

**JAGMEET SINGH**

DÉPUTÉ | MP, BURNABY SOUTH | BURNABY-SUD

August 9, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

In recent days, you and your Ministers have expressed frustration at not being able to pass more legislation. You have erroneously blamed New Democrats for your own failure to see that priority legislation pass the House of Commons and Senate.

I'm writing to remind you of the critical and constructive role New Democrats have played throughout this Parliament.

As early as March, my House Leader wrote to the Government House Leader to suggest that evening sittings of the House begin immediately, in order to make progress on important bills. In that letter we noted our worry that:

“important bills are once again being treated as a political football – with the Conservatives stalling Parliament to show that the government is out of control, and the government happy to see its agenda stalled in order to justify a snap election where they would use this excuse while seeking a majority government wherein, they could pass these bills without delay”.

Based on your recent comments and the continued speculation that you may call a snap election in the midst of a fourth wave; it seems that this worry was well-founded.

I will remind you once again of the New Democrats' role in seeing important bills enacted, including but not limited to C-12, the *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* and C-15 the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

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It's true that we opposed some legislation, like the back-to-work legislation for Port of Montreal workers – but you were able to find a willing partner in the Conservative Party to suspend the right to free collective bargaining.

There are also multiple cases where you were able to find all-party support to pass emergency legislation to provide help to Canadians facing the COVID-19 pandemic. You had to negotiate improvements to these benefits to get our support. This isn't a symptom of "dysfunction". This is Parliament working the way Canadians expect it to – MPs from different parties working together in a time of crisis.

New Democrats are not to blame for your failure to bring forward C-6, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code (conversion therapy)* sooner, or your failure to bring forward C-22, *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, more frequently. You made the choice to prorogue Parliament last summer in order to end the committee investigations into your government's decision to give millions of dollars to your friends at WE. This decision killed many bills that we supported.

If Parliament is dysfunctional, then you yourself have played a leading role in that dysfunction. Telling Canadians that minority government can't work is misleading and breeds cynicism in our democracy.

As you acknowledge, critical work still lays ahead of us. If the legislation that has yet to pass is important to you, it is within your power to bring your Ministers back off the pre-campaign trail, recall the House, and get to work. New Democrats are also eager to help expedite legislation to undo the \$800 cut to the Canada Recovery Benefit as well as the benefits claw back for seniors who received CERB. We should not cut help for people as we head into a fourth wave.

There are also many Canadians who remain unvaccinated. We have called for the federal government to take leadership when it comes to a national vaccination strategy. This leadership is needed now more than ever. We are ready to work with you to get every Canadian vaccinated before another wave of sickness and death.

New Democrats are ready to return to Parliament and keep fighting for Canadians.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jagmeet Singh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jagmeet Singh, MP
Burnaby South
Leader, New Democratic Party of Canada