

Invitation from OCLA to debate Ottawa's mandatory mask policy

From: Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>
To: Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Cc: Hannah, Rachel <rachel.hannah@ottawa.ca>
Subject: RE: Invitation from OCLA to debate Ottawa's mandatory mask policy
Date: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 2:02 PM
Size: 114 KB

Thank you once again however I do not believe that anyone from OPH will participate.

From: Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Sent: October 20, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>
Cc: Hannah, Rachel <rachel.hannah@ottawa.ca>
Subject: Re: Invitation from OCLA to debate Ottawa's mandatory mask policy

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION : Ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.

Dear Mr. Egli,

Thank you for your email.

Will anyone from Ottawa Public Health accept our invitation to a debate on Ottawa's mandatory face mask policy?

I repeat that the goal of the debate is to help the public understand the City's position on this policy and its basis.

I look forward to your response.

Best,
Joseph

On Tue, Oct 20, 2020 at 11:00 AM Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca> wrote:

Thank you for the email and the offer . I will be declining your offer .

[Get Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Joseph Hickey | OCLA <joseph.hickey@ocla.ca>
Sent: Monday, October 19, 2020 9:35:16 PM
To: Egli, Keith <Keith.Egli@ottawa.ca>
Subject: Invitation from OCLA to debate Ottawa's mandatory mask policy

CAUTION: This email originated from an External Sender. Please do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the source.

ATTENTION : Ce courriel provient d'un expéditeur externe. Ne cliquez sur aucun lien et n'ouvrez pas de pièce jointe, excepté si vous connaissez l'expéditeur.



October 19, 2020

Keith Egli
Chair, Ottawa Board of Health
Councillor, City of Ottawa (Ward 9, Knoxdale – Merivale)
keith.egli@ottawa.ca

Dear Mr. Egli,

I'm writing on behalf of the Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA). We are a volunteer-run, non-partisan rights and freedoms organization with our main office in Ottawa.

The government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on the civil liberties of Ottawans and Ontarians, including serious restrictions on the freedoms of movement, association, bodily autonomy, and other fundamental rights.

One policy that has been particularly contentious is the mandatory use of face masks in the general population. Such policies have been applied in many Ontario municipalities including the City of Ottawa. The OCLA has expressed its concerns with these policies in our [June 2020 letter to the Director General of the World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#) and in our [letters to leaders of Ontario municipalities](#).

You are a proponent of Ottawa's mandatory masks policy, and have stated (in emails to Prof. Darryl Davies, appended below) that you have based your opinion on multiple sources and studies.

The OCLA invites you to explain and argue your position in favour of mandatory face masks in Ottawa in the format of a public debate hosted by the OCLA. On the other side of the debate will be Dr. Denis Rancourt, a researcher with the OCLA. Dr. Rancourt has agreed that you may bring a health expert of your choice (for example, your colleague Dr. Vera Etches, Ottawa's Medical Officer of Health). The debate would therefore be two-against-one: you and the medical expert of your choice on one side, and Dr. Rancourt on the other side. The goal of the debate is to help the public understand the City's position and its basis.

The debate will be by videoconference (e.g. Zoom), broadcast live to the public, and recorded and made available on the OCLA's website and social media channels afterwards. Dan Donovan, Publisher and Managing Editor of Ottawa Life Magazine, has graciously offered to act as the moderator of the debate.

Please let me know if you agree, and we will proceed to scheduling a time for the debate that works for all participants.

Yours truly,

Joseph Hickey, PhD
Executive Director
Ontario Civil Liberties Association (OCLA) <http://ocla.ca>
613-252-6148 (c)
joseph.hickey@ocla.ca