraine invasion people are quickly forgetting the events of late January and early February 2022. For those who cannot understand why thousands of people like me supported the trucker convoy, here is the story.

1. January Background: The Rest of the World is Relaxing Restrictions as Omicron Wanes in Numbers and Severity

Let's start with the USA, conveniently summarized on the [AARP website](#).

Advocacy Government & Elections Events & History Government Watch



List of Coronavirus-Related Restrictions in Every State

Most states have dropped COVID-related restrictions

by Dena Bunis and Jenny Rough, **AARP**, Updated February 22, 2022



CHRIS DELMAS / AFP

- Alabama
- Alaska
- Arizona
- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- Connecticut
- Delaware
- Louisiana
- Maine
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- Mississippi
- Missouri
- Montana
- Nebraska
- Nevada
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New Mexico
- New York
- North Carolina
- North Dakota
- Ohio
- Oklahoma
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania
- Puerto Rico
- Rhode Island
- South Carolina
- South Dakota
- Tennessee
- Texas
- Utah
- Vermont
- Virginia
- Washington
- West Virginia
- Wisconsin
- Wyoming

Alabama

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Kay Ivey (R) issued an order prohibiting any state executive branch agency from penalizing a business or individual not complying with President Biden's federal vaccine mandate. Ivey also signed a bill that bars local governmental entities, schools and businesses from requiring proof of vaccination as a condition for admission or to receive goods or services.
- **More information:** Check the state public health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Alaska

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Mike Dunleavy (R) issued an order banning all executive branch departments from requiring anyone to provide proof of vaccination (vaccine passports).
- **Masking requirements:** Dunleavy issued a memo requiring employees, contractors and visitors to wear a mask in indoor state facilities unless social distancing can be maintained.
- In the city and borough of Juneau, individuals older than 2 must wear a mask in indoor public settings.
- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Arizona

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Doug Ducey (R) signed an order prohibiting local governments from issuing vaccine mandates. The order also requires local governments to provide earned sick leave to employees if they are exposed to COVID-19.
- **Mask requirements:** The Arizona Supreme Court voided a ban on mask mandates in schools and limited local governments from enforcing similar COVID-19 policies.

The Phoenix City Council requires individuals to wear a mask and practice social distancing inside city facilities, regardless of vaccination status.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Arkansas

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R) signed a bill that prohibits state and local agencies from requiring proof of vaccination (vaccine passports) to travel, to participate in education or to receive services.
- **Mask requirements:** Hutchinson signed a bill that bans state and local mask mandates.
- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Florida

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) signed a bill that prohibits vaccine passports.
- **Mask requirements:** DeSantis signed an order protecting the right of parents to choose whether their children wear a mask in schools.
- **More information:** Read about Florida's [COVID-19 response](#).

Georgia

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Brian Kemp (R) signed an order that prohibits local governments from mandating COVID-19 restrictions for private businesses, such as vaccination requirements.
- **Mask requirements:** Kemp signed an order that prevents local governments from instituting mask mandates. He announced he will introduce a bill that would let parents decide whether their children wear a mask in school.

Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms (D) reinstated an indoor mask mandate for individuals 10 and up.

Savannah Mayor Van R. Johnson II (D) signed an order requiring everyone older than 10 to wear a mask when inside city government buildings, hospitals and early-childhood centers, among other places.

- **More information:** Check the state department of health's [COVID-19 page](#).

Kentucky

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Andy Beshear (D) encouraged workers in state health care facilities to get vaccinated by Oct. 1. Starting then, unvaccinated workers will be tested.
- **Mask requirements:** A statewide mask mandate has ended. A proposed bill would ban mask mandates in schools.
- **More information:** Check the state public health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Louisiana

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell announced that individuals 12 and up must provide proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test for indoor activities, such as dining, gyms and entertainment centers, as well as for outdoor events with more than 500 people.
- **Mask requirements:** Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) lifted a mask mandate in most settings. Masks are still required in K-12 schools, but a school can opt out if it adopts certain protocols.

New Orleans requires individuals 2 and up to wear a mask in indoor spaces outside the home.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Maine

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Health workers had to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 29.
- **Mask requirements:** Individuals are encouraged — but not required — to wear a mask inside public spaces in counties with high rates of COVID-19.

In Portland a mask mandate will expire Feb. 17. Until then, individuals 2 and older must wear a mask in indoor public spaces. Businesses that require proof of vaccination to be on-site don't have to require masks.

- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Maryland

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Employees who work in congregate settings must be vaccinated or submit to regular testing and masking requirements. A similar mandate applies to nursing home and hospital employees.
- **Mask requirements:** Gov. Larry Hogan (R) announced that a mask mandate for employees and visitors at state buildings will end Feb. 22.

Michigan

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Minnesota

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Tim Walz (D) announced state agency employ who work outside the home must get vaccinated or submit to regular testing.
- **Mask requirements:** Masks are recommended statewide but not required.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey reinstated a mask mandate for individuals over age 2 when inside public spaces. St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter issued a mask mandate for all employ and visitors (regardless of vaccination status) to city-owned buildings. Businesses licens by the city must also require masks.

- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Mississippi

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Missouri

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Gov. Mike Parson (R) issued an executive order that prohibits state executive branch agencies from compelling an individual to receive a COVID-19 vaccine or penalize a business for noncompliance with the federal vaccine mandate.
- **Mask requirements:** Statewide, masks are recommended but not required.

St. Louis County's health department requires individuals age 5 and older to wear a mask when indoors in public spaces.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

Montana

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** In April, Gov. Greg Gianforte (R) signed an executive order prohibiting vaccine passports in Montana.
- **More information:** Check the state's [COVID-19 page](#).

