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**WORKPLACE INSPECTION CAMPAIGN**  
**LAUNCHING IN COVID-19 HOTSPOTS**

The Ontario government is launching a series of zero-tolerance workplace safety inspections in sectors and regions hardest hit by COVID-19, beginning tomorrow with warehouses, food processors and manufacturers in Peel and Halton Regions.

"With more contagious variants identified in many parts of the province, it has never been more important that businesses have the appropriate health and safety protocols in place to stop the spread of COVID-19," said Monte McNaughton, Minister of Labour, Training and Skills Development. "We will have zero tolerance for those bad actors who break safety requirements as it puts the lives of workers and the public at risk. Our officers will not hesitate to issue tickets to those not following the rules."

On Friday April 9th, officers will be checking for compliance with COVID-19 health and safety requirements under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and the

Reopening Ontario Act (ROA) to ensure appropriate physical distancing, screening, and masking.

There will also be increased inspections and enforcement across the province that will include:

Enhanced education and outreach to the construction sector, a robust and expanding program for rapid antigen screening for COVID-19 in construction, along with a zero-tolerance approach to enforcement of COVID-19 safety requirements on construction projects.

Continued risk-based inspections of farms employing temporary foreign workers, including working closely with Service Canada and local public health units to coordinate inspections and share information.

Additionally, this Saturday, a multi-ministry team of provincial offences officers will be deployed to Peel and Halton Regions to carry out a campaign in retail outlets that are permitted to be open, includ-

ing big-box stores. These inspections will focus on enforcing the COVID-19 safety requirements and violations may result in fines up to \$750 for individuals and \$1,000 for businesses. In addition, officers will be helping retailers understand the new requirements under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, to bring them into compliance, including the selling of only essential items. The government will work with local enforcement personnel to enforce and bring retailers into compliance where necessary.

If a violation is more serious, a person can be charged with failing to comply with an order under the acts. If convicted, the court can impose fines as high as \$100,000 for individuals, and directors and officers of a corporation can be fined up to \$500,000. Both could also receive terms of imprisonment of up to one year. The maximum fine for a corporation on conviction of an offence is up to \$10 million.

**MCNAUGHTON DIDN'T DO ENOUGH TO PREVENT**  
**WAREHOUSE FROM BEING CLOSED**

QUEEN'S PARK — NDP Worker Safety Critic Wayne Gates says the Ford Government hasn't done what is necessary to make workplaces safe.

On March 12, Peel's Medical Officer of Health shut down Amazon's warehouse at 8050 Heritage Road in Brampton, where over 900 workers were infected with COVID-19, after the Ministry of Labour claimed to have inspected the facility 12 times.

"It's clear whatever inspections the ministry is doing aren't protecting workers," said Wayne Gates, NDP Critic for Labour — Workplace Health and Safety. "Labour Minister Monte McNaughton's inspection system isn't working to keep people safe, and a lack of paid sick days means workers don't have the supports necessary to stay home when they are sick. The result is devastating shutdowns, illnesses, and income loss — and this government just brushes that off, like working folks don't matter."

Dr. Lawrence Loh has urged the province to bring in paid sick days. Gates and the NDP are calling for paid sick days, as well as a plan to vaccinate essential workers now, and bring testing on-site to make workplaces safe for workers.

**Dinner @ 7-8 PM**  
**Everyday**



Hosted By Mandy Lowe and James Perry  
 C.A.M.P. Community Assisted Meal Program At 157 Midtown Dr.




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