



THE PEOPLE'S VACCINE

18 May 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa
Ontario 1A 0A2

CC: The Honourable Mary Ng, M.P., Minister for Trade; The Honourable Patty Hajdu, M.P.
Minister for Health

**Re: Place vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics for COVID 19 on Schedule 1 of the
Canada patent act**

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing on behalf of the People's Vaccine Alliance to request that the government of Canada act now to place vaccines and therapeutics for treatment of COVID 19 on Schedule 1 of the Canada Patent Act. This is an obvious and necessary measure to allow Canadian manufacturers to export vaccines to developing countries under the Canadian Access to Medicines Regime (CAMR). We are honestly confused as to why the government of Canada has claimed in global fora that a TRIPS waiver is not needed because Canada's CAMR has illustrated how existing WTO flexibilities have "worked as intended," while at the same time, making it legally impossible to use the CAMR for COVID 19, by rejecting longstanding requests to place COVID 19 on the CAMR Schedule 1.

As noted by a group of Canadian experts in their April 27 2021 letter "The addition of COVID-19 vaccines to Schedule 1 would ensure that the Schedule aligns with immediate demand for COVID-19 vaccines to combat the ongoing global pandemic, instead of acting as an inhibitor."

The inaction to date to place COVID 19 on the CAMR Schedule 1 is at risk of signalling that the government of Canada is more interested in protecting monopolies for vaccines than scaling capacity to ensure more can be produced and at lower prices at a time when both are desperately needed.

Yours sincerely,
Max Lawson
Chair of the People's Vaccine Alliance

The People's Vaccine Alliance is a global movement of organisations, world leaders and activists united under a common aim of campaigning for a 'People's Vaccine' for COVID-19 that is based on shared knowledge and is freely available to everyone everywhere. The Peoples Vaccine is supported by over 2 million activists worldwide and 175 former world leaders and Nobel prize winning scientists. www.peoplesvaccine.org