

NEWS RELEASE

NDP FOLLOW LEAD OF CITIZEN-LED NCI, ALSO CALL FOR FEDERAL INQUIRY

Ottawa, November 14, 2022 – On November 2, Preston Manning [launched the *National Citizens' Inquiry* from Parliament](#). The NCI is a citizen-led, citizen-funded initiative to independently examine the federal and provincial governments' COVID-19 policies.

Today, less than two weeks later, the NDP is following the NCI's lead and also calling for a public inquiry into the federal government's COVID-19 measures. Although the NDP voted lockstep with the federal Liberal Government to support its COVID-19 policies, they have suddenly drastically changed their tone since the NCI was launched.

"This is what citizen-led leadership to hold governments accountable looks like," said Manning, the Chair of the non-profit organization "Citizens Inquiry Canada", who is organizing the NCI. Since November 2, [over 26,000 Canadians have already signed the NCI's petition](#) to express support for the citizen-led public inquiry.

"Public opinion," said Manning, "undoubtedly has had much to do with reversing the NDP's position, since recent polls have shown that 3 out of 4 Canadians report being harmed by government's COVID-19 policies."

During the NCI's launch, Manning observed that the public is rightfully suspicious of governments investigating their own conduct and thus a government-led inquiry would invite significant mistrust and concerns of bias. A truly independent approach would completely separate government from organizing the Inquiry process, particularly the selection of commissioners. This is exactly the model being implemented by the NCI.

It is anticipated that the inquiry will be launched in early 2023. Manning expects public hearings of two to three days each will be held in cities across the country, providing the opportunity for both virtual and in-person participation.

Ordinary citizens and experts in various disciplines—medical, legal, social, economic, and constitutional—will be invited to testify as to the impacts of the measures implemented by governments in the last two and a half years.

"The inquiry will examine the consequences on public and personal health, rights and freedoms, on specific demographic groups such as the aged and our children, and the economy. Those testifying before the Inquiry will also be asked for recommendations for how Canada's response in matters such as this could be better managed in the future."

A final Summary Hearing will be held in Ottawa, expected by the end of March 2023, with the Inquiry Commissioners issuing a report shortly thereafter containing their observations and recommendations.

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Inquiries concerning the National Citizens Inquiry should be directed to press@nationalcitizensinquiry.ca

Background information relevant to the National Citizens Inquiry is also available, in particular:

- Samples of the type of testimony which the NCI hopes to secure at its public hearings are available at www.citizenshearing.ca. These testimonies were presented at test public hearings held June 22-24, 2022, in Toronto at which 60 Canadians from various backgrounds and circumstances shared their stories as to how the COVID-19 response measures affected them.
- The results of a recent national public opinion survey are also available at nationalcitizensinquiry.ca in which a cross section of Canadians identify which impacts of the COVID-19 response measures - health impacts, social impacts, rights and freedoms impacts, or economic impacts - affected themselves and their families most severely, and which impacts they believed affected the largest numbers of Canadians (i.e., the country as a whole).