



Customs and Immigration Union  
Syndicat des Douanes et de l'Immigration

November 4, 2009

Camille Therriault-Power, Vice-President  
Human Resources Branch  
CBSA  
99 Metcalfe Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1A 0L8

**RE: The situation on H1N1 virus and vaccination**

Ms. Therriault-Power:

As you know, the Border Services Officers that we represent are Canada's front-line as travellers are coming or returning into our country. Therefore, they are in contact with thousands of people every day; which some of them are already sick or carry viruses.

With this situation in mind, three scenarios are highly plausible.

Firstly, our officers' health and safety is at great risk for contracting the virus. As the Union Representative for the Occupational Safety and Health Committee, I consider this alone to be sufficient reason to act diligently.

Secondly, if an officer becomes a carrier of the virus, he or she can infect other officers or travellers.

Finally and nonetheless, the security of our country will be at great risk if our human resources become strained because of sick leave usage resulting from this pandemic.

In light of this, we would urge you to put pressure on the Treasury Board so that the Border Services Officers have priority access to the H1N1 vaccination. Many other peace officers throughout the country have already had access to the vaccination and are now immunized against the H1N1 virus. Although this may seem alarmist, we believe that it is imperative to act now to prevent damages and situations that could be critical.

We thank you in advance for the attention we know you will lend to this request.

Sincerely,

Jason McMichael  
Fourth National Vice-President

c.c. CIU National Executive

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