

Protest Accessibility Guide

Protest against the Return-to-Office Directive

Date & Time: September 9, 2024, at 7:30 AM

Location: IRCC, 365 Laurier Ave W, Ottawa

Accessibility and Safety Information

1. Event Purpose:

- This protest is part of a union-led campaign for remote work rights. We're starting with the IRCC and building department-wide solidarity to oppose the mandatory three-day in-office directive. Join us in the fight for workplace flexibility and fairness!

2. Accessibility Considerations:

- **Wheelchair and Mobility Access:** The protest will take place outdoors on the sidewalk in front of 365 Laurier Ave W. While there are some curb cuts and accessible paths, please note that crowds may create congestion. If you need assistance, reach out to a protest **volunteer**.
- **Quiet Zones:** There won't be formal quiet areas set up, but if you need a break from the noise or crowds, quieter spaces may be available in nearby streets or public parks. Consider bringing noise-canceling headphones if you are sensitive to loud environments.
- **Hearing Accessibility:** Unfortunately, there won't be official sign language interpreters or live captions at the event. If you are attending with someone who signs, ensure they can interpret for you. Microphones will be used, but crowd noise may make it difficult to hear speeches.

3. COVID-19 Considerations:

- **Masks Optional but Encouraged:** While masks are not mandatory at the event, we encourage all participants to wear masks. Please bring a mask if you can, and extras may be available from volunteers.
- **Social Distancing:** We recognize that maintaining physical distancing in a protest setting may be difficult, but we encourage participants to be mindful of others' space whenever possible. If you need a bit more space, feel free to step back from the main crowd.

4. Safety and Police Presence:

- **Know Your Rights:** Be aware that while police may be present, peaceful protesting is your right.
- **If You Need to Leave:** Should you feel overwhelmed, police presence or crowd sizes could trigger anxiety or discomfort. We suggest mapping out nearby escape routes before the event begins.

- **Emergency Contacts:** Make sure you have a trusted contact you can reach if you need support during or after the protest. Share your plans and location with someone who isn't attending.

5. **Medical and Mental Health Resources:**

- **First Aid:** While there will not be an official first aid station, it's recommended to bring personal medical supplies (inhalers, medications, etc.).
- **Emotional Support:** Protests can be emotionally overwhelming, especially with a police presence. If you are struggling during the event, take breaks, practice grounding exercises, or seek out a quieter space.
- **Post-Event Support:** After the protest, check in with yourself emotionally. If the event triggers distress, consider reaching out to a trusted friend, therapist, or support hotline.

6. **Buddy System:**

If you're attending alone and would like to team up with someone for support, a buddy system can help. Connect with others on social media or union networks before the protest to find a protest buddy.

Nearest Accessible Facilities:

- **Ottawa Public Library (Laurier Ave W.):** Accessible space if you need to rest.

Connect with Us for Support:

If you have any accessibility concerns or need assistance, please reach out to one of the marshals who will be wearing bright orange vests at the protest or contact the organizers in advance.