

Dear Special Committee on Canada-China Relations Members:

The Canadian Chinese Political Affairs Committee (CCPAC) is writing to the members of the Special Committee on Canada-China Relations to express our concerns over how the Government of Canada has been handling the recent COVID19 outbreak.

The Novel Coronavirus also known as COVID 19 has infected at least 75,000 people and killed 2000. Real numbers are much higher due to the lack of transparency by the Chinese government. Many Chinese Canadians are far more concerned about the extreme censorship China has placed on the Chinese Canadian diaspora. Chinese Canadians have had their WeChat accounts suspended or permanently blocked for sharing real time, unfiltered information on the coronavirus outbreak. They have also had their WeChat accounts suspended for criticizing the Chinese government's mishandling of the outbreak. "Canada Must Read" is a popular WeChat public account in the Mainland Chinese diaspora. They have been sharing real time information on the COVID 19 outbreak, first hand testimonials from affected residents in China. Their reporters and editors just confirmed to CCPAC that their WeChat account is suspended by the Chinese government.

About 4000 people from the epicenter of Hubei province have entered Canada since January.

As of today, almost every continent has countries which issued travel bans to China. United States, UK, Taiwan, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand and Israel are among them. Local Chinese media reported that many Canadian visa holders simply use Canada as a third country to stay until they pass the travel restrictions and enter those countries again. Currently there is no mandatory self-quarantine policy in Canada. That essentially puts the Canadian public under a lot of risk. The largest study of coronavirus patients so far suggests it could take up to 24 days after exposure for symptoms to show. A majority of Chinese Canadians are extremely concerned about the possibility of community outbreak in Canada. Many Chinese Canadians are not confident about the level of readiness in hospitals across Canada. This sentiment is echoed by The Canadian Federation of Nurses Unions. The CFNU warned the national standards for coronavirus protection too low.

China is currently implementing a "back to work" measure that allows people to move en masse within the country. Virologists expect that China to hit another wave of infection cases in China. Therefore, The Chinese Canadian Political Affairs Committee (CCPAC) strongly urges the government of Canada to take on the following measures:

1. Introduce a mandatory quarantine policy for those who came back from China recently. Taiwan, Japan and Singapore already have such policy in place
2. Issue a travel restriction on all foreign nationals who have been to China for the past 24 days. Death tolls and confirmed cases in the coronavirus outbreak continues to rise. China has not been forthcoming or transparent with its numbers. Canada must take all precautions to ensure we do not see community outbreak here.

CCPAC has also drafted a petition to the House of Commons. It is currently under review before opening up to the public to collect signatures.

Attached is a copy of the press release with additional information that CCPAC has sent to the media. We would also like to appear as witnesses to the committee should the opportunity arise.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Our contact information is below

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