

OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE  
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**OTTAWA POLICE SERVICE**  
**SERVICE DE POLICE D'OTTAWA**

*Working together for a safer community*  
*La sécurité de notre communauté, un travail d'équipe*

**2022**

**Wellington & Queen**  
**February 13th, 2022**

**POU**  
**Appendix**

A/S/Sgt E.Edwards #1215  
Emergency Services Unit  
02/13/2022

## **POU Appendix to Operational Plan Approval**

\_\_\_\_\_  
<Inspector Marin >

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 1.0 SITUATION

**Freedom Convoy** (**French**: *Convoi de la Liberté*) is an ongoing [protest](#) in Canada against [COVID-19 vaccine requirements for truckers to re-enter the country by land](#) introduced by the [government of Canada](#) on January 15, 2022. Originally composed of several routes traversing all of the Canadian [provinces](#), the truck convoys converged on [Ottawa](#) on January 29, 2022, with a [rally](#) at [Parliament Hill](#).<sup>[16]</sup> The trucking convoys were then joined by pedestrian protesters.<sup>[6]</sup> The protest continued into February.<sup>[17][18][19]</sup> Protesters have stated that they will not leave until all [COVID-19](#) restrictions and mandates have been repealed, and some have called for the federal government to be overthrown.<sup>[20]</sup>

Both Canada and the United States accommodated unvaccinated cross-border truckers with an exemption from the new COVID-19 regulations implemented by both countries in the fall of 2021, to prevent supply chain disruptions. The exemptions for Canadian truckers ended on January 15, 2022, and the [United States Department of Homeland Security](#) exemption ended a week later on January 22, 2022.

The [Canadian Trucking Alliance](#) (CTA) estimates that 85% of the 120,000 Canadian truck drivers are already vaccinated against COVID-19,<sup>[21]</sup> and that these mandates would potentially impact 26,000 of the 160,000 drivers in both the United States and Canada who regularly cross the border.<sup>[22]</sup>

The convoy has been condemned by trucking industry groups,<sup>[23][24]</sup> and the Canadian Trucking Alliance reported that a large number of protesters had no connection to trucking.<sup>[25]</sup> On January 27, Prime Minister Trudeau said that almost 90% of Canadians were vaccinated, as were many truckers in Canada, and that a "small fringe minority of people" in the convoy do not "represent the views of Canadians."<sup>[26]</sup> A January 29 CTA statement cautioned the public that a "great number of protestors" with no connection to the trucking industry, "have a separate agenda beyond a disagreement over cross border vaccine requirements."

The City of Ottawa, as well as the Province of Ontario have declared a State of Emergency as a direct result of the Freedom Convoy movement. In Ottawa, the protest activity has been ongoing since Jan 28, 2022, and has evolved into an occupation, with large trucks blocking a large portion of the downtown core. The area bounded by Wellington St, Elgin St, Albert St and Bay St is the geographic hub of the Freedom Convoy occupation. Wellington St in front of Parliament Hill has become the staging point of the organizers, where they have erected a shelter, and soundstage.

\*\*There remains over 500 trucks in the downtown core.\*\*

## 2.0 MISSION

The mission is to set up a formal checkpoint at every single intersection and access route of the area currently bounded by Wellington St, Elgin St, Queen St and Bay St; to allow egress only (with exception of emergency personnel, business owners and residents); to remove the protestors, the vehicles, and the encampments; and return the downtown core to a state of normalcy for the general public, while maintaining officer safety and public safety.









