



# WHY THE NORTHERN ONTARIO BORDER CROSSING PILOT PROJECT IS PRACTICAL AND ESSENTIAL – BRIEF



## Low Risk to Canadians

**01** This land border crossing pilot project requires tourists to be fully vaccinated and real-world data indicates that vaccinated people have a very low risk of spreading.

Furthermore, this pilot project also requires a negative COVID-19 test before arrival which further reduces any risk to Canadians. This land border crossing pilot project is significantly safer than existing land border practices that allow thousands of monthly crossings (such as truckers and workers) with no vaccination requirements and limited to no testing or quarantine.

According to a recent Ipsos poll presented at the Ministry of Heritage, Sport, Tourism & Culture Industries' Webinar, Canadians are accepting of a United States (U.S.) traveller vaccine passport concept as **78% of Canadians** feel that "All travellers entering Canada should be required to have a vaccine passport" and **72%** believe that "They (vaccine passports) would be effective in making travel and large events safe."



**of Canadians believe "vaccine passports would be effective in making travel and large events safe."**



## U.S. Tourists are Essential for the Survival of Northern Ontario Tourist Operators

**02** U.S. tourism is significant and essential for the north as there are approximately **1.0 million U.S. visitors annually**, spending **\$466 million**. U.S. visitors comprise up to **95%** of the business for many Northern Ontario tourist operators and this business occurs in the spring and summer. Getting half of the usual U.S. tourists would have a direct economic impact of \$233 million in tourism revenue, millions of dollars in tax revenue and the return of thousands of jobs.



**\$466 million in Tourism Receipts**



**1.0 million U.S. Visitors Annually**



## U.S. Guests Already Booked for 2021

**03** Northern Ontario tourism operators already have booked U.S. tourists in 2021 and have detailed information of each guest. No marketing is required.



## Ease of Implementation

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i) **Canada Border Services Agency** – There is no extraordinary effort required by Border Services Officers to enforce the following pilot project protocols, as they already ask for information and one's passport.

Asking to see the following requires little additional effort by the Canada Border Services:

1. Vaccination Card (the U.S. is issuing vaccination cards)
2. Proof of negative COVID-19 test
3. Proof of download of Canada's COVID Alert App and submission of ArriveCAN information
4. Tourist establishment reservation (with no other unscheduled travel)



ii) **Tourist Operator** – All that is required is an email to the guests instructing them to bring proof of vaccination and negative COVID-19 test, Canada's COVID Alert App/ArriveCAN information & their tourist establishment reservation.



## Source of Information and Results for Government Officials

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A recent task force assembled by the Washington-based Wilson Center's Canada Institute, also identified a pilot project approach to opening the border to demonstrate logistics, identify issues and gather data.

The Government of Canada approved a pilot project in Alberta from 2020-Nov-02 to 2021-Feb-21. There has been significant positive developments and advancements since the Alberta program was implemented last year. The major development is the massive vaccination efforts in the United States. Officials there have indicated that all Americans that want a vaccine will be vaccinated by the end of June 2021 (most Canadians may be vaccinated by the summer). As all U.S. tourists will be tracked and extensive information collected, this pilot project will be able to provide the government information regarding any issues or concerns of allowing U.S. tourists into Canada. This would help provide the rationale and data once a larger border opening initiative is contemplated.