

Dear Ms Vickery Bowles, and Ms Philippa Williamson.

First may I introduce myself. I am Leon Peter Willems. I am 79 years old and a Canadian citizen, married for 50 years, and happily living with my wife [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

During the start, and what was considered then, to be, the height of the pandemic in 2020, the Ont: Premier, imposed a total lock down of all, but the most essential services, to halt the further increase of Covid 19 cases in Ontario, including Toronto. It brought the virus to its knees without vaccinations, which were still being created. In a matter of few months, it brought Ontarios cases from over 2500 per day, to less than 500, and Toronto cases, from over 800 per day, to under 50 per day. Then concern for commerce, with Christmas upon us, and an attempt was made, to reopen commerce, the result was wave number two of the Corona 19, virus, a further lockdown, with less restrictions, was deployed, and then another ill advised attempt, to again reopen commerce, was made, and boom the most deadly third wave was upon us, and this far more deadly wave is decimating us all, and is still growing. The library proactively, protected its employees, and the public at large, by closing its doors to the general public, and allowing its staff to work from home. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] which so far are very different, to their positive, pro active response, in 2020, to a less dire situation, to the one now unfolding in Ont., and in Toronto. The huge difference, is the rampage of the variants, which cannot be out vaccinated, unless there is a complete lock down, and stay at home order, for ALL of Ontario, for a minimum of four to six weeks, to reduce the rampant level, of the variant driven Covid 19, contamination. The variants, make the original Covid 19 virus look like "old hat". The variants, all three of them, are over 65% more communicable, infectious, and perhaps as high as 45%, more deadly.

I am asking, with all due respect, that you implement the following measures as soon as you can.

1/Close all your branches to the general public, and allow your staff members to work from home, as you wisely, and proactively did in 2020.

2/Or, the above, but allowing some less at risk staff, to work, but only allow curbside pick up, and returns, for the general public, keeping, and expanding your online portals, for all who can access them. Perhaps proactively promoting, on line, the viewing of all your wonderful, on line, Toronto Library system's, vast menu of offerings. Suggest to them, that a lap top computer is NOT necessary, to access your online portal, that even the cheapest of tablets, can access the Toronto Library portals. (there are many tablets, as low as sixty dollars, in price). Best of all, 99% of all your online portfolio, is FREE, and available 24/7, 365 days a year. Tell all, that you are prepared, to assist on line, any one who wishes to access the Toronto Library system Portal, and your Overdrive system, for Audio e books, and e books.

3/If you are unable to do, either of the above, to protect all your staff, I am asking that you permit staff members, who are the major, or sole caregivers, of mentally, (is this word allowed, in this politically sensitive, new age, if not I do apologise), and/or physically disabled adults and children, with vulnerable immune systems, to work from home, for as long as the variants are out of control, and the vaccinations are still some time, off for full immunity, in the province. I ask

that especially those in this category, that must use public transportation, be given an immediate work from home instruction.

In my case [REDACTED] or worse still, is one who can transmit without knowing they have it, because they are asymptomatic, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] and that puts both of us at severe risk, of catching the variant, which at our ages, could be, more than likely fatal

Please understand, all of the above is factual, and all the information I have used comes directly from two members, who are virologist doctors, on the Ont: Covid 19 medical advisory board. As one said, "it is not just a matter of life or death, that the science and data has made abundantly clear. It is now a matter of commerce and profits, against very clear, dire, data and models, that clearly point to catastrophe, and many unnecessary, really bad illnesses, and deaths, on a daily growing basis.

I leave you, with the hope that the Toronto Public Library, will do as they have always done, put their staff and the public's health and safety, notwithstanding, the Politicians support of Commerce, over the health of all of the public.

As one of the doctors from the Covid task force said publicly, "because some one in authority, says to do something, and you know that it is detrimental to your health, and well being, you must do what is best to safe guard yourself, and your loved ones, and the public in general."

I hope you take this information, in the light, it has been sent to you, as it is meant with full respect, and understanding, of the job, and decisions you have to make, in these stressful times.

I do look forward to an urgent reply, and with prayers, for your immediate action, in this, the most dangerous time, in the entire Covid 19 pandemic's course, since February 2020 over its year long rampage.

With my sincerest regards

Leon Peter Willems.

PS--Peter is my preferred term of address.

Please read and if possible look at the video. One doctor stating the terrible facts, and the other as if in a different world of make belief.

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/covid-19-ontario-april-6-2021-vaccine-rollout-update-1.5976416>