THE NEXT VARIANT IS PREVENTABLE

THE INITIAL RESPONSE

Despite a commitment early in the pandemic to fair and equal distribution of resources, wealthy countries like Canada hoarded vaccines. This has resulted in a huge imbalance, with high rates of vaccination in wealthy countries and low to negligible vaccination rates for most of the world. This created the perfect incubator for new variants such as Omicron. And it won’t be the last variant to emerge unless Canada and other wealthy nations take decisive action to prevent a new variant. You can’t put out a fire in a building by battling a blaze in only some apartments. Likewise, you don’t end a pandemic by fully vaccinating everyone in only some countries.

WHY CANADA HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY MOVING FORWARD

Canada has committed to fair and equal sharing of doses, resources and knowledge to end the pandemic everywhere. But our actions suggest otherwise. Promised doses are moving very slowly, more money is needed to help developing countries test and treat people, and the Government is resisting a call for temporary access to vaccine formulas that would allow developing world countries to manufacture doses. Canada could lead this fight; we call on all parties to set aside partisanship to take decisive action to end the pandemic everywhere, not just here at home.

SHARE RESOURCES

• Contribute another $780 million to ACT-Accelerator partners to purchase enough vaccines, tests, treatments, PPR and oxygen in developing countries, plus $325 million for delivery costs such as cold-chain equipment, syringes and training for health care workers

SHARE DOSES

• Speed-up the delivery of the doses promised to donate, in a predictable manner and with sufficient shelf-life
• Avoid over-purchasing and stockpiling doses

SHARE KNOWLEDGE

• Contribute to manufacturing more vaccines in and for the developing world
• Add ‘COVID-19 vaccine’ to the list of eligible products for export in the Patent Act in accordance with the Canadian Access to Medicines Regime
• Support the TRIPS waiver at the WTO

WHAT YOU CAN DO

#EndThePandemic

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