

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Land Border Community Mayors Send Open Letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau – End testing at the Land Border

**OTTAWA, March 3, 2022**– Land border elected mayors from British Columbia, the Prairies, Ontario, Quebec, and Atlantic Canada have banded together to urgently ask that the federal government drop all testing requirements for all fully-vaccinated travellers at the Canada/US land border. In an open letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the border mayors called to end the testing now.

The letter points out that “border communities have been at the forefront of the federal strategy and have paid a heavy price with the land border being closed to all but essential travel for 20 months. Even now, the land border remains under very strict testing guidelines that are not justified by current science and are out of line with public health officers’ mandates.”

Additionally, the letter highlights that in March, Canadians will have full capacity in NHL games with 20,000 fans with no vaccine passport, or testing requirement, but fully-vaccinated American tourists will not be able to cross over the border in their own family car without unnecessary, expensive tests administered by a health professional.

The letter makes clear that “border communities have suffered greatly during this pandemic and that the government acted quickly to put these measures in place, and must act quickly to remove them in these early days of March.”

Signatories include elected officials from:

<b>Woodstock, New Brunswick</b> <b>Frelighsburg, Quebec</b> <b>Cornwall, Ontario</b> <b>Fort Frances, Ontario</b> <b>Niagara Falls, Ontario</b> <b>Niagara on the Lakes, Ontario</b> <b>Sarnia, Ontario</b> <b>Windsor, Ontario</b>	<b>Boissvain, Manitoba</b> <b>Emerson-Franklin, Manitoba</b> <b>Estevan, Saskatchewan</b> <b>Weyburn, Saskatchewan</b> <b>Coutts, Alberta</b> <b>Creston, BC</b> <b>Osoyoos, BC</b>
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*The letter arose as a result of several Ontario land border mayors holding press event last week February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and the desire for national sign on to the border pushes. The Ontario mayors press conference was also attended by representatives of the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, the Hotel Association of Canada, and the Frontier duty Free Association.*

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