Nebraska

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's [COVID-19 page](#).

South Carolina

Fully reopened.

- **Mask requirements:** No statewide requirement.

Under an emergency ordinance, individuals in Richland County who are 11 years must wear a mask in indoor public spaces. The ordinance is in effect until March

- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

South Dakota

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

Tennessee

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state's COVID-19 page.

Texas

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

Utah

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state's COVID-19 page.

Vermont

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine or testing requirements:** State employees are required to get vaccinated or submit to weekly testing.
- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

Virginia

Fully reopened.

- **Mask requirements:** State employees must wear a mask in public areas.
- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

West Virginia

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state's COVID-19 page.

Wisconsin

Fully reopened.

- **Vaccine and testing requirements:** Executive branch employees who are unvaccinated must submit to weekly testing.
- **Mask requirements:** No statewide requirement.

Madison and Dane County's health officer issued a mask mandate, effective Feb. 1. Individuals ages 2 and up must wear a mask in indoor public spaces when with people outside their household. Masks are also required when using public transportation. The order lasts until March 1.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

Wyoming

Fully reopened.

- **More information:** Check the state health department's COVID-19 page.

Editor's note: This story has been updated to reflect new information.

More on the Coronavirus

- AARP coronavirus tele-town halls
- Get the latest news and information on the coronavirus
- State-by-state guide to face mask requirements

Then there's the UK and other European countries.

Last Updated: 19th January, 2022 21:47 IST

UK PM Boris Johnson Announces Face Mask Rules & COVID Passes To End In England

Boris Johnson has declared that England's Plan B measures, including required face coverings in public places and COVID passports, will be phased out.

Written By [Aparna Shandilya](#)



Image: AP

United Kingdom's (UK) Prime Minister Boris Johnson has declared that England's Plan B measures, including required face coverings in public places and COVID passports, will be phased out starting next Thursday. The prime minister also stated that the government would stop advising individuals to work from home right now. Due to boosters and how people had embraced Plan B measures, the PM declared England was back to "Plan A." Scientists felt the

CORONAVIRUS

Covid-19: Denmark declares end to the pandemic

The Danish government is to lift all covid restrictions on 1 February, on the basis of high vaccination levels and the less serious nature of Omicron.

AS USA

Update: 28 January 2022 07:46 EST



Denmark is set to lift all coronavirus restrictions in the country from 1 February despite record numbers of cases driven by the Omicron variant, with the government stating that the high percentage of vaccinated people and the less severe nature of the new strain has rendered continued curbs on society redundant.

'IT'S OVER': Sweden scraps Covid rules, Britain to end isolation early



Yahoo News Australia and agencies

9 February 2022 · 5-min read

In this article:

Lena Hallengren

Swedish politician

Authorities in Sweden, Poland and the United Kingdom have announced major easings of coronavirus restrictions as the global number of infections since the start of the pandemic surpassed 400 million.

Sweden scrapped almost all of its few remaining restrictions overnight and stopped most testing for Covid-19.

Sweden's government announced last week it would scrap the remaining restrictions – effectively declaring the pandemic over – as vaccines and the less severe Omicron variant have cushioned severe cases and deaths.

"As we know this pandemic, I would say it's over," Minister of Health Lena Hallengren told national newspaper Dagens Nyheter.



TRENDING

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Meanwhile in Canada the picture looked very different. After nonstop demonization of unvaccinated people, and the government blaming them for the Omicron wave, a poll released on January 19 in the [National Post](#) stated that a quarter of Canadians would support imprisoning people who are unvaccinated, and 37 percent would support denying them health care. To me this meant that the government had utterly failed to provide truthful and unifying leadership, and was instead scapegoating unvaccinated persons for what was in reality their own mishandling of the pandemic.

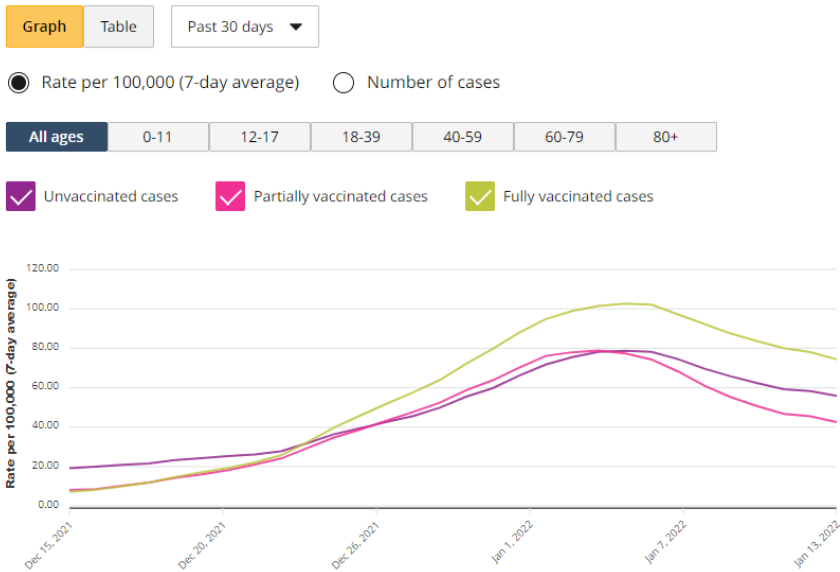
I am fully vaccinated but I do not support vaccine mandates. Especially with Omicron the argument for requiring them was rapidly unraveling. On January 13th the [Scottish Herald](#) reported on the “weird” observation that fully-vaccinated elderly persons were at higher risk of hospitalization than the unvaccinated:

DOUBLE-JABBED Scots are now more likely to be admitted to hospital with Covid than the unvaccinated amid an increase in elderly people falling ill due to waning immunity.

