

Date

Re: Guaranteed Basic Income

Dear Mr./Ms.

On May 3, 2020, an open letter to the Prime Minister was signed by 41 Anglican and ELCIC bishops urging the government to immediately implement Guaranteed Basic Income. I am writing to you expressing my full support for this initiative.

The outbreak of COVID-19 in recent months has demonstrated how difficult it can be to afford the most basic of needs at a time when working from home or finding new employment is simply not possible. I—along with the bishops—applaud the government's efforts to provide support through various programs including the CERB. These supports allow for individuals and families to access vital goods and services when they are most needed.

While we recognise that no system will be perfect, we cannot leave some individuals to fall through the cracks with their health, life and well-being at stake. As pointed out in the bishops' letter, **this is the time** to consider GBI as a viable, affordable and evidence-based way to ensure that all in this country are upheld and cared for.

I am sure that prior to the passing of the Medical Care Act (1966) and the Canada Health Act (1984), the idea of guaranteed federal funding for health-care was seen as both impossible and impractical. History has shown that these imaginative legacy-building pieces of legislation have not only benefited the country in times of pandemic and of economic recession, but have become one of the building blocks on which many different sectors can flourish, for the betterment of people from coast, to coast to coast.

Advocating and introducing Guaranteed Basic Income programs and legislation is a way to ensure that our public spending reflects a system which

***represents a positive nation-building policy option for today and for tomorrow.
It can become the great, transformational legacy, left by this government, which
arises from this pandemic, paralleling the great social gains which arose during
and after earlier conflicts: public health insurance and equal rights.
Guaranteed Basic Income is the policy which we can bequeath to our children,***

Once again, I add my voices to those of the Anglican and Lutheran bishops: Canada needs Guaranteed Basic Income for all. We need it today. I urge you as my Member of Parliament to fight for these policies and to ensure health, dignity, and well-being for everyone in this great nation.

Sincerely,