

February 9, 2021

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Sent via email: premier@ontario.ca

**Re: Universal Paid Sick Days in Ontario
Our File 35.31.99**

Dear Premier Ford:

At its meeting held on February 1, 2021, St. Catharines City Council approved the following motion:

“WHEREAS workers in Ontario without paid sick leave often feel forced to work when unwell so they can feed and support their families and are at risk of losing a paycheque or even their jobs if they stay home; and

WHEREAS the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit is temporary, not accessible to all and not usable for the crucial first few days of an illness; and

WHEREAS had legislated paid sick leave been in place before the global pandemic, lives would have been saved because infection rates would have been reduced; and

WHEREAS the lack of paid sick days has especially hurt Black, Indigenous, workers of colour, women and migrant workers who are over-represented in low-paying frontline jobs with few benefits and a reduced ability to work from home; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Medical Association, 11 GTHA Mayors and Chairs representing Ontario's largest municipalities, the editorial board of the Toronto Star, the Toronto Board of Health, the Decent Work and Health Network, the Ontario Nurses Association, and several other professional associations representing thousands of healthcare workers have all called on the provincial government to legislate paid sick days;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Catharines endorses legislated sick leave and calls on the government of Ontario to permanently legislate universal paid sick days for all workers in Ontario during the pandemic and beyond, regardless of workplace size, type of work or immigration status; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this motion be forwarded to the Premier of Ontario, Minister of Labour, all Regional MPPs, Niagara Region, and all Ontario Municipalities.”

If you have any questions, please contact the Office of the City Clerk at extension 1506.



Bonnie Nistico-Dunk, City Clerk
Legal and Clerks Services, Office of the City Clerk
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Cc Minister of Labour, Hon. Monte McNaughton, Minister.MLTSD@ontario.ca
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Ontario Municipalities