



21 June 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Sent via e-mail: pm@pm.gc.ca

RE: International standards and co-ordination on a registry of acceptable COVID-19 vaccines

Dear Prime Minister,

I am pleased to hear Canadian COVID-19 vaccination rates are increasing every day and there is a continued downward trend in virus activity across the country. There are many reasons to be optimistic. We are benefitting from a steady supply of Health Canada-approved COVID-19 vaccines and life is slowly returning to normal. A formal announcement regarding the reopening of the Canada-U.S. border is anticipated in the near future.

In spite of these positive signs, I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists' (ACTRA) 27,000 professional performers working in the screen-based industry to express our deep concern about recent troubling media reports whereby U.S. jurisdictions like New York State are only recognizing U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved COVID-19 vaccines (i.e., Moderna, Pfizer-BioNTech, and Johnson & Johnson). This will have a devastating impact on our ability to work in our industry and participate in public life.

The federal government must support our industry and our many members working on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, particularly as we emerge from the pandemic into a new normal in our country.

The “no AstraZeneca” policy in New York (which has since been revised to allow FDA and World Health Organization-approved vaccines) touches on a larger problem: without clear international direction and coordination on a registry of acceptable vaccines, this could be, as the [Toronto Star](#) predicts, “just the beginning of bureaucratic vaccine woes, as the world starts to reopen with a patchwork of different approved shots.”

Alliance of Canadian Cinema, Television and Radio Artists

ACTRA National Office
625 Church Street · Suite 300 · Toronto ON M4Y 2G1
Toll free 1-800-387-3516 · Tel (416) 489-1311
Fax (416) 489-8076 · E-mail national@actra.ca · www.actra.ca

Affiliated with the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC)
and the International Federation of Actors (FIA)
Branch Offices: Vancouver · Calgary · Regina · Winnipeg
Toronto · Ottawa · Montreal · Halifax · St. John's

All Canadians, not just performers, are depending on the federal government to resolve this issue and ensure that anyone who received the AstraZeneca vaccine will not be disadvantaged when they travel to other jurisdictions. Other countries, including the U.S., must establish clear international standards for acceptable vaccines.

The Canadian production sector is a key driver of Canada's creative economy, contributing over \$12 billion to our country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and generating almost 250,000 jobs across Canada. While ACTRA supports appropriate health and safety restrictions for our industry and hopes that our live performance venues open quickly and safely, we believe clear standards should be set with an acknowledgement of the nature of the border between the U.S. and Canada.

As countries develop policies and put restrictions in place, they must be well thought out and all possible options explored. I urge you to follow the science and "real-world data" on vaccine efficacy to know which ones work as a national vaccine travel passport is developed. We must not create new barriers and exclusions with respect to our ability as Canadians to fully participate in our industry.

Yours sincerely,



Eleanor Noble
National President, ACTRA