

June 7, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario,
K1A 0A6

RE: Reopening Canadian Border for All Essential Workers

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

As the representative of Canada's manufacturing and exporting sector, Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters (CME) has been working with the government on the COVID-19 rules and regulations in place at Canada's international borders for many months. On behalf of these companies, I am writing to urge the Government of Canada to support essential manufacturing by eliminating current restrictions on those entering the country to support manufacturing investment and operations. In addition, we ask that the government coordinate our efforts on the reopening of our international borders through the G7 and lay out a clear plan that business can understand and follow.

CME and our members have generally supported the measures put in place at Canada's borders to restrict unessential international travel. At the same time, we have consistently stated the need to have federal government exemptions for essential business travel upheld at Canada's borders. While the government agreed to do this, our sector has nevertheless continued to run into major challenges at the Canada-US land border.

Manufacturers rely on the movement of people for a variety of core activities, especially within the integrated North American business environment. Throughout the pandemic there have been problems getting US service and repair technicians into Canada to support domestic operations. Similarly, Canadians returning home from the US for performing this essential work abroad have not had these exemptions extended to them. Often, the rules will change depending on which border crossing they are using and which officer they speak to.

With the continued uneven and inconsistent application of these rules, and the direct impact on the movement of essential staff, manufacturers are being forced to delay or postpone necessary investments. These investments require the movement of people to support capital installations, research and development, product launches, and a variety of similar activities. In some cases, we have heard that Canada has lost, or is at risk of losing, major capital investment projects due to these poor border processes. Often, these investments are being redirected into the US.

These realities are a major concern for the long-term health and prosperity of our sector. Canada has ranked amongst the lowest in the OECD in business and capital investment for over a decade now. This

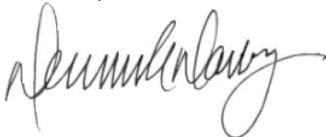
lack of investment undermines productivity and innovation, lessens Canadian companies' ability to compete internationally, and decreases our export sales. Canada cannot afford to lose investment over policies that are out of line with our neighbours.

We are asking for your leadership in directing officials to ensure that the rules permitting essential manufacturing workers entry into Canada, without quarantine or additional restrictions, be respected and applied evenly. In addition, with vaccination rates increasing in both Canada and the US, we would fully support an immediate change in policy to allow for those who can prove vaccination to travel into (or return to) Canada to support ongoing investments and operations.

Secondly, while we are focused on the Canada/US border reopening, at a global level we understand that there are ongoing discussions on a coordinated approach to the movement of people. As the world begins to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, governments are unveiling economic and travel recovery plans. Like other countries, Canada must have a similar plan that provides advice and guidance to business on what to expect on any future business travel rules. We need this to restore confidence and predictability at the borders. As part of this, CME fully supports a coordinated G7 approach to develop a proof of vaccination protocol (such as a "vaccine passport") that will enable restriction free travel to resume between the countries, and act as a global model for other countries to follow, during the current transition period until proof is no longer necessary. Most importantly to support globally integrated manufacturing, Canada must move in lockstep with competing countries or risk losing out on business and investment opportunities.

We would be pleased to speak to you at any time on this time-sensitive and critical issue, including pulling together a selection of senior executives from our membership to inform you directly on the impacts of the current policies.

Sincerely,



Dennis A. Darby, P.Eng., ICD.D
President & CEO
Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters
Chair, Industry Advisory Roundtable on Testing, Tracing, and Data

CC:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Hon. Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health
Hon. Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness
Hon. François-Philippe Champagne, Minister of Innovation, Science, and Industry
Hon. Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade
Hon. Mélanie Joly, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages