

**From:** Davidson, Dion

**Sent:** Saturday, December 31, 2022 2:12 PM

**To:** John Lohr

**Cc:** Premier <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** COVID

John Lohr  
MLA King's North  
Minister Responsible for Emergency Measures

Hello John

When we spoke about the COVID pandemic policies last year at my house, I told you that my concerns were serious enough that I was considering relocating.

I write now to tell you that my wife Maresa, a business leader in this community, and I are moving our family out of Nova Scotia because of the public health authority and government responses to COVID, particularly the extended lockdowns, vaccine mandates and muzzling of dissenting medical opinions.

My departure means that the vascular surgery program at Valley Regional Hospital in Kentville, serving the entire western zone of the province, including Yarmouth and the south shore, is essentially collapsing.

For now, I continue working and winding up my practice here. Almost without exception, every nurse and doctor with whom I have any more than fleeting conversations is either burning out or has burnt out because they feel overwhelmed working within a healthcare system which continues to decay. Much of this dysfunction was exacerbated by the COVID policies.

It is recognized that a final contribution to physician burn-out is a perceived loss of agency, a feeling of helplessness while trying to care for patients within a dysfunctional, unresponsive and oppressive health system. Many of the doctors and nurses I interact with these days are looking for exit strategies similar to mine because they are feeling similarly desperate.

Meanwhile, I know of many conscientious, capable and compassionate physicians and nurses who were forced out of their jobs over a year ago because they decided against accepting COVID vaccines. These vaccines were experimental medical interventions with well documented risks of early adverse events and a completely unknown long-term risk profile. The vaccines were not originally even tested for reducing COVID transmission and, soon after their roll-out, it became clear that they are minimally effective in reducing transmission of the virus, if effective at all.

It never made sense to suspend health professionals who have dedicated their lives to caring for patients because they decided against accepting these vaccines. In spite of the way they were treated, many of these nurses and doctors remain committed to Nova Scotia and hope to work here again.

Now, over a year after the vaccine mandates, we have a health care system in crisis, in part due to staffing shortages. Whatever immunity the original vaccines conferred has long since waned and boosters for health care workers have not been mandated. To continue to keep unvaccinated physicians and nurses from their jobs, ironically when the majority of them have had COVID and have equal or, arguably, better immunity naturally than the vaccinated, is completely without scientific legitimacy. Now it is merely punitive, an ongoing punishment for not obeying the edicts of a government and public health office that became singularly focused on one health issue at the expense of literally every other concern.

It is too late for me and my family, we are leaving. But it is not too late for your government and Robert Strang to undo some of the damage by inviting unvaccinated health care workers back to work.

I very much hope that health care improves in this province, not least of all by way of those in authority taking a more holistic, humane and scientifically humble approach to their responsibilities to the public and to healthcare workers. History will eventually hold you and the Houston government accountable for these leadership decisions.

Sincerely,

Dion

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