



Agenda Item

City Council

DM30.8	ACTION			Ward: All
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Maximizing COVID-19 Vaccine Doses for Torontonians through Compulsory Licensing - by Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle

** City Council on February 2, 3 and 5, 2021 added this Motion to the agenda. City Council subsequently deferred this Motion to the March 10, 2021 meeting.
* This Motion is before Council for debate.*

Recommendations

Councillor Anthony Perruzza, seconded by Councillor Mike Colle, recommends that:

1. City Council request the Government of Canada to invoke their Compulsory Licensing law(s) that would allow “Ottawa to authorize generic copies of the COVID-19 vaccines” in an effort to increase national production.
2. City Council request the General Manager, Economic Development and Culture to contact local generic drug producers and encourage them to request the Government of Canada to increase national production of COVID-19 vaccines.
3. City Council circulate this Motion to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

Summary

Yesterday Thomas Walkom, in the Toronto Star, describes how the Federal Government can use its powers to increase domestic production of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Recent announcements of delays in deliveries of vaccines to Canada from Pfizer and Moderna threaten the pandemic recovery and the health of all Canadians. The Federal Government must take every action available so that Canadians can receive COVID-19 vaccines in the greatest possible numbers as quickly as possible.

However, the Federal Government has delayed in encouraging domestic manufacturing of the vaccine and has not imposed Compulsory Licencing, a law that would authorize cheaper generic copies of the COVID-19 vaccine to be manufactured without the need to negotiate with patent holders.

Background Information

Item DM30.8