## **Janice Dupuis**

**Subject:** FW: Municipal vaccine mandate

**Attachments:** 20220307\_154153261\_001.jpg; 20220307\_154153261\_002.jpg; 20220307\_154153261\_003.jpg

From: Corrin Smith

Sent: March 7, 2022 4:23 PM

**To:** Joanne Savage <<u>isavage@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Lise Senecal <<u>lsenecal@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Yvon Duhaime <<u>yduhaime@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Dan Roveda <<u>droveda@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Chris Fisher <<u>cfisher@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Roland Larabie <<u>rlarabie@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Denis Senecal <<u>dsenecal@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>; Leo Malette <<u>lmalette@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca</u>>

**Cc:** Melanie Ducharme < mducharme@municipality.westnipissing.on.ca >

Subject: Municipal vaccine mandate

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Good afternoon,

I am the head administrator for the local group advocating against covid related mandates, we meet every Saturday at City Hall. We were all really pleased and encouraged by Mrs. Savage dropping by two weeks ago to show appreciation for our peaceful and unobtrusive style of demonstrating.

Today we want to respectfully present this letter, regarding the municipal vaccine mandate, to Mayor Joanne Savage and all members of West Nipissing Council.

We would like this petition to be added to the next council meeting agenda with a resolution for the employee vaccine mandate to be revoked effective immediately.

If you have any inquiries about the letter or our group you can contact me through email or by phone 705-493-2716.

Thanks for your time, Corrin Smith

Scanned letter attached

## West Nipissing Ouest Mayor & Council

225 Holditch Street, Suite 101 Sturgeon Falls, Ontario, Canada P2B 1T1

Joanne Savage,

Mayor/ Chair- Economic Development

Councillor Dan Roveda, Chair – Water & Sewer

Councillor Lise Sénecal,

Chair - General Government

Councillor Christopher Fisher,

Chair - Emergency Measures and Public Safety

Councillor Léo Malette,

Chair - Social Services & Health

Councillor Roland Larabie,

Chair - Environmental Services

Councillor Yvon Duhaime,

Chair - Public Works

Councillor Denis Sénécal,

Chair - Planning

March 7, 2022

Mrs. Joanne Savage & West Nipissing Council members,

As you know a group of us have been gathering peacefully and respectfully at City Hall every Saturday since October of 2021 to raise awareness of the local opposition to covid related mandates. We wish to address today the mandates in place demanding people recieve the Covid 19 vaccine, and all associated boosters, in order to be allowed to work or even volunteer for the municipality of West Nipissing.

This decision seems to have been made at the time in the name of safety. The members of council intended to protect the citizens of West Nipissing by ensuring all of their employees, contractors and volunteers were not going to infect anyone with covid. This is an understandable sentiment and we all appreciate the good intentions.

However now that time has progressed things have changed. This virus has become endemic. New less deadly varients have emerged, and the opinions of top scientists and experts have shifted. We all now have seen firsthand that these vaccines are not able to protect an individual from contracting, carrying and transmitting the virus being tested for.

If these shots do not provide any kind of immunity, if their only provable function is reducing the severity of symptoms, then how can an argument be made to suggest this is a policy meant to ensure public safety? This should be an individual choice, based on one's personal risk assessment with the input of their physician. The only reason to put this policy in place that could be otherwise implied is that the vaccination mandates are politically driven, with emphasis placed on the importance of compliance. This seems utterly innappropriate. We believe that politics and healthcare should never mix, and hope you agree.

Another issue we take with this policy is that it is a contribution to a form of medical coercion. Adult citizens have the right to privacy, which by law includes the right to refuse medical treatments and the right to refuse disclosure of medical information. To put in place a policy that infringes on both rights to privacy and rights to informed consent free of pressure or measures of coercion is just unacceptable and traditionally would be considered illegal.

There are also of course socio-economic reasons to overturn this policy. This is a small town, and unfortunately there seems to be a lacking in community events and general public involvement, as well as a lacking of municipal staff. This policy is exclusionary and it inhibits community participation as well as possible contract investments, we need to pull people in not push them away.

As we witnessed right here in Sturgeon Falls and the surrounding area with the turnout to support the Truckers protest as they passed through our stretch of the highway, this is not a fringe view held by a small minority of our citizens. A fairly significant portion of our community believes these vaccine mandates are going too far, and they wish to hold on to the right to choose for themselves and their families.

Now that the provincial vaccination certificate system has been revoked we look forward to West Nipissing revoking its vaccination policy at the earliest possible opportunity. Even one person potentially injured by an adverse reaction to the vaccine is one too many if they were forced to take it as a condition of their employment.

We think it is time to end the bullying and division and move toward a path of unity and respect for other's choices. We are after all in this together.

Thank you so much for your time,

Signed,

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