It comes amid "weird" data showing that case rates have been lower in unvaccinated individuals than the single, double, or even triple-jabbed since Omicron became the dominant variant in **Scotland**.

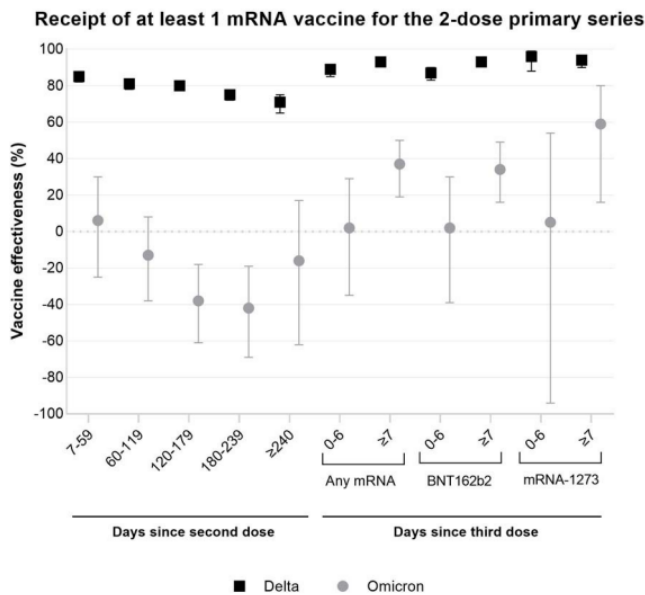
Ontario data had been showing a pattern since December that cases are more prevalent *on a per capita basis* among the fully vaccinated than the unvaccinated.

COVID-19 cases by vaccination status



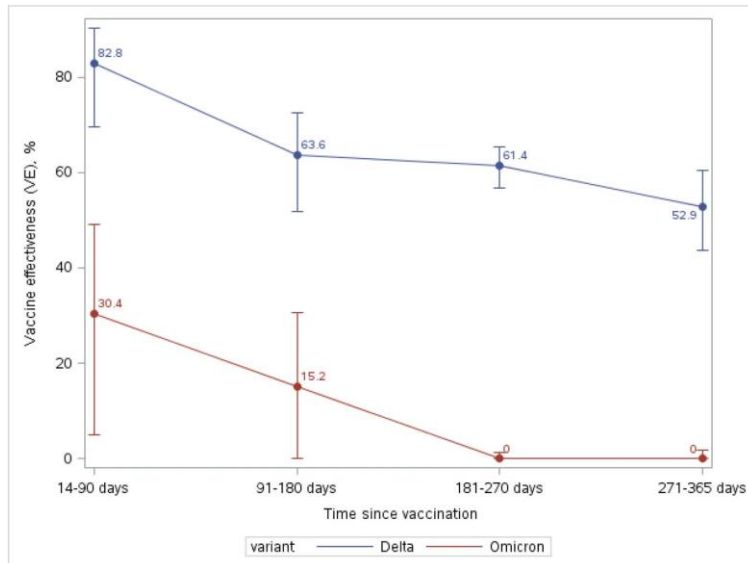
A detailed analysis at the time using [Ontario data](#) showed that the vaccines provided waning effectiveness against Delta, and were worse than ineffective against Omicron.

Figure 1. Vaccine effectiveness against infection by Omicron or Delta among adults aged ≥ 18 years by time since latest dose



Source: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.12.30.21268565v1.full.pdf> (p. 19)

Research conducted at [Kaiser Permanente](#) in California showed an even steeper decline in effectiveness against Delta (82.8% down to 52.9% after 271 days) and no protection against Omicron after 180 days.



Source: <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2022.01.07.22268919v1>

International data published¹ in the *European Journal of Epidemiology* confirmed the pattern observed in Canada and the US: as of September 2021 “there appears to be no discernable relationship between percentage of population fully vaccinated and new COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days (Fig. 1). In fact, the trend line suggests a marginally positive association such that countries with higher percentage of population fully vaccinated have higher COVID-19 cases per 1 million people.”

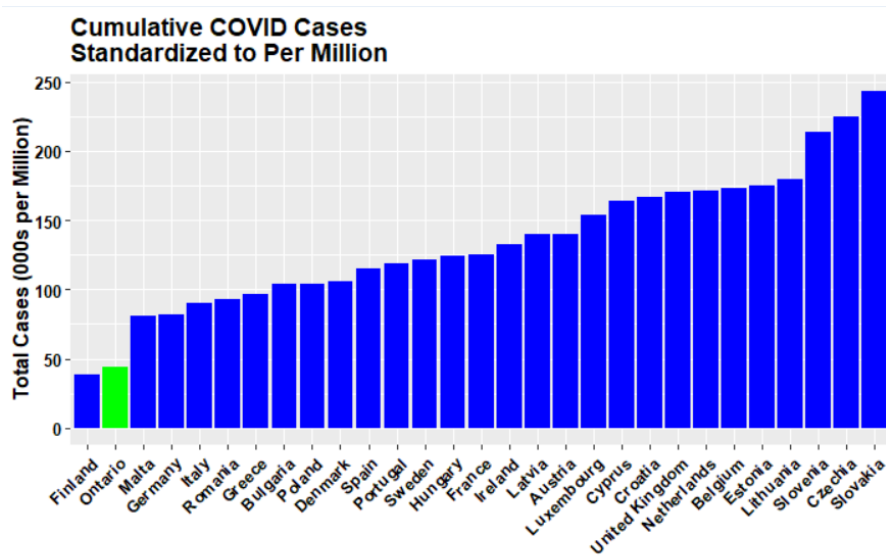
Overlooked in the December Omicron wave was a [modest resurgence](#) of Delta, especially among seniors. The risk of serious consequences from Covid is almost entirely on seniors, who have voluntarily and enthusiastically gotten vaccinated. And it was this Delta sub-wave that put pressure on ICUs, although not bringing it to critical occupancy levels. [Ontario data](#) indicated that critical care occupancy rates during the peak of the Omicron wave remained below 75%, below the “red line” panic rate of 85%. Ironically, the reason for the Delta resurgence wasn’t resistance to vaccination by young adults and children, but that the federal regulation which placed a 6-month interval between second shot and booster was longer than the protection provided by the vaccines. Because so many Canadian seniors were vaccinated in June and early July, their protection had expired before December and they were vulnerable to the Delta resurgence.

