



July 11, 2022

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, Ontario, Canada  
K1A 0A6

**Re: Ending the ArriveCan Requirement**

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

The Golden Horseshoe and the Buffalo Niagara economies are struggling, and your intervention is needed.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, both the U.S. and Canada restricted non-essential border crossings. These restrictions rendered tourists and shoppers unable to visit their favorite establishments on the other side of the border.

When our nations resumed allowing non-essential border crossings, we hoped that travel would resume to pre-pandemic levels. However, that has been far from the case. Border crossings remain down 44%, and tourism spending is down 50%. The deflated traffic has meant decreased revenue for businesses in both nations.

As COVID-19 case numbers declined last year, we called for a safe return to allowing non-essential border crossings. Both nations eventually obliged, but not without adding significant requirements onto prospective travelers.

In particular, Canada mandated that travelers preregister for crossing with the ArriveCan app. The app requires travelers to upload sensitive passport and vaccination documentation, and also disclose details of their trip. While the app is not particularly onerous to use, two facts have become clear (1) the app serves as a barrier to would-be border crossers; and (2) cross-border travel remains drastically below pre-pandemic levels. One can reasonably assume the continued presence of the ArriveCan app is a contributing factor to the sluggish return of cross-border commerce.

The economic damage being caused by the ArriveCan app significantly outweighs the indiscernible public health benefit the app provides. As chambers representing communities on both sides of the border, we make the following recommendations:

1. Immediately cease requiring travelers to preregister through the ArriveCan app.
2. Develop a plan to phase out vaccination status screening from the border crossing process.

By doing so, tourists and shoppers can resume pre-pandemic travel habits, to the benefit of our regional economies. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide additional information.

Sincerely,



Dottie Gallagher  
President and CEO  
Buffalo Niagara Partnership



Mishka Balsom  
President and CEO  
Greater Niagara Chamber of Commerce

CC: President Joe Biden  
Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas  
Khawar Nasim, Consul General of Canada in New York