

Update on the Federal Government's Vaccination Announcement September 28th, 2021

A number of members have contacted the Guild requesting more information regarding the August 13th announcement of the Federal Government's intention, based on health & safety concerns, to introduce a mandatory vaccination policy, applicable initially to workers in Canada's federal public sector, followed by a policy across the marine industry. The Guild has not been able to provide additional information until today as the policy has not even been drafted yet by government officials. The only briefings that have been provided to unions so far, were some initial roll-outs of the government's intentions in a broad manner, without any specific details. Government officials then cancelled subsequent meetings regarding this proposed policy that were scheduled to take place during the federal election campaign, although the commitment to eventually resume consultations with unions was reiterated.

The only additional information that is known about the federal government's proposed mandatory vaccination policy that is not already contained in the Bulletin issued by the Guild on August 20th, was an announcement today by the Prime Minister, reiterating the federal government's commitment to establish such a policy soon in the federal public sector.

Vaccination policies are gradually being introduced in many workplaces across the country, and unions including the Guild will provide whatever support is available to members who find themselves not in compliance with these policies. However, the Guild has held meetings internally and with many affiliated unions and we now recognize that being successful with assisting these members could prove to be very difficult depending on that individual's reason for not being in compliance with a workplace vaccination policy.

There are many who are waiting with great interest to see what the government's upcoming policy will look like and we are anxious to be able to provide useful information, but no timeframe has yet been disclosed regarding when that might be. We committed in our previous bulletin to provide an update once there were developments to report on this matter and all members will once again receive an email as soon as new information has been posted on the Guild website.