The most serious policy failure thus wasn’t a failure to force healthy 20 year olds (or middle-aged truckers) to get vaccinated, but a botched federal vaccine rollout that inadvertently left vaxxed and willing seniors vulnerable to Delta. The proposals for mandatory trucker vaccination and the (now dropped) Quebec tax on unvaccinated persons) were wildly misplaced, divisive, overly punitive and unnecessary.

¹ <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10654-021-00808-7>

Additionally it was becoming clear by January that there are elevated risks of myocarditis/pericarditis in young men. In October 2021 the US FDA [suspended](#) the use of the Moderna vaccine in young men due to risks of myocarditis. In September 2021 Ontario issued a [recommendation](#) for young men to avoid Moderna. [Recent Ontario data](#) (see p. 26 at link) showed that men in the 18-24 age group have reported 193.4 cases of myocarditis/pericarditis per million mRNA doses administered, or one per 5,181. Given the seriousness of acquiring a heart condition this is a very high risk level for a group at such low risk from complications due to Omicron. Since the Omicron variant is proving to be very mild, and since the vaccine provides no immunity against it anyway, it would be entirely reasonable for men who are young and healthy to opt not to get vaccinated, or if vaccinated, not to get boosted. A policy of universal coercion is too broad and far-reaching in this case.

Further relevant background includes the fact that COVID caseloads in Canada have been relatively low compared to other countries. This comparison is for Ontario, but Canada would be similar:



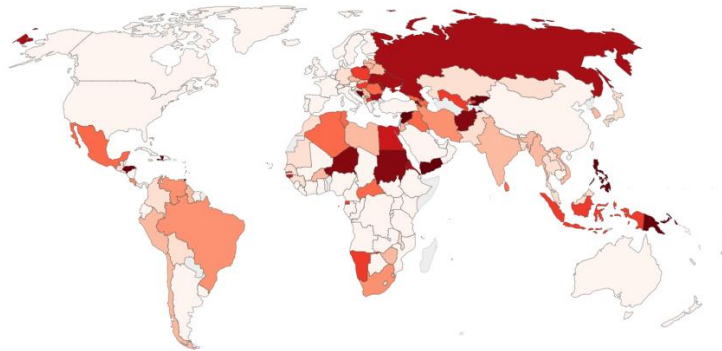
Also the case fatality rate in Canada is currently very low by global standards.

Moving-average case fatality rate of COVID-19, Jan 13, 2022

The case fatality rate (CFR) is the ratio between confirmed deaths and confirmed cases. Our rolling-average CFR is calculated as the ratio between the 7-day average number of deaths and the 7-day average number of cases 10 days earlier.

Our World In Data

World



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

CC BY

▶ Sep 1, 2020

○ Jan 13, 2022

(ourworldindata.org)

Now revisit the logic of blaming the unvaccinated for the current state of the pandemic: there was a resurgence of Delta among seniors whose vaccine protection had waned but who weren't eligible for a booster. The Omicron wave hit vaccinated and unvaccinated equally, and fortunately was mild and rarely involved hospitalization. Trudeau's decision to single out truckers for punitive treatment made no sense.

2. Canada Imposes a Harsh and Unnecessary Vaccine Mandate on Truckers

Trudeau went ahead on January 15th with a new, controversial cross-border vaccine mandate on truckers.

December 3, 2021

11:19 AM EST

Last Updated 3 months ago

The Great Reboot

Canadian, U.S. truckers warn vaccine mandates will disrupt supply chains

By Steve Scherer and David Shepardson

3 minute read



<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/canadian-us-truckers-warn-vaccine-mandates-will-disrupt-supply-chains-2021-12-03/>

I could not understand why this was being brought in. For 2 years the truckers had been driving back and forth across the border fulfilling an essential role. On both sides of the borders the truckers were getting vaccinated at about the same rate as the general population. Most places around the world had come to realize Omicron was a mild variant and rules could start being relaxed, not tightened. So why single out truckers? Frankly it had the appearance of scapegoating and stoking division to score political points. And Trudeau, true to form, refused to listen to any criticisms of his decision.

3. The Protest Convoy Started, and Canadians Cheered

The convoy began in a disorganized, spontaneous fashion, and the massive supporting response it triggered reflected a genuine and widely-shared sense that our federal government had stopped listening to peoples' concerns. Canadians are fully aware of the re-openings elsewhere in North America and around the world, and by mid-January just about everyone knew someone who had had Omicron and considered it no worse than a mild flu. Yet here we were talking about new border restrictions that would make supply chain problems worse and put more truckers out of business. With a government refusing to listen to their concerns, hitting the road was a last resort.

From the start the organizers (to the extent a core group can be identified), consistently called for peaceful, lawful and respectful protesting.



IT'S TIME TO SAY **NO**
TO MANDATORY
VACCINATIONS &
VACCINE PASSPORTS !

