

April 27, 2020

The Honourable Doug Ford, M.P.P.  
Premier of Ontario  
Legislative Building  
Queen's Park  
Toronto ON,  
M7A 1A1

Open Letter to the Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario regarding  
the critical need for temporary security guard licencing.

Dear Premier:

We are writing to ask for your help to address the acute shortage of security guards in Ontario: an urgent matter that threatens the public's health, safety, and the efforts to maintain social distancing in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The current demand for security guards is far beyond the supply – a shortage of at least 1,500 individuals desperately needed by major Ontario frontline employers right now, including food and other essential retail stores, hospitals, long-term care homes, and commercial and government locations including detention centres.

While there are thousands of ready and capable Ontarians who could be trained and licensed to meet the need, the current state of emergency has shuttered guard testing, licensing and renewal offices. An alternative system is urgently needed.

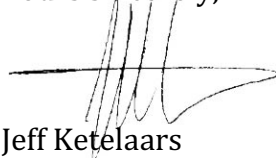
In Quebec, for instance, the government has implemented a system where security guard online training and testing has temporarily replaced the traditional face-to-face licensing system until the pandemic is over. An alternative system here, delivered by the government solely, or jointly with security guard companies, could overcome the current obstacle to

addressing the shortage of security guards while also providing thousands of good new jobs; including for individuals displaced and unemployed because of the pandemic.

Security guards are vital frontline workers, first responders, and essential to protecting the health and safety of the Ontario public throughout the year, and certainly during this pandemic crisis. We ask for your assistance to remedy the critical shortage of security guards. Our union would look forward to working with your government and the security guard companies to achieve this.

Premier, thank you for your consideration of this matter. We look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jeff Ketelaars  
Secretary-Treasurer  
UFCW Canada Local 333