



Canadian Association of University Teachers  
Association canadienne des professeures et professeurs d'université

April 20, 2022

**BY EMAIL:** [FAAE@parl.gc.ca](mailto:FAAE@parl.gc.ca)

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development  
Sixth Floor, 131 Queen Street  
House of Commons  
Ottawa ON K1A 0A6  
Canada

To the Members of the House of Commons' Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the Canadian Association of University Teachers (CAUT), representing 72,000 academic and general staff who work at more than 120 colleges and universities in every province of Canada. CAUT applauds the Committee for undertaking this important study examining vaccine equity and intellectual property rights. This topic is important for CAUT as we consider the predicament in which our international colleagues find themselves during this pandemic.

CAUT is a member of Education International which, along with CAUT's equivalent organizations in Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, the United States of America, and South Africa, is calling on governments to support the temporary waiver of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments at the World Trade Organization. If adopted, the waiver would enable an expansion of vaccine production across the world, thus helping to ensure equitable access to vaccines for all.

The temporary waiver of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) on COVID-19 vaccines was first proposed by South Africa and India in October 2020. It has since garnered the support of over 100 countries. Only a few wealthy countries oppose the waiver and actively choose to defend the profits of pharmaceutical companies during a deadly pandemic which has caused more than 6 million deaths worldwide, including more than 37,000 in Canada, and which continues to ravage the most vulnerable today.

We are calling on this government to adopt a more active position in support of the TRIPS Waiver and to work to convince opposing governments to engage in negotiations for the temporary suspension of intellectual property rights on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

Thanks to this government's work in procuring sufficient vaccine supply, Canadians have been exceedingly fortunate to have ample access to COVID-19 vaccines. Meanwhile, most of the rest of the world has been left fighting new waves of COVID-19 without these essential tools. The threat of new COVID-19 variants remains; no one will be safe from COVID-19 until everyone is safe. The only solution to a global pandemic is global solidarity. Vaccine nationalism and crisis profiteering are self-defeating strategies.

Access to COVID-19 vaccines for teachers and education support personnel everywhere is essential for a safe and permanent return to onsite education. The first condition for educators everywhere

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to be vaccinated is ensuring sufficient supplies of the vaccines in all countries.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is any additional information that CAUT or Education International might be able to provide regarding advocacy for vaccine equity. The best way to reach us is through CAUT's government relations officer, Andrea Stuart at [stuart@caut.ca](mailto:stuart@caut.ca) or 613-413-5431.

Yours sincerely,



David Robinson  
Executive Director

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