TORONTO
PEACEFUL ASSEMBLY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2022
QUEENS PARK, TORONTO
12:00 PM

ALL INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT OPPOSE MANDATORY VACCINATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.THELINECANADA.COM

THIS IS NOT AN ANTI-MASK OR ANTI-VACCINE PROTEST. VACCINATED OR NOT, WEARING A MASK OR NOT, YOU ARE ALL WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND IN SUPPORT OF THIS CAUSE.

WE WELCOME YOUR SUPPORT. THELINECANADA.COM



BRUCE COUNTY
CONVOY

Let's show our support locally!
Saturday, February 12th

Join the convoy anywhere along the way or cheer along the route

Start: Port Elgin Walmart meet at 11:30 pull out by NOON
Route: Southampton- Allenford-Tara-Burgoyne-End in Port Elgin

Follow rules of the road
Leave room for emergency vehicles
Stay peaceful

All vehicles Big and Small welcome !



The convoy attained an astonishing magnitude in a short time, [at one point](#) being estimated at over 70 km long.

Toronto & GTA

WARMINGTON: 'Freedom' truckers may form world's longest convoy

Joe Warmington
Jan 26, 2022 • January 29, 2022 • 3 minute read • 418 Comments



Supporters of the "Freedom Convoy" of truckers recently gathered on the edge of the Trans-Canada Hwy., east of Calgary PHOTO BY GAVIN YOUNG /Postmedia Network

<https://torontosun.com/news/local-news/warmington-freedom-truckers-may-form-worlds-longest-convoy>

The next thing to note is that surrounding the truckers was an astonishing outpouring of public support, the likes of which I have not seen since Terry Fox ran across the country. In bitter sub-zero temperatures people lined the roads and bridges across the country to cheer on the convoy. These images were widely-shared at the time.



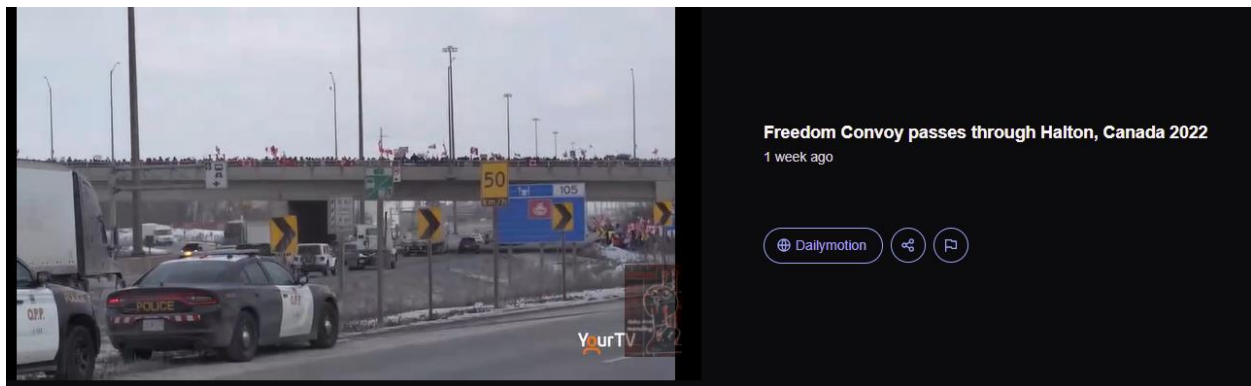


<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVe7P54e0mQ>





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZehWEff2N3E&t=1s>





© NORTH YORK
Toronto: Drone video of supporters of freedom convoy at Don Mills overpass 1-27-2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XG-GHyYOGQY>

4. Trudeau Responded with Nasty, McCarthyite Rhetoric

On January 27, Trudeau [declared the convoy](#) and its supporters a “fringe minority” holding “unacceptable views” and pretty much declared them un-Canadian.

Trudeau says ‘fringe minority’ in trucker convoy with ‘unacceptable views’ don’t represent Canadians

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau remarked on the convoy of trucks heading to Ottawa this week, saying that the “fringe minority” in the truck convoy with “unacceptable views” do not represent the way most Canadians feel. The comments came on the heels of reporting by Global News that far-right and white nationalist groups saw the convoy as an opportunity. Though truck convoy organizers have been adamant these extremists don’t represent the position of the protesters.

He [added](#) that they were a “very small, very angry” group lashing out at the government. By belittling them and dismissing them in this way he only stiffened the resolve of the truckers to go to Ottawa and be heard.

Meanwhile on the same day, international support poured in, including a tweet from Elon Musk:



← Tweet



Elon Musk
@elonmusk

Canadian truckers rule

1:45 PM · Jan 27, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

30.1K Retweets 3,383 Quote Tweets 162.3K Likes

This was the day I went to the GoFundMe page and chipped in to help pay for food and fuel for the convoy.

On January 29 the truckers arrived in Ottawa and made their case to the world's media. As had happened all through the convoy the organizers distanced themselves from extremists and cooperated with law enforcement to maintain order.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-60164561>

After a week-long drive across Canada, a convoy of big rigs has arrived in the national capital to protest vaccine mandates and Covid-19 measures. Organisers insist it will be peaceful, but police say they're prepared for trouble.

It's been dubbed the Freedom Convoy, and it's got the country talking.

The movement was sparked by a vaccine mandate for truckers crossing the US-Canada border, implemented by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's Liberal government earlier this month.

Upset with the new measure that would require unvaccinated Canadian truckers crossing the two nations' boundary to quarantine once they've returned home, a loose coalition of truckers and conservative groups began to organise the cross-country drive that began in western Canada.

