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January 24, 2021

Honorable Doug Ford,
99 Wellesley Street W, 6th floor,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A6

Dear Premier Ford,

We are writing to you, as a group of 5 ON, 1 NS and 7 BC physicians, in support of the Open Letter submitted to your office by Roman Baber MPP. Firing Mr. Baber for pointing out the futility and dangers of COVID lockdowns will not solve your problems or save your province. Unlike politicians, Canadian medical doctors now have a duty to speak up from the perspective of science, not political maneuvering.

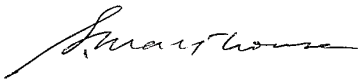
As physicians, we see that your government policies are having a horrific effect on the mental and physical health of Ontario's citizens. In British Columbia, they have not yet implemented a second lockdown as a means of controlling coronavirus spread because they have identified the terrible consequences of lockdowns on unemployment, suicides, overdoses, spousal and child abuse, poverty, and deaths from despair. The BC leaders learned their lesson from the first lockdown, but it seems your government and public health advisors have not.

Research clearly shows that lockdowns have not reduced COVID hospitalizations, ICU admissions or deaths in North America or Europe¹. In fact, lockdowns have increased life-years lost by 1000%, using a conservative calculation^{2,3}. Imprisoning the young to protect the frail elderly was never a part of any country's original pandemic plan.

Forcing the citizens of Ontario to sacrifice their businesses, their activities of daily life and their physical and mental well-being in order to protect the healthcare system from being overloaded is misguided. Our own and colleagues' experiences show that Ontario hospitals are occupied at or below capacity for this time of year. Many rural emergency rooms are almost empty. People are too frightened by the constant fear-mongering on TV to come in to see a doctor. There is plenty of head scratching and disbelief among our medical peers when your public health "experts" announce that the hospitals are overwhelmed. A review of early December 2020 Intensive Care Unit occupancy showed it to be only 80%, which is less than the previous 3 years⁴. Hospital occupancy was also significantly down at 84%.

There is no scientific or medical basis for lockdowns. If your policies are politically motivated to win votes in the next election, we anticipate that you will be disappointed. The public is waking up to the collateral destruction the lockdowns are causing in the province of Ontario and elsewhere in Canada. It is getting difficult to ignore the devastation as government policy makers reach into people's businesses and homes to punish them for trying to be good Canadians.

Sincerely,



Stephen Malthouse,
MD

CO-SIGNATORIES

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¹ <http://bit.ly/2NuPZgM> ² <https://bit.ly/2Y5fxDb> ³ <http://bit.ly/2UTrk5M> ⁴ <http://bit.ly/365o8dm>