

In May this year, Premier Danielle Smith asked for prayers so that each of us can get over the trauma of the last three years. She “vowed to put those dark days behind all of us.” It’s a familiar line from leaders worldwide. Here in Canada, we have had a National Citizens’ Inquiry. The UK is in the throes of their own COVID inquiry with public hearings slated until 2026 (do we have that long to wait for answers?) Both are focused on “learning lessons”. But the recommendations from these inquiries do NOT have to be adopted by governments. And most importantly NO ONE will be found guilty or innocent. Why would that be, do you think? Because there aren’t enough prison cells to house those responsible is my educated guess. We don’t need inquiries! We need investigations! I hear everywhere now, “COVID’s OVER! Just move on.” - from people we meet in the street and online. Is that because too many are unwilling or unable to contemplate the gravity of these crimes? Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it, goes the saying. It would be better to say “Those who cannot remember the past or worse, rewrite it, condemn us all to repeat it.” And that is where we are today. Living lies because we just want to live life. Whatever your take on the COVID crisis, we should all want, we all deserve - the truth.

Our visit to my mother’s care home this week was bittersweet. Only two staff, thankfully, were still wearing masks. The rest were happier than I have seen them in three years. But how many understand the mask was ineffective in preventing the spread of an airborne virus? How many understand it has caused them physical and emotional damage? Worse, how many really understand the devastating toll their wearing of masks had on residents with communication challenges? Too few. And worst of all, they will ALL dutifully don them again at the government’s behest. What exactly have healthcare professionals learned from the last three years? We spoke to my mother’s care manager about the current AHS policy that requires any member of staff to mask at a resident/visitor’s request. She looked blank until we showed her the documentation in Frequently Asked Questions from AHS. Then she was shocked. Here is the signage that will be in place in all care homes and hospitals and was effective as of June 19th. Just two “cases” in a seven-day period steps this direction up to full lockdown isolation, mandatory continuous masking, goggles and daily testing for residents and patients. This level of restriction was NEVER in place even at the height of COVID. So how is this something to be cheer about? This is what learning to live with COVID in its now “endemic” stage looks like. Sounds all too like 2020 to me. Here is the sign we have posted on my mother’s door and in her room. This is our response to the new normal narrative, our counter-offensive, the strategy we used from the start. It states: “Please not wear a mask in this area. This person needs to see your face for safe and effective care.” For the meantime, at least, my mum will have real human connection and communication with carers she can recognize.

There is too little understanding, acknowledgment, let alone learning from what has been done to us all in the last three years. Why is that so important? Because one lie begets another. If you can pull one loose thread in the COVID weave, then it stands to reason that the whole thing comes apart at the seams. I remember our small group of Angry Albertans was verbally and physically attacked when we marched from right here down 109St in 2020 for saying lockdowns were doing more harm than good. Three years on, and most people will now admit that lockdowns were infinitely more deadly than a virus. Yet still, we have many, including politicians like the UK's Matt Hancock, stating we should have locked down earlier, harder and for longer. The stage is already set, the public primed for this to all come back when governments choose. The legal framework to lock you down is all still in effect here in Alberta. Now though, there are no regular COVID updates for the public. You'll go to a hospital or care home and be subjected to outbreak protocols on arrival. How does anyone manage that uncertainty?

How do we live with COVID when there are so many lies around COVID? Danielle Smith (when she is not doing dishes in her restaurant) is sanitizing COVID data critical for transparency and informed consent. Danielle Smith refuses to talk about why we had 9601 excess deaths in 2022 in this province. Danielle Smith and every MLA, has been given the data showing we are on track for 17,000 excess deaths in Alberta by the end of this year. Whatever the cause, this is critical information that should be investigated, and the findings shared with Albertans. Why was Danielle Smith, Rachel Notley, every politician, every mainstream media and even every alt media outlet and freedom leader deathly silent for three weeks when Deena Hinshaw was hired and then removed from her position in the Indigenous Wellness Core? Why has every member of the Indigenous Wellness Core group bar one, resigned without a word of real explanation? What is everyone trying to hide? Or are they all in this together?

The COVID response was a crime. Playing politics when lives are at stake is criminal. The silence from you all speaks volumes.

We at least setting up a meeting with Andrew Boitchenko, our UCP MLA, to discuss David's data and more in detail. We are still waiting for a reply to meet with NDP MLA Sharif Haji – my mother lives in his riding at Dickinsfield. I am my mother's Power of Attorney. David is her medical proxy. Mr Haji, you also have a duty to meet with us. There is plenty to share with you on policy failures that have caused suffering and death in long term care.

If our Premier, MLA's and more can't come clean about the last three years, they will leave a devastating legacy for our children.