It picked up steam and gathered support as it drove east. Many supporters, already opposed to Mr Trudeau and his politics, have grown frustrated with pandemic measures they see as political overreach.

Social media and news footage showed trucks and companion vehicles snaking along highways, cheered on by people gathered on roadsides and overpasses, often waving Canadian flags and signs disparaging Mr Trudeau.

Organisers have called out fringe elements, urging participants to report any misbehaviour. Mr Jonker also said extremists would not be welcome.

Police have urged locals to avoid the gridlocked downtown core. Thousands of vehicles and participants are expected for a weekend of planned demonstrations and on Saturday the streets were crowded with vehicles and people gathering near Parliament Hill.

... Truck drivers working the cross-border routes had previously been exempt from mandates, considered essential workers.

The Canadian Trucking Alliance estimates that 85% to 90% of the 120,000 Canadian truckers who work cross-border routes are vaccinated and said on Saturday that it appeared many of the protesters in Ottawa have no connection to the industry.

While the alliance does not support the convoy and has said the industry must adapt to the mandate, it is said the measure could remove as many as 16,000 drivers from those routes.

Numerous business groups have also said they're worried the mandate's timing will only aggravate existing supply chain issues.

"Everything that Canadians depend on - food, clothing, electronics - everything arrives" on the back of trucks, said Ambarish Chandra, an associate professor at the Rotman School of Management who studies the US-Canada border, told the BBC.

He said he's "wary" of the mandate as "there's a real threat of unintended consequences".

Mr Trudeau, who sees boosting vaccination rates as a key tool in fighting the Covid-19 pandemic, has accused Conservative politicians warning about possible supply chain issues of "fear-mongering" and has shown no intention of backing down.

Trucker Mr Jonkers says he's ready to stay in Ottawa for the long haul.

"The intent is actually to stay until all these mandates are dropped. Some people can stay one day, some people can stay five days but all the truck drivers are used to camping in their trucks all week long."

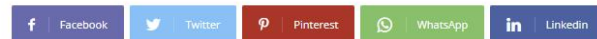
"We are staying here until we can go back to work", he said.

Predictably a couple of anonymous trouble makers arrived with nazi/confederate flags. They were promptly ordered to leave but some in the media highlighted their presence as if they were representative of the protest at large. The federal Liberals acted dishonestly and in bad faith by repeating this claim over the ensuing weeks. True North journalist Candice Malcolm has tried for weeks to identify the lone nazi flag guy but so far unsuccessfully, further demonstrating that he was not connected to the protests or in any way supported by them.

Jan 29: True North News

Everything we know so far about the Nazi Flag guy

By Candice Malcolm - January 30, 2022



The Freedom Convoy has arrived in Ottawa, and their positive and hopeful message has inspired freedom-loving people all over the world.

Unfortunately, much of the legacy media coverage has not focused on the optimistic story about the truckers, the groundswell of support they received and the many communities across Canada who have united and rallied behind their cause. Instead, the media has chosen to focus on two or three men flying egregious flags.

Two or three men flying racist flags should not taint an entire movement. But actual Nazis should be named, shamed and driven out of the Freedom Convoy movement. We need to know who these individuals are and why

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43,200 Followers	FOLLOW
118,963 Followers	FOLLOW
63,400 Subscribers	SUBSCRIBE

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5. Early February: Conflicting Reports of Conditions on the Street

After the initial protest, when it became clear a contingent were settling in for an extended protest, there were legitimate complaints about the non-stop honking. The truckers should have moved more quickly to stop the honking especially at night. Strangely the city of Ottawa did not move to enforce its own noise by-laws until forced to by a court injunction sought by a private citizen.

Meanwhile there were widely-differing reports about what was going on. I tried to find direct eyewitness accounts, especially from people who lived in the area. For instance:

Feb 3: A Night With the Untouchables

<https://maybury.ca/the-reformed-physicist/2022/02/03/a-night-with-the-untouchables/>

I live in downtown Ottawa, right in the middle of the trucker convoy protest. They are literally camped out below my bedroom window. My new neighbours moved in on Friday and they seem determined to stay. I have read a lot about what my new neighbours are supposedly like, mostly from reporters and columnists who write from distant vantage points somewhere in the media heartland of Canada. Apparently the people who inhabit the patch of asphalt next to my bedroom are white supremacists, racists, hatemongers, pseudo-Trumpian grifters, and even QAnon-style nutters. I have a perfect view down Kent Street – the absolute ground zero of the

convoy. In the morning, I see some protesters emerge from their trucks to stretch their legs, but mostly throughout the day they remain in their cabs honking their horns. At night I see small groups huddled in quiet conversations in their new found companionship. There is no honking at night. **What I haven't noticed, not even once, are reporters from any of Canada's news agencies walking among the trucks to find out who these people are.** So last night, I decided to do just that – I introduced myself to my new neighbours.

I watched many videos from Youtuber [Viva Frei](#) walking around downtown Ottawa during the mid-day protests, and the overwhelming sense was that the protest had taken on a carnival-like atmosphere with no violence or extremism and a general attempt to be cooperative with law enforcement. It was noted in the media throughout this time that the protests were remaining peaceful and civil.

Feb 6: Toronto Star

<https://www.thestar.com/politics/political-opinion/2022/02/06/freedom-convoy-protest-exposes-hypocrisy-in-ottawa.html>

“The city’s residents and politicians are lucky the demonstrators have so far mostly been non-violent. Had the protesters’ intentions been more sinister, our capital would be in deep trouble, writes Althia Raj.”

Feb 17

 You Retweeted



Sarah Fischer @SarahFischer_ · Feb 17

...

