



The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
Office of the Premier
307 Legislature Building
10800 - 97 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 2B6

By email: premier@gov.ab.ca

March 30, 2020

Dear Premier Kenney,

I am writing today on behalf of the hundreds of Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) veterinarians across the country represented by the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada (PIPSC), in response to your allegations last Friday that federal public servants are refusing to go back to work following a meat processing plant closure in Alberta linked to COVID-19.

Our members, and those of our CFIA colleagues represented by the Agriculture Union, will remain at their posts and continue to perform their critical work despite the threat posed by COVID-19. It is paramount that their work environment is deemed safe by public health authorities. In reality, workers were prevented from entering the Harmony Beef facility by CFIA managers – unionized workers did not unilaterally decide to walk off the job, as you seem to have suggested.

While I recognize that your past history as a federal Cabinet Minister under Prime Minister Harper predisposes you to attack public service employees, I would thank you to cease making offensive and inaccurate statements. Our members and all employees at the CFIA are first-line defenders of our citizens' health and well-being. They are needed by all Canadians and they are committed to getting the job done.

Sincerely,

Debi Daviau,
President,
The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada