

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Rt. Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC MP
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear President Biden and Prime Minister Trudeau:

Since 1973, New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers have met annually to reaffirm the bonds of friendship and cooperation, strengthen our economic and cultural ties, mark progress on shared priorities, and set new regional goals. Last week, we met (virtually) for the 43rd time since we established the Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (NEG/ECP).

The relationship between New England and Eastern Canada is a model of economic and cultural exchange. Our fluid border supports robust trade, tourism, and economic integration with Canadian and U.S. companies operating on both sides of the border and sharing supply chains. All of this significantly contributes to economic growth in our states and provinces and ultimately our two nations.

A major topic of discussion among Governors and Premiers was our ongoing work to end the COVID-19 pandemic in our jurisdictions and our region as a whole. We agreed that vaccinating our populations is critical to reopening our countries and our economies. We commend the announcement that the United States will send 1.5 million doses of AstraZeneca to Canada and the broader commitment to share 80 million doses of vaccine worldwide. We propose to you a way to build on that progress.

Some New England States currently have surplus vaccine supply on the ground that could be shared with their Canadian provincial neighbors. We ask that the federal governments of the United States and Canada consider an arrangement whereby New England states may, if they choose, make available some of their surplus to Canadian federal authorities, which are responsible for the distribution of vaccines across Canada. We express our commitment to working together to implement a strategy for the transfer of those doses from the U.S. to Canada. This would facilitate the future reopening of our national border

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and the return to normal, cross-border economic activity in our region. And as our region benefits, so too will Canada and the United States.

Our provinces and states welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively and stand ready to advance the necessary coordination efforts with your governments. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our proposal. We welcome any questions from your staff and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Premier Iain Rankin
Province of Nova Scotia
Co-Chair of the 2021 NEG/ECP Conference



Governor Ned Lamont
State of Connecticut
Co-Chair of the 2021 NEG/ECP Conference

cc: The Honourable Anita Anand, Minister of Public Services and Procurement
The Honorable Jeff Zients, Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor
to the President