

# **“Freedom Convoy” Update**

This document was prepared on February 11, 2022 by Nicole Volpe.

Nicole works for North Yorkers for Disabled Persons as an Outreach Communication Facilitator. She can be reached at nicole.nydp@gmail.com.

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## **What updates do we have on the “Freedom Convoy”?**

Many news outlets are stating “the eyes of the world are on Canada amid the ongoing “Freedom Convoy” protests,” and this is proving to ring true as we continue to see an outpour of support from the US. Throughout the last few weeks, we have seen demonstrations in Ottawa, Toronto, and now there have been reports of similar protests taking place in other countries.

Hundreds of vehicles remain parked around Parliament Hill in Ottawa, with many saying they will be staying put until all COVID-19 restrictions, including mask and vaccination mandates are lifted. The city core has continued to see traffic and noise disruptions, which has led way to an injunction against honking in downtown Ottawa. This 10-day injunction was put in place to prevent the incessant noise from the convoy, and has seen numerous individuals ticketed for blaring their horns.

Trucking groups, including the Canadian Trucking Alliance and the Private Motor Truck Council of Canada, have distanced themselves and their members from the convoy protests, stating that nearly 85 per cent of truckers are vaccinated. These groups have also noted that many of the organizers and participants of the convoy have no connection to the trucking industry.

As we see the Canadian protests progress, there have been reports that the convoy has created blockades at some US to Canada border crossings, with US officials calling for Canada to intervene.

## **I heard that other countries are seeing similar protests, where are these taking place?**

In the States, officials from the US Department of Homeland Security have warned that a group of truckers and supporters have plans to begin a similar convoy in Los Angeles which will head towards Washington D.C. by March. In France, an estimated 200 protesters have assembled with plans to head to Paris and Brussels. They originally assembled in Nice, with many brandishing Canadian flags in support of the “Freedom Convoy”.

We are also seeing a convoy in New Zealand, which is said to be heading to the country’s capital of Wellington with more than 1000 people currently among them, protesting the vaccine mandates in their own country. Australia has also seen similar demonstrations across the country.

## **Is it true that they have started a new crowdfunding campaign?**

This is true; after GoFundMe cut the original campaign short, we have seen donors supporting the new campaign on GiveSendGo, which describes itself as the “#1 free Christian crowdfunding site.” Donors had raised a staggering \$10 million through GoFundMe, and after the site pulled the plug, they announced they will be refunding all donations received. The current funding on GiveSendGo has now exceeded 8 million US dollars, and another fund on Adopt-a-Trucker has amassed more than \$686,000.

As of February 10, the Ontario government successfully petitioned a court to freeze the campaign on GiveSendGo. The province obtained this order from the Superior Court of Justice, which prohibits anyone from distributing the donations, however after this information came to light, the crowdfunding site issued a statement on Thursday as well. “Know this! Canada has absolutely ZERO jurisdiction over how we manage our funds here at GiveSendGo,” it said. “All funds for EVERY campaign on GiveSendGo flow directly to the recipients of those campaigns, not least of which is The Freedom Convoy campaign.

What many have found to be interesting is a large percentage of donations to the original GoFundMe were made by US citizens, with donors who made their location public

amounting to 52.6 per cent being from the US and only 36.8 per cent from Canada. With this information, some US state Republican officials have vowed to investigate the crowdfunding platform for shutting down the fundraiser.

“Many Texans donated to this worthy cause. I am acting to protect Texas consumers so that they know where their hard-earned money is going, rather than allowing GoFundMe to divert money to another cause without the consent of Texas citizens,” Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement on Wednesday.

Overall, we have seen the protests in Canada remain mostly civil and with minimal police intervention, however we will see what the days ahead bring as the demonstrations continue.

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**Sources:**

- 1: [Support for 'Freedom Convoy' in Canada pours in from U.S. | CTV News](#)
- 2: [\(1\) 'Snowball effect': Canada's trucker convoy sparks anti-mandate protests globally - National | Globalnews.ca](#)
- 3: ['Freedom Convoy' in France, inspired by Canada's, begins | CTV News](#)
- 4: [Ontario freezes funds from GiveSendGo trucker convoy fundraiser | Globalnews.ca](#)
- 5: [Trucker protest: Judge grants injunction against honking in downtown Ottawa | Globalnews.ca](#)