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Premier Ford,

I am a research project manager at SickKids, and this August 5th, I passed my 20 years of service milestone. I have been a developmental biologist and project manager for almost 30 years. In early 2020, the entire province shutdown, including most of the Research Institute that I work in. I am an essential employee, and I went in several times a week to maintain critical infrastructure in my research laboratory. It was a surreal experience; it felt like the apocalypse, as I walked on barren streets and working alone in a vast, empty research tower.

When your call went out for submissions to alleviate the impact of the pandemic in April 2020, I had submitted a proposal to the Province for Ontario Together. I heard of the lack of testing capability for COVID-19, and proposed to leverage our idled research staff and infrastructure to compensate. My proposal went through several rounds of vetting, but in the end, SickKids did not wish to support my proposal. I was proud and humbled to be considered.

My feelings of civic duty and pride of contributing to SickKids have recently been deceived. In late Summer 2021, SickKids mandated COVID-19 vaccines as a condition of employment. This was on top of your government's Directive Six, which mandated vaccines in certain sectors, but allowed for testing. I raised my concerns with my employer with regards to the lack of long-term safety data. I did not want to be vaccinated, but had no real choice. I couldn't lose my job. I was dismayed at how many of my learned colleagues seemed to be consumed with fear, ignorance, and hate towards those that were unvaccinated, or had expressed similar concerns.

On September 20th, 2021, I suffered a severe adverse reaction to Moderna mRNA-1273. This was investigated and approved by Toronto Public Health. I have been suffering from an increasingly debilitating and painful neurological injury. I applied for long term disability through my workplace's extended health for my vaccine injury, and was approved. At the suggestion of my employer, I also have a successful WSIB claim for my workplace injury resulting from the

workplace-mandated vaccine policy. My career is destroyed, and my quality of life is a constant agony.

Mandates were and are a horrible mistake. Steinbeck wrote, “Man has a choice, and it’s a choice that makes him a man.” Removing agency of the individual has been the root of genocide throughout history. Choice cannot coexist with coercion. For seemingly ideologically driven reasons, and by their associated unions, several Ontario universities are implementing mandates. Most of the world has abandoned them, and they cannot cling to The Science, as even the CDC and NIH has admitted that these policies don’t make any sense.

The mandates facing University of Toronto and University of Western Ontario are punitive, hateful, ignorant, and cruel. The demographics of the students put them at the greatest risk for myocarditis, and as this is the very beginning of their adulthood, any injury would be carried forward for the rest of their long lives. I implore you, please stop these policies, and take a firm stance against this heresy. You can truly be a role model at this moment, and we need your courage.

Regards,

Gordon Polevoy