I live in downtown Ottawa. I've walked around almost every day since the trucks arrived. I have not been terrorized, held hostage or harassed. I've witnessed Canadians with smiles on their faces being filled with hope and joy as they stand together for their rights and freedoms.

 2,073

 29.9K

 109.7K



Feb 18

You Retweeted



Rupa Subramanya @rupasubramanya · Feb 18



Am home now after having spent all day at the protests, since about 10 am. Despite police action, the crowd has been largely peaceful, kind and compassionate, even telling the cops, "We love you, don't do this". The world watches as Canada cracks down on peaceful civil disobedience.



296

3,423

10.5K



Winnipeg / News / Manitoba

Local Freedom Convoy agrees to move trucks, vehicles off Broadway

James Snell
Feb 18, 2022 • 4 days ago • 2 minute read • 9 Comments




A Winnipeg Police officer stands around with a group of individuals who are illegally occupying streets around the Manitoba Legislative Building in Winnipeg on Thursday, Feb. 17, 2022. PHOTO BY CHRIS PROCAYLO /Winnipeg Sun

Winnipeg Freedom Convoy, which has been occupying streets adjacent to the Manitoba Legislative Building for two weeks, is making changes to accommodate a request by the Winnipeg Police Service.

6. Early February: Policies Begin to Change, but not the Federal Mandate

Feb 3: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQuXFik71t0> in a compelling and rational presentation, Saskatchewan's Scott Moe announced an early end to Covid restrictions.



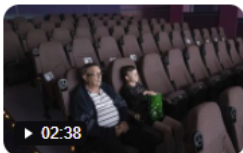
COVID-19
Get the latest information from Health Canada on COVID-19. [LEARN MORE](#)

See more resources on Google

iving with COVID-19
5,278 views • Feb 3, 2022 2.4K DISLIKE SHARE DOWNLOAD SAVE ...

Premier Scott Moe
799 subscribers [SUBSCRIBE](#)

Meanwhile other Canadian and foreign jurisdictions began accelerating the end of restrictions.



B.C. to lift most COVID-19 restrictions

[Dailymotion](#) • 1 week ago

British Columbia will drop capacity limits for indoor and outdoor gatherings including at sporting events, fitness centres, restaurants, bars and nightclubs starting tomorrow. Provincial health office...



Alberta drops vaccine passport, plans to loosen other COVID-19 restrictions

[Youtube](#) • 1 week ago

Albertans no longer need to show their proof of vaccination to dine in restaurants or sit in entertainment venues. As of Monday ...

TORONTO | News

Ontario to lift vaccine passport in March, next phase of COVID-19 reopening to begin early

[Katherine DeClerq](#) CTV News Toronto Multi-Platform Writer
[@KateDeClerq](#) | [Contact](#)

Published Monday, February 14, 2022 8:44AM EST
Last Updated Monday, February 14, 2022 11:7AM EST



Ontario to lift restrictions sooner than planned
The Ford government has announced the easing of restrictions to begin February 17, four days earlier than previously planned.

[NOW PLAYING](#)



[Nicola Sturgeon announces end of vaccine passports as face mask rules to be relaxed](#)

[Dailymotion](#) • yesterday

Nicola Sturgeon has announced the Covid passport scheme will end next week while the rules around face masks will be relaxed in March 2022. Speaking on 22/02/22, the First Minister said...

Yet, once again, Trudeau moved in the opposite direction, refusing to budge on the border mandate and imposing martial law on the protestors.

7. February 15: the Emergencies Act Invoked

I won't discuss this at length because it has been widely debated. The introduction of what amounts to martial law was a grotesque over-reach. Unlike all the other protest sites Ottawa police had not succeeded in clearing the downtown protest, which might be their fault to some extent, but they were not at all helped by the hard, inflammatory rhetoric from Trudeau throughout the interval.

It has not been widely noted that on February 16, a day after the EA was imposed, an Ottawa Superior Court judge issued an order specifically stating that as long as the protestors don't honk airhorns they **"remain at liberty to engage in a peaceful, lawful and safe protest."** I have reproduced the order in full: see especially paragraph 8.



Court File No: CV-22-00088514-00CP

ONTARIO
SUPERIOR COURT OF JUSTICE

THE HONOURABLE MR JUSTICE MCLEAN) WEDNESDAY, THE 16TH DAY
)
) OF FEBRUARY, 2022

BETWEEN:

ZEXI LI

Plaintiff/Moving Party

- and -

CHRIS BARBER, BENJAMIN DICHTER, TAMARA LICH, PATRICK KING and
JOHN DOE 1, JOHN DOE 2, JOHN DOE 3, JOHN DOE 4, JOHN DOE 5,
JOHN DOE 6, JOHN DOE 7, JOHN DOE 8, JOHN DOE 9, JOHN DOE 10,
JOHN DOE 11, JOHN DOE 12, JOHN DOE 13, JOHN DOE 14, JOHN DOE 15,
JOHN DOE 16, JOHN DOE 17, JOHN DOE 18, JOHN DOE 19, JOHN DOE 20,
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JOHN DOE 56, JOHN DOE 57, JOHN DOE 58, JOHN DOE 59 and JOHN DOE 60

Defendants/Responding Parties

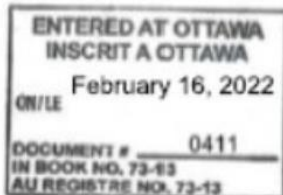
ORDER

THIS MOTION, made by the Plaintiff for an interlocutory injunction and costs, pursuant to section 101 of the *Courts of Justice Act* and Rule 40.01 of the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, was heard at Ottawa on February 5, 7, and 16, 2022 by videoconference.

