

From: [Doug Ford](#)
To: [Jennifer Willoughby](#)
Subject: An email from the Premier of Ontario
Date: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:00:33 PM

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Thank you for writing to me about the paid sick leave program. Our government has been standing up for workers and their families since the start of this unprecedented worldwide crisis. We believe a federal program that pays below minimum wage is not good enough. That's why we're filling the gaps and giving workers access to the most generous pandemic paid leave in the country.

The federal government says it's willing to work with us on doubling payments made through the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit (CRSB). The Ontario government is stepping up with the funding to increase weekly payments by \$500. Once the federal government updates the program, those who are eligible, will now receive \$1,000 a week.

We've also introduced the COVID-19 Putting Workers First Act. This legislation will require that employers provide staff with up to three days off – paid – if an employee misses work due to COVID-19. We don't want to burden those businesses though. Our government will reimburse employers up to \$200 per day for each employee.

By providing access to three days of pandemic leave, we are ensuring workers can keep the lights on, food on the table, a roof over their heads as they do their part to stop the spread of this deadly virus. The time off can be used to get tested for COVID-19, waiting for those very test results or getting your vaccination. For more information, employers and their workers can access a dedicated COVID-19 Sick Days Information Centre hotline at 1-888-999-2248 or visit www.ontario.ca/COVIDworkerbenefit.

With measures such as this – and job protected leave and access to isolation facilities – our government continues to do what is necessary to help Ontario workers make it through these turbulent times.

Thank you again for reaching out.

Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

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