

# Pete McMartin: Enough — I'm done with all of the COVID-19 skeptics | Vancouver Sun

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## Pete McMartin: Enough is enough. I'm done with all of the COVID-19 skeptics

Opinion: I'm done with those whose ignorance of science is so profound and intractable that, rather than heeding the advice of scientists, doctors and virologists, they put their trust in celebrities, politicians and quacks

Pete McMartin

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Pete McMartin is done with those who are so mentally lazy that they refuse to trust in anything beyond hearsay, urban legend, apocrypha, conservative wing-nut provocateurs and the whole digital witch-doctor network of chat rooms, Facebook forums and the first hit that pops up on their Google searches that are designed to reaffirm their ignorance rather than challenge it. PNG  
Enough.

I'm done.

I'm done with those whose fear of vaccinations arises from studies that were long ago peer-disproved and retracted.

I'm done with those whose ignorance of science is so profound and intractable that, rather than heeding the advice of scientists, doctors and virologists, they put their trust in celebrities, politicians and quacks who, unable to tell the difference between their outsized egos and reality, and who in the face of reason and the damage they leave in their wake, continue to spout self-aggrandizing bullshit in the dangerous belief that their notoriety somehow gives them a platform from which to spout lies to a credulous public.

I'm done with those who are so mentally lazy that they refuse to trust in anything beyond hearsay, urban legend, apocrypha, conservative wing-nut provocateurs and the

whole digital witch-doctor network of chat rooms, Facebook forums and the first hit that pops up on their Google searches that are designed to reaffirm their ignorance rather than challenge it.

I'm done with those who believe political beliefs are the same thing as incontrovertible facts.

I'm done with those who demonize science and scientists.

I'm done with those who are so fuelled by their sense of resentment that they see the ongoing pandemic as a manifestation of class war rather than a war against reason, which they themselves have prosecuted.

I'm done with those who believe we all have our version of reality, because no, we don't all have our own version of reality. Singular undeniable realities exist. The earth is round. COVID-19 has killed millions. There are no microchips in vaccines. Vaccines are not designed by governments, Bill Gates or the Illuminati to harvest your DNA, track your movements or enslave you. There is no conspiracy here other than the one designed to save your miserable, undeserving life. That is reality. Deal with it.

I'm done with conspiracies and those who believe in them. You think the world believes you are important enough to conspire against? Believe me, it doesn't.

I'm done with those whose fear of vaccinations is so rigid and unthinking that, as an unintended consequence of their ignorance, they would drag us back into the Third World by helping to resuscitate polio and whooping cough and mumps and measles — all those diseases that used to kill and maim children by the hundreds of thousands not three generations ago. They do this even though they had been vaccinated in their youth for those very things, and they would do this while the citizens of the Third World, begging for vaccines, are dying by the thousands.

I'm done with any person, government or business that would coddle anti-vaxxers, or who, like desperate parents trying to entice a spoiled child to eat his vegetables, would offer them tax breaks, lottery tickets or beer as rewards for getting vaccinated.

I'm done with rewarding dangerous, antisocial behaviour rather than punishing it.

I'm done with governments that can't stay on message, that speak in euphemism rather than plain, honest language, that quail at the thought of mandates, that change health

protocols without any seeming rationale, and that take their cues from the Chamber of Commerce rather than public health agencies — all while acting as if we can massage ourselves out of this endless loop of economic disruption, misery and death we have been trapped in for the past two years by applying the old tried and true political manipulations, in which the greatest sin is to do anything that might cause you to be voted out of office.

I'm done with anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers who, while literally weaponizing themselves by refusing to get vaccinated and putting other lives in danger as surely as if they were carrying a loaded gun, see themselves as brave freedom fighters protecting their constitutional freedoms, not because they believe in equality, but because they believe exactly the opposite, that their rights are preeminent over all others. I'm done with anyone who characterizes people who wear masks, social-distance and get vaccinated as "sheeple."

I'm done with those who complain about wearing masks, as if having to wear a piece of fabric designed to stop the inhalation of a deadly virus was akin to torture. I'm especially done with the puerile idiots who compare wearing a mask to Jews having to wear a Star of David during the Holocaust. It isn't a mask these fools should be wearing, but a muzzle.

I'm done with those who, after a visit to the intensive care unit and death's door, experience their moment of revelation that, yes, they are so sorry that they didn't get vaccinated because — with the usual egocentricity and selfishness that characterizes anti-vaxxer sentiment — they could have died rather than, you know, the untold number of people their stupidity put at risk.

Other than those with legitimate health concerns or compromised immune systems, I'm done with trying to understand, accommodate or politely tolerate anti-vaxxers, or those who are just too stupid, tuned out or unconcerned with the health and safety of others to get vaccinated.

I'm done with living life in limbo, with the hundreds of thousands of needless deaths and the hundreds of thousands more to come, with the travel bans, with the slow-motion unravelling of the economy, with the dispiriting and seemingly endless pattern of peak, trough and peak, and with the only variance in life coming with the arrival of the virus's latest reincarnation.

I'm done because all of this terrible nightmare we are trapped in could have been avoided.

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*Pete McMartin is a former Vancouver Sun columnist.*

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