

## DELEGATION REQUEST FORM

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<b>Submission Date:</b>	January 10 2021
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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### DELEGATION INFORMATION

<b>Which committee would you like to speak to?</b>	Finance, Budget and Enrolment	Governance and Policy	X
	Program and School Services	Committee of the Whole	
	Audit Committee		
<b>Agenda Item:</b>	<b>COVID-19 Vaccination Policy for Students</b>		
<b>Brief Summary of the Topic of Discussion:</b>	<p><b>As the committee and board consider the implementation of a mandatory vaccination policy for COVID-19 for students, it is important to evaluate the reliability and verifiability of the sources referenced. A key concern has been raised about conflicts of interest among Ontario's public health and scientific advisory table members, which present grave concerns about whether these individuals have an inappropriate profit motive to mass-vaccinate your student body.</b></p>		

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COVID-19 Report

# Toronto District School Board

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Liam Sturgess

January 12, 2022

Esteemed members of the **Toronto District School Board**,

Thank you for inviting me to address you today. It is my understanding that you are meeting to discuss instituting a COVID-19 vaccine mandate for students. I am here to bolster what is now an international call to halt such requirements, based on the irrefutable clinical data and real-world evidence demonstrating that these products have done, and will continue to do, far more harm than good for children.<sup>1,2,3</sup>

I'm here to focus on a vital aspect of your decision making: analysis of Conflicts of Interest.

To properly guide health policy (such as with vaccine mandates, testing policies, school closures, etc), all reasonable possible options need to be fairly analyzed and presented to our elected officials to make the best educated decision. The experts preparing this information for our government decision makers need to be objective, data-driven, evidence-based and not partial to any particular company or product.

Why, then, do we have medical professionals with strong financial ties to pharmaceutical interests and deeply conflicted lobbyists dictating what organizations, such as this very school board, must do for their own health and safety?

By now, we've all heard *ad nauseum* from the **Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table**. They are the supposedly "independent" body that self-assembled to provide unbiased guidance to the local and provincial governments to best respond to the COVID-19 pandemic in the province of Ontario.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, they are far from unbiased or independent.

To list just a few examples:

1. **Vinita Dubey**. She sits on the Behavioural Science Working Group, whose members were selected "based on their specific expertise in behaviour change, spanning behavioural medicine, health, clinical and social psychology, behavioural economics, and implementation science. Public Health leaders joining the group were invited based on their expertise in promoting health-protective behaviours and vaccination."<sup>5</sup> Yes, indeed, this was the job description from the very

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<sup>1</sup> Pelech, S. (2022, January 6). *Petition e-3696 - Petitions*. House of Commons; Parliament of Canada.

<https://petitions.ourcommons.ca/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-3696>

<sup>2</sup> Wilkinson, D., Finlay, I., Pollard, A. J., Forsberg, L., & Skelton, A. (2021). *Should we delay covid-19 vaccination in children?* *BMJ*, 374, n1687. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.n1687>

<sup>3</sup> Kovess, C., Hibberd, J., Kathrada, N., McLeod, R. J., Vicente, V., Lawrie, T., Trozzi, M., Mogg, M. H., Alexander, M., Cox, Z., Becker, S., McKenna, K., & Mohamed, S. P. (2021, November 29). *WCH Calls for an Immediate Stop to Covid-19 "Vaccines."* World Council for Health. <https://worldcouncilforhealth.org/campaign/covid-19-vaccine-cease-and-desist/#full>

<sup>4</sup> *About Us*. Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. Retrieved December 13, 2021, from <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/about/>

<sup>5</sup> Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. (2021, April 13). *About Us*. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from <https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/about/#dubey-vinita>

beginning - behaviour change to increase vaccine uptake, without much care for other health-protective behaviors at all. Her published studies across her career are almost entirely focused on pro-vaccination messaging,<sup>6,7</sup> including work with the **Canadian Immunization Research Network**, which is funded by **Pfizer**, **Sanofi** and **GlaxoSmithKline**<sup>8</sup> - three of the largest vaccine manufacturers in the world, and all of whom have a financial interest in COVID-19 vaccinations.<sup>9,10</sup> Another paper she co-authored about managing fear of needles was endorsed by the **Canadian Public Health Association**,<sup>11</sup> a non-governmental agency funded by **Pfizer**, **Moderna**, **AstraZeneca**, **Merck**, **Johnson & Johnson**, **Sanofi**, **VBI Vaccines**, and various others.<sup>12</sup> With this in mind, most would be shocked to learn that Dubey also sits on the **National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI)**, which is the body responsible for considering the safety and efficacy of the COVID-19 injections in Canada and approving them for our children.<sup>13</sup> She is also employed by both **Toronto Public Health** as second-in-command to **Eileen De Villa**,<sup>14</sup> and the **Dalla Lana School of Public Health**, which hosts and pays for certain members of the Advisory Table.<sup>15</sup>

