

July 22, 2020

**VIA EMAIL**

Premier of Manitoba  
204 Legislative Building  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8  
Attention: Premier Pallister

Minister of Health, Seniors and Active Living  
450 Broadway  
Winnipeg, MB R3C 0V8

Attention: Honourable Cameron Friesen

Dear Sirs:

**Re: COVID-19 – Inappropriate Identification of Cases Present in Hutterite Colonies**

I write on behalf of the CanAm Hutterite Colony, of which I am both a member and the Minister.

Over the course of the past few days, the Colony, together with other Hutterite Colonies located throughout the Province of Manitoba, have watched with growing concern as the Province of Manitoba has publicly identified various Hutterite Colonies as the location of residence of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19. As a result of these public announcements, the Hutterite communities have already begun to experience stigmatization by others in the surrounding communities. Should the announcements continue, we expect the stigmatization, and associated cultural and religious profiling, will only worsen.

We write to request that the Province immediately discontinue its practice of identifying the religious affiliation of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19, including membership or residence in a Hutterite Colony. While we appreciate the general public benefit associated with identifying the location of residence of those affected by COVID-19, we believe that the same benefit can be achieved by simply identifying the geographic location as opposed to the Colony present in that location.

We do not wish to see this matter escalated further; however, unless the Province immediately ceases and desists in its practice as aforesaid, we will have no choice but to file a complaint with the Human Rights Commission.

Yours truly,

CANAM HUTTERITE HUTTERITE COLONY

Per:



Paul Waldner

cc. CBC  
CTV News