

**TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:**

**WHEREAS**, freedom of religion is a constitutionally protected right, which allows believers to assemble and worship without limitation;

**WHEREAS**, in 2020, the Doug Ford-led government dismissed churches and places of worship as an essential service in the Province of Ontario;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Doug Ford-led government has overlooked the essential role churches have played and continue to play in the community wellness of Ontario by providing spiritual, relational and mental health support for its members and their family units, shelters for the homeless, soup kitchens for the hungry, and much more;

**AND WHEREAS**, the Doug Ford-led government and others in governments have infringed upon our constitutional rights to gather for worship;

**AND WHEREAS**, Doug Ford has implemented non-charter compliant limitations and closures of churches and places of worship and thereby has caused harm to the mental well-being of many people-both young and old-across Ontario which will only worsen the longer churches and places of worship are kept from functioning in full fashion;

**AND WHEREAS, WE**, the undersigned, petition Premier Doug Ford to:

- **Deem churches and places of worship in Ontario an essential service**
- **Allow for churches and places of worship to open and function without penalty**

<b>PRINTED NAME AND SIGNATURE</b>	<b>EMAIL, PHONE NUMBER, AND COMPLETE ADDRESS</b>			
Printed Name	Email Address	Phone Number		
Signed Name	Street Number and Name	Unit #	City	Postal Code
Printed name	Email Address	Phone Number		
Signed Name	Street Number and Name	Unit #	City	Postal Code
Printed name	Email Address	Phone Number		
Signed Name	Street Number and Name	Unit #	City	Postal Code.
Printed name	Email Address	Phone Number		
Signed Name	Street Number and Name	Unit #	City	Postal Code
Printed name	Email Address	Phone Number		
Signed Name	Street Number and Name	Unit #	City	Postal Code

By signing and giving your email you agree to occasional emails of updates from TOTCM. We will not abuse your information or your inbox.



## TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO:

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### HOW CAN I EXPLAIN THIS PETITION TO OTHERS?

During the pandemic, Doug Ford deemed church non-essential, virtually forcing churches to close allowing only 10 people in the building at any given time. The Ford government has overstepped its bounds by infringing our Charter protected rights to worship without interference. The fact of the matter remains, the Charter is the supreme law of the land and all other laws must be Charter compliant. The Doug Ford run government has forgotten the crucial role churches and other places of worship play in the health and welfare of a local community. Churches have been primary care givers for members of communities for centuries. Proclaiming church and places of worship as non-essential has already caused great harm to the mental health of both young and old that need their church families and times of worship and preaching of the Word to remain strong and encouraged. Church was created to bring people together for times of corporate worship because we are intrinsically wired by God, our Creator, to function in close community. We are taught that isolation is dangerous to our spiritual, mental and emotional well being. Church is not to be done in isolation on our couches in-front of a computer screen. The longer church members are forced to isolate from one another the greater increase there will be in mental health issues, addiction issues, differing forms of self harm, possible family breakdown etc. **We need to hold the Ford government to account and demand and secure a change to the status of church and other places of worship during such times as this pandemic.**

#### WHAT ARE SOME EFFECTIVE WAYS TO FIND PEOPLE TO SIGN THE PETITION?

Ask everyone everywhere. Take advantage of shopping trips and email every one you know. Set it out at work, for both Christian and non Christian to sign. Set out petitions in mailboxes and ask them to sign and put back in your mail box. Be aware of the strict protocols in place during the pandemic, but be creative, use social media, use every avenue you can think of. Send it in even if you only has one signature or if you have 50 pages filled out.

**MAY I SEND TOTCM THE SIGNED PETITION BY EMAIL OR FAX? NO!!!** We can only accept the forms that have original signatures (black or blue ink) because that is the only format that the Ontario Legislature will accept. PLEASE **MAIL** YOUR COMPLETED PETITION FORMS TO: TOTCM 425 DUNDAS ST WOODSTOCK ON N4S 1B8

#### WHO CAN SIGN THE PETITION FORM FOR IT TO BE VALID?

Anyone who lives in Ontario can sign the form. You do not need to be a Canadian Citizen. Even children can sign the form as long as they can fill in their own name, address, and their own signature. DO NOT DO IT FOR THEM.

#### HOW MANY SIGNATURES WOULD TOTCM LIKE TO PRESENT TO THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE?

As many as possible. So please do your best to collect as many signatures as possible. *Thank you for your help! Many voices make change happen!*

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