2. For her part, Dubey's boss **Eileen De Villa** is herself not free of conflict. She is married to **Richard Choi**,<sup>16</sup> who receives speaking and consulting fees from **Pfizer**,

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<sup>6</sup> Dubé, E., Wilson, S., Gagnon, D., Deeks, S. L., & Dubey, V. (2020). "It takes time to build trust": a survey Ontario's school-based HPV immunization program ten years post-implementation. *Human Vaccines & Immunotherapeutics*, 1–6.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/21645515.2020.1775456>

<sup>7</sup> Wilson, S. E., Murray, J., Bunko, A., Johnson, S., Buchan, S. A., Crowcroft, N. S., Dubey, V., Loh, L. C., MacLeod, M., Taylor, C., & Deeks, S. L. (2019). *Characteristics of immunized and un-immunized students, including non-medical exemptions, in Ontario, Canada: 2016–2017 school year*. *Vaccine*, 37(23), 3123–3132. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2019.04.033>

<sup>8</sup> Canadian Immunization Research Network (CIRN). (2018, February 26). *Partners | CIRN*. Retrieved November 25, 2021, from <https://cirnetwork.ca/about-us/partners/>

<sup>9</sup> Guendoul, S., & Bain, S. (2021, December 15). *Sanofi and GSK announce positive preliminary booster data for their COVID-19 vaccine candidate and continuation of Phase 3 trial per independent Monitoring Board recommendation*. Sanofi.

<https://www.sanofi.com/en/media-room/press-releases/2021/2021-12-15-07-30-00-2352255>

<sup>10</sup> Isidore, C. (2021, November 2). *Pfizer revenue and profits soar on its Covid vaccine business*. CNN.

<https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/02/business/pfizer-earnings/index.html>

<sup>11</sup> McMurtry, C. M., Taddio, A., Noel, M., Antony, M. M., Chambers, C. T., Asmundson, G. J., Pillai Riddell, R., Shah, V., MacDonald, N. E., Rogers, J., Bucci, L. M., Mousmanis, P., Lang, E., Halperin, S., Bowles, S., Halpert, C., Ipp, M., Rieder, M. J., Robson, K., Uleryk, E., ... Scott, J. (2016). *Exposure-based Interventions for the management of individuals with high levels of needle fear across the lifespan: a clinical practice guideline and call for further research*. *Cognitive behaviour therapy*, 45(3), 217–235.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/16506073.2016.1157204>

<sup>12</sup> Canadian Public Health Association. *Corporate partners*. Retrieved December 6, 2021, from <https://www.cpha.ca/corporate-partners>

<sup>13</sup> National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI). (2021, October). *Advisory Committee Statement (ACS): Recommendations on the use of COVID-19 vaccines*. Public Health Agency of Canada.

<https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/phac-aspc/documents/services/immunization/national-advisory-committee-on-immunization-naci/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines/recommendations-use-covid-19-vaccines-en.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Dubey, V. (2021). *Building Trust and Confidence*. City of Toronto.

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/9073-Comm-Abassadors-June-2021.pdf>

<sup>15</sup> Dalla Lana School of Public Health. (2016, September 26). *Dubey, Vinita*. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from

<https://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/faculty-profile/dubey-vinita/>

<sup>16</sup> Gardos, A. (2020, May 19). *Eileen de Villa is not freaking out*. Toronto Life. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from

<https://torontolife.com/city/eileen-de-villa-toronto-medical-officer-of-health-covid-response/>

**AstraZeneca** and **Sanofi**,<sup>17</sup> and has spoken at events funded by **AstraZeneca** and **Janssen**.<sup>18</sup>

3. **Allison McGeer** is another member of the **COVID-19 Science Advisory Table**.<sup>19</sup> She also sits on the **Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee** within **Public Health Ontario**, which advises on current and future vaccine programs.<sup>20</sup> Perhaps this would be less of a problem if McGeer and her employers at **Mount Sinai Hospital** weren't themselves funded by **Pfizer**, as is clearly stated on her online biography.<sup>21</sup> In her disclosures from studies related to vaccines for influenza and the **Pfizer-BioNTech** COVID-19 product, McGeer reports receiving a combination of "grants and personal fees" from **Sanofi, Merck, GlaxoSmithKline** and **Seqirus**,<sup>22</sup> with further funding from **Pfizer, Medicago, Moderna, Janssen** and **AstraZeneca**.<sup>23</sup> Lastly, on a COVID-19 study related to the vaccines' effect on protecting against new variants of COVID-19, she reveals she is a paid advisor for **Pfizer** and **Moderna**.<sup>24</sup>

I will finish by briefly mentioning that Premier **Doug Ford**'s former and current campaign manager **Kory Teneycke** runs a lobbying firm called **Rubicon Strategy**,<sup>25</sup> who was hired by **Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Janssen** and a long list of other pharmaceutical companies to lobby the Ford government to influence the COVID-19 response in their favour, including vaccine regulation.<sup>26, 27</sup> This lobbying is ongoing to this day.

