

**Syed Moeen Faisal**  
**Grand Prize Winner Grade 9-12 Category**

**Essay:**

Which vaccines will be successful? Will they be delivered in time? Answering these questions and cleaving through the uncertainty, was Anita Anand. Her vital mission would provide Canadians with the means to beat the pandemic. Anand surmounted the hurdles and delivered on her promises to invest in successful vaccines, ensure deals are upheld, and bring doses into Canada.

To do so, she overcame threats to vaccine supply by maintaining a firm stance with companies and ensuring Canada's agreements were upheld through extensive negotiations. Anand also guaranteed accelerated deliveries to account for delays. To prevent Canada from falling behind due to its lack of domestic production, Anand took doses from COVAX to protect Canadians. After Canada's vaccine goals were met, Anand's efforts propelled Canada to donate back to COVAX and put Canada among the top ten vaccine donors worldwide.

By fulfilling the responsibility placed on her shoulders, Anand helped Canadians protect themselves and allowed administrations to launch reopening plans. Provinces centred strategies around vaccination rates and vaccine mandates were possible due to the abundance of vaccines.

Anand displayed exceptional leadership and adaptability throughout the pandemic, strategically making deals with multiple companies for vaccines and ensuring they were upheld every step of the way. Her efforts earned the public's trust in her government and undoubtedly helped them hold onto power.

Anand exemplified what Canadians expect from officials: transparency, reliability, and responsibility. After securing Canada's vaccine supply and the respect of Canadians, she has been entrusted to resolve another major issue: the culture and misconduct present in the Armed Forces, and has taken the strong steps of apologising and moving the cases to civilian courts. Her efforts in past and current roles will benefit Canadians immensely, and she has shown how any Canadian can surmount adversity and accomplish their own goals too.