



BC's Union for Professionals

October 4, 2021

Lori Wanamaker
Deputy Minister to the Premier
BC Public Service Agency
PO Box 9404 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9V1
Lori.Wanamaker@gov.bc.ca

via email

Dear Deputy Minister to the Premier,

The PEA has been watching with concern the number of COVID-19 cases in our communities. We have been closely following the announcements made by our public health officials, the BC Public Service Agency and leadership within the ministries where our members work.

We are asking that the BC Public Service Agency postpone the implementation of the “flexible work approach” (return to office) beyond the October 12 deadline. We ask that the return to the office be linked to scientific evidence that it is safer to do so than is currently the case, as would be indicated by the decline of the fourth wave of COVID-19 Delta variant or other variants. Our members expressed concern that the safety protocols in place for returning to the office on October 12 are insufficient in addressing transmissibility of the Delta variant.

Representatives of the PEA will be meeting with representatives of the Employer on October 14 at our Joint Standing committee. We will bring more detailed concerns forward at that time; however, given the looming October 12 date, we wanted this request to be recorded now.

The pandemic has demonstrated on numerous occasions the need to err on the side of caution and the importance of enhanced COVID safety protocols.

We appreciate your comments regarding the important contributions our members have made during the COVID-19 pandemic and want to make sure they are able to continue to provide this outstanding service. The best way to do this is to keep them safe.



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Respectfully,

Shawna LaRade
PEA President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Scott McCannell
PEA Executive Director