



## President Hearn has resigned.

We are sorry that most of our **POWER Team** people only received the email from the Board or Directors October 29<sup>th</sup> and did not receive the BOD's email October 21<sup>st</sup> and the Resignation letter from President David Hearn on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**POWER Team** leadership wants you to receive all of the communications so you better understand why our president has resigned at this time.

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## Board of Directors email October 21<sup>st</sup> that you may not have received.

Dear Alliance family,

With the knowledge and consent of the President, the C&MA Board of Directors is writing this letter to inform our official workers that our President, Rev. Dr. David Hearn, has given notice that he is not vaccinated and has no current plans to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Speaking on its own behalf, the Board acknowledges that this decision places strain on our National Ministry Centre staff and has the potential to inflame an ongoing debate in our local churches. It will be very sad news for those who have lost family and friends to this pandemic. Additionally, it has the potential to impact the way The Alliance Canada is perceived in the broader culture.

The Board also affirms the deadly nature of this pandemic, the importance of vaccines for saving lives, and is very grateful for the health care and health care workers who serve

Canadians. We believe in cooperating with our government as much as possible and laying down our rights for the health and safety of others. The Board also recognizes that, for some Canadian Christians, there has been an erosion of trust in Canadian authorities in recent years, contributing to an increase of concern about government mandates.

David Hearn has approached the Board with a humble and submissive spirit, and provided his reasoning for declining the vaccine, which we accept as sincere. We continue to trust in his ability to lead us as an Alliance family even though not all support his decision. We recognize that it will not be possible for David to fulfill all the responsibilities of his position in the coming months. With this in mind, and with David's support and encouragement, the Board is developing plans and implementing strategies to fulfill any public aspects of the President's role that David is unable to complete in the immediate future. The Board has adopted a more frequent meeting regimen to better assess and support our shared global ministry initiatives. Please be assured of our increased communication in the weeks ahead.

In the meantime, the Board has affirmed a policy at the National Ministry Centre which follows the example of many school boards and public workplaces in Ontario: at present, vaccination will be required to work on-site at the NMC office unless proof of a clean rapid COVID test is provided twice weekly. Reasonable efforts will be made to work creatively with those who, for a variety of reasons, are vaccine hesitant. David has wholeheartedly agreed to follow these guidelines and will meet or exceed the health protocols in whatever jurisdiction he is visiting.

The Board recognizes that this announcement, and the decisions that may follow, bring risk of polarization. Yet, we also believe that they bring opportunities to navigate through this together, in a way that embodies Jesus' reconciling work among us and for the world. The complexity of these decisions weighs heavy on the Board. We ask for your prayers—for the C&MA Board of Directors, for our President, David Hearn, and for our whole Alliance family—as we discern how to lead our Alliance family, with God's help, into a place of greater impact for the kingdom of God in these challenging times.

In His service,

Rev. Jeff Sensenstein, Chair

On behalf of the Board of Directors of The Alliance Canada

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# October 23, 2021

## President Hearn Resigns

Dear Alliance Leaders,

One of the greatest privileges of my life has been to serve and lead in our Alliance family both in Canada and around the world. I have been so blessed to speak to hundreds of congregations, listen to the vision and aspirations of our pastors, and hear the amazing stories of spiritual breakthrough among the nations from our international workers. I have the honour of serving alongside some of the most amazing, godly, and dedicated leaders serving in the Church today.



Never in my wildest dreams would I have thought I would be writing this letter to the leaders I love and serve, but my conviction to not be vaccinated, along with government restrictions on the unvaccinated, make it unattainable for me to carry out my duties as the President of the Christian and Missionary Alliance in Canada, especially in the way that reflects who I am. The way God has made me is best expressed when I am present and engaged with our church family. This is what lives in my DNA.

I have submitted my resignation to the Board of Directors and the Board has accepted it. When I shared with the Board that I was not vaccinated, they worked hard to find a pathway for me to continue to lead. They have been gracious and kind. The letter you received a few days ago was honest, open and heartfelt, but I believe the best way forward is for me to step down and allow the Board to prepare for a new president to be elected at Assembly 2022.

I am passionately committed to our shared vision, and even though how I serve the church will change, my heart to see God work powerfully in and through our family of churches remains.

I sincerely apologize to those who have felt hurt or been disappointed by my decision. I ask you to forgive me.

I urge each of you to stand with the Board and the leadership team of the Alliance. They are anointed men and women who are deeply committed to Jesus and His mission to reach the nations.

I want you to know that I love you very much and that I hold all of you in high esteem. It has been an honour to serve with you.

A letter from the Board with further details will be sent out next week.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. David Hearn  
President, The Alliance Canada

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## **Canadian Board of Directors follow up communication to the Alliance Family Which you may have received**

Friday, October 29, 2021

Dear Colleagues

As you are aware, the announcement last week regarding the resignation of our President, Rev. Dr. David Hearn, included a promise of an update from the Board of Directors. Let me say at the outset that there are many moving pieces as the Board navigates its way forward. However, there are some things we can share right now.

1. Rev. Dr. David Hearn will serve through until November 30, 2021. However, his role is now highly transitional, and he has graciously offered to assist the Board with its fall meeting at the end of November and with orienting any appointee to the position of president.
2. The Board is currently seeking legal advice to ensure that its interpretation of the General Operating Bylaw of The Alliance Canada and subsequent actions are correct. This includes but is not limited to the duration of any presidential appointment and the scope of this role.
3. The current succession plan established by the Board of Directors allows that the Executive Vice President (EVP) serve as president with all the rights and privileges of that office if for any reason the elected president is not able to fulfill the requirements of his office. The Board is highly confident and blessed that our EVP, Doug Gerrard, is willing to step into this role as the Board looks for a suitable longer-term solution.
4. The Board is very cognizant of Dave and Agnes Hearn's wellbeing and the need to honour them for their work. Please join us in praying for them.

5. Last, I invite you to join the Board in praying for discernment. The selection of an interim president is no small task, and we are grateful for the skilled input we are receiving as we consider potential candidates.

As we gather more information and some of these moving pieces settle, the Board will provide you with more information. Until then, may the Lord bless you and keep you and cause His face to shine upon you.

Rev. Jeff Sensenstein  
Chair, The Alliance Canada Board of Directors

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**Please pray for the Board of Directors as this crucial time.**

**CONNECTOR** has conveyed to David how much we have appreciated his support and encouragement all during the development of **POWER Team**