UPON READING the motion records of the parties and UPON HEARING the oral arguments made by counsel for the parties by Zoom,

1. THIS COURT ORDERS that the interlocutory injunction granted on February 7, 2022, pursuant to section 101 of the *Courts of Justice Act*, Rule 40.01 of the *Rules of Civil Procedure*, and section 12 of the *Class Proceedings Act*, is continued.
2. THIS COURT ORDERS that any persons having notice of this Order are hereby restrained and enjoined from using air horns or train horns, other than those on a motor vehicle of a municipal fire department, in the geographic location anywhere in the City of Ottawa, in the vicinity of downtown Ottawa, being any streets north of Highway 417, otherwise known as the Queensway, for 60 days from the date of this Order, or until further order of this Court.
3. THIS COURT ORDERS that any persons having notice of this Order are hereby restrained and enjoined from ordering, requesting, inciting, counselling, promoting or encouraging in any manner whatsoever, either directly or indirectly, via social media or otherwise, any person to use air horns or train horns in downtown Ottawa for as long as the Order is in effect.
4. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Defendants Barber, Dichter Lich, and King forthwith direct that they communicate this Order through their social media channels, including Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, as well as the Freedom Convoy 2022 Facebook page.
5. THIS COURT ORDERS that any police officer with the Ottawa Police Service, and/or the appropriate police authority in the jurisdiction in question (the "Police"), shall have authorization to arrest and remove any person who has knowledge of this Order and who the Police have reasonable and probable grounds to believe is contravening or has contravened any provision of this Order.
6. THIS COURT ORDERS that the Police shall retain discretion:
 - a. as to the timing and manner of enforcement of this Order, and specifically retain discretion as to the timing and manner of arrest and removal of any person pursuant to this Order; and
 - b. to detain and release any person without arrest who the Police have reasonable and probable grounds to believe is contravening, or has contravened, any provisions of this Order, upon that person agreeing in writing to abide by this Order.
7. THIS COURT ORDERS that any peace officer and any member of the Police who arrests or arrests and removes any person pursuant to this Order shall have authorization to release that person from arrest upon that person agreeing in writing to obey this Order;

8. THIS COURT ORDERS that, provided the terms of this Order are complied with, the Defendants and other persons remain at liberty to engage in a peaceful, lawful and safe protest.
9. NOTICE OF THIS ORDER may be given by: posting copies of this Order in or around downtown Ottawa; reading the Order to any person, including but not limited to reading the Order over an amplification system publishing this Order online, including on social media accounts associated with the Defendants, and by distributing copies of this Order to media including CBC, Radio-Canada, CTV, Global News and all daily newspapers in the Ottawa-Gatineau area.
10. THIS ORDER shall not apply to persons acting in the course of or in the exercise of a statutory duty, power or authority.
11. THIS COURT ORDERS that the costs of this motion shall be in the cause.




The following weekend many protestors were subject to arrest and the remaining trucks were towed away. The government has also engaged in aggressive use of banking mechanisms to freeze accounts of supporters, including donors.

8. My Part in All This

I sympathized from the outset with the truckers' complaint that the cross-border mandate was unnecessary and ill-timed. It was clear that Trudeau and his cabinet had no intention of listening to these workers and were not prepared to provide a rational defence of the decision. When the convoy got rolling Trudeau then revealed an astonishing level of contempt for working-class Canadians and a dangerously rigid, Soviet-like attitude towards dissent. I did not have the opportunity to attend any rallies in person or wave a flag from an overpass but I did have a chance to donate some money to the cause and I'm glad I did.

The truckers were careful from the start to make clear they were not protesting the vaccines, but the vaccine mandate. While some people in the movement made outlandish demands (such as asking the Governor General to dismiss the government), the movement generally stayed focused on its central

demand that a bad federal policy be reversed. I saw ample evidence throughout the relevant interval that, despite the convoy being hurriedly organized and initiated, it represented a true cross-section of Canadians expressing valid political concerns with appropriate restraint, patriotism and respect for the law. If it had degenerated into extremism or had advocated violence I would not have supported it. When GoFundMe deemed the protest “criminal” and sent my donation back, despite there not having been anyone arrested, I re-sent it to GiveSendGo. I don’t know if it ever got to the intended recipients, but I hope so.

During the entire relevant timeline I have had no reason to believe that the funds raised for the trucker protest were any form of “terrorist financing” nor were they part of a conspiracy to commit insurrection or nonsense like that. Above all else, if there were any truth to the hysterical accusations about the protest being some kind of seditious uprising or violent terrorist attack, I hardly think Mr Justice McLean would have ordered on February 16 that the defendants in the motion were free to carry on, subject only to a limitation on use of airhorns. Meanwhile the government’s threats to shut down bank accounts of donors like me are absolutely disgraceful in a free society. And I hope anybody clinging to the illusion that the NDP is still the party of the working class has had their eyes opened.

To anyone tempted to think that donors to a cause should be liable for any and all costs that can, however indirectly, be blamed on protestors affiliated with the cause, you should realize you are implicating Canadian supporters of environmental groups with your theory. Environmental activists in Canada have been given pretty much carte blanche in recent years to [shut down](#) roads, pipelines, rail lines and other infrastructure for extended intervals. Last year David Suzuki, supported by Extinction Rebellion, hinted at approval for [bombing pipelines](#). And just last week anti-pipeline activists launched a [violent attack](#) on workers and equipment at the Coastal GasLink site. This is the kind of rhetoric and violence people falsely accused the truckers of planning, but which never happened. Yet when it actually does happen at the hands of radical anti-pipeline activists out west, the government never thinks of invoking the EA. I need hardly point out the double standard here.