<sup>17</sup> Verma, S., MD, PhD, FRCSC, FAHA, Choi, R., MD, FRCPC, Bucci, C., PharmD, & Gupta, A., MD, FRCPC. (2020, June 12). *Navigating Vascular Protective Strategies in HighRisk Patients During the Current Era: Practical Applications [Slides]*. CardioVascUpdate.ca. <https://cardiovasupdate.ca/files/2020/CV%20Update%20Symposium-Presentation.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> EOCI Pharmacomm. *Cardiovascular Update 2021*. Retrieved November 22, 2021, from

<https://inevent.com/en/EOCIPharmacomm-1607454350/CardiovascularUpdate2021-1615427427/hotsite.php#sponsors>

<sup>19</sup> Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. (2021, April 13). *About Us*. Retrieved November 3, 2021, from

<https://covid19-sciencetable.ca/about/#mcgeer-allison>

<sup>20</sup> Public Health Ontario. *Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee (OIAC)*. Retrieved November 9, 2021, from

<https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/about/our-organization/external-advisory-committees/oiac>

<sup>21</sup> Mount Sinai Hospital Department of Microbiology. *Staff Directory: Allison McGeer*. Mount Sinai Hospital. Retrieved November 11,

2021, from <https://eportal.mountsinai.ca/Microbiology/staff/amcgeer.shtml>

<sup>22</sup> Chung, H., Buchan, S. A., Campigotto, A., Campitelli, M. A., Crowcroft, N. S., Dubey, V., Gubbay, J. B., Karnauchow, T., Katz, K., McGeer, A. J., McNally, J. D., Mubareka, S., Murti, M., Richardson, D. C., Rosella, L. C., Schwartz, K. L., Smieja, M., Zahariadis, G., & Kwong, J. C. (2020). *Influenza Vaccine Effectiveness Against All-Cause Mortality Following Laboratory-Confirmed Influenza in Older Adults, 2010–2011 to 2015–2016 Seasons in Ontario, Canada*. *Clinical Infectious Diseases*, 73(5), e1191–e1199. <https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciaa1862>


<sup>23</sup> Yau, K., Abe, K. T., Naimark, D., Oliver, M. J., Perl, J., Leis, J. A., Bolotin, S., Tran, V., Mullin, S. I., Shadowitz, E., Gonzalez, A., Sukovic, T., Garnham-Takaoka, J., de Launay, K. Q., Takaoka, A., Straus, S. E., McGeer, A. J., Chan, C. T., Colwill, K., . . . Hladunewich, M. A. (2021). *Evaluation of the SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Response to the BNT162b2 Vaccine in Patients Undergoing Hemodialysis*. *JAMA Network Open*, 4(9), e2123622. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2021.23622>

<sup>24</sup> Abe, K. T., Hu, Q., Mozafarihashjin, M., Samson, R., Manguiat, K., Robinson, A., Rathod, B., Hardy, W. R., Wang, J. H., Iskilova, M., Pasculescu, A., Fazel-Zarandi, M., Li, A., Paterson, A., Chao, G., Green, K., Gilbert, L., Barati, S., Haq, N., . . . Gingras, A. C. (2021). *Neutralizing antibody responses to SARS-CoV-2 variants in vaccinated Ontario long-term care home residents and workers*. medRxiv. Published. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2021.08.06.21261721>

<sup>25</sup> Maher, S. (2019, January 30). *For access to the Ford government, two names matter most*. Macleans. Retrieved November 23, 2021, from <https://www.macleans.ca/politics/for-access-to-the-ford-government-two-names-matter-most/>

<sup>26</sup> Registration No. CL4899-20200917025456 with the Office of the Integrity Commissioner

<sup>27</sup> Registration No. CL4899-20200917025455 with the Office of the Integrity Commissioner



In closing, my intention is to demonstrate to you that there is a fundamental problem at the source of the COVID-19 guidance in Toronto and Ontario as a whole, and this demands that this school board halts its decision to force the children under your protection to take a pharmaceutical product to even attend school. This is not anything like previous vaccines, and undertaking such a policy based on highly conflicted guidance will lead to injury and yes, even deaths, that far exceed any minimal risk posed to them by COVID-19.

All reference materials including the full list of citations are included and have been entered onto the record of this committee.

Thank you,

**Liam Sturgess**



## DISCLOSURE

**THE THOUGHTS AND OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS REPORT ARE THOSE OF THE AUTHOR ALONE, AND DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT THOSE OF ANY ORGANIZATION WITH WHICH THE AUTHOR IS ASSOCIATED.**

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