

# **“Freedom Convoy” Update**

This document was prepared on February 18, 2022 by Nicole Volpe.

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## **What is currently going on in Ottawa?**

As of 6:30 p.m on February 18, over 100 people have now been arrested for an assortment of offenses, and 21 vehicles have been towed. Two of those arrested on Thursday are main organizers of the original “Freedom Convoy.” These individuals were identified as Chris Barber and Tamara Lich. They are expected to face charges of mischief and counselling to commit mischief.

We saw an increased police presence in downtown Ottawa on Thursday, with extra security measures taking place to protect federal building. There is now a “secured area” being set up with near to 100 checkpoints to keep protesters out of the downtown core. The checkpoints allow residents to come and go from the area, but any protesters will be turned away. interim Ottawa Police Chief Steve Bell said they are taking every step they can to minimize the impact these measures will take on our residents and businesses while they keep out those who could do more harm to our community.

"We're in control of the situation on the ground and continue to push forward to clear our streets," said Bell at a news conference, which comes after Trudeau issued the emergency act. Bell stated that they are hopeful and want for people to leave peacefully on their own accord. If people do not leave peacefully, they have “plans, strategies and tactics to be able to get them to leave.”

Fencing has continued to be erected throughout the city streets, and police have been handing out leaflets to protesters with warnings to leave the area. The downtown demonstrations have reached 21 days, and officials are determined to prevent another weekend similar to those past.

## **Are there still protests occurring in downtown Toronto?**

It has been reported that Toronto will be deploying a heavier presence downtown this weekend due to the recent convoy protests across the country. Over the course of the last two weeks, we have seen hundreds of protesters in the cities downtown core, and police are hoping for a peaceful weekend after reports of many being arrested in Ottawa.

Toronto police have said that they will continue monitoring the situation and will provide updates, if necessary.

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### **Sources:**

- 1: <https://www.cp24.com/mobile/news/toronto-police-warn-of-heavier-presence-downtown-this-weekend-amid-ongoing-convoy-protests-in-ottawa-1.5787184>
- 2: [Trucker convoy: Police make arrests at convoy protest in downtown Ottawa | CTV News](#)
- 3: [Ottawa police arrest over 100 in push to end convoy blockade | Globalnews.ca](#)
- 4: [Live: Police begin push to remove Ottawa's trucker convoy blockades | Globalnews.ca](#)