

## **Guaranteed Basic Income – writing your MP and MNA**

There are a few points of information that should be highlighted when you write your letters:

- This letter may be sent by email or by Canada Post to your MP or MNA
  - Letters to MPs sent through Canada Post do not require any postage
  - If sending by post, the MPs local office will receive the letter more quickly than their Ottawa office
- It is critical to include your address, especially your postal code, in the signature portion of the letter that you send; this is how MPs and MNAs determine that you are a constituent who they represent
- If you do not know your MP or their contact information, it can be found at <https://www.ourcommons.ca/members/en>
- To find your MNA contact information, please go here: <http://www.assnat.qc.ca/en/deputes/index.html#ListeDeputes>

Letter campaigns like this are most effective when MPs and MNAs receive a high volume of letters about the same issue. While it is more work, it is more effective if every member of a community writes a letter or email than to have one letter sent on behalf of everyone. This is a case where quantity is critical.

Please feel free to share this outside the Anglican community. The more people who send in letters the better.

The template in English for your federal MP follows on the next page.

For your Quebec MNA, please use the French template in the French file.

<<John Smith, Member of Parliament for Constituency>>

<<Street Address>>

<<City, Town Postal Code>>

<<Date>>

Dear <<Mr./Mrs./Ms. Last Name,>>

On Sunday, 2 May 2020, the Prime Minister's office received An Open Letter on Guaranteed Basic Income, signed by many of the bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Anglican Church of Canada. It is the hope of these churches, expressed by their leadership in this letter, that the Government of Canada will draft and pass legislation creating a Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) for all people who live on this land.

I am writing today, as your constituent, to urge you to support the creation and implementation of such legislation.

Every political party in Canada has made promises and commitments to address poverty, education, health care, and social justice. These issues are important to me as a Canadian citizen and as a person of faith. The studies cited in the letter demonstrate that GBI is an affordable, effective way to address many of these concerns with one strategy.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has revealed many of the places in which our social welfare nets are insufficient. These insufficiencies are true at all times, but the challenges of a global health crisis have magnified them and made them much clearer than ever before. This revelation of areas where we could do so much more to help one another should not be seen as an indictment of our current systems, but as an opportunity to improve how we care for and support one another.

Implementation of GBI programming in Canada is our opportunity to create a legacy that will better the lives of everyone in this country for generations to come.

Thank you for your commitments in the past to bettering the lives of all who live in Canada. Will you now take this opportunity to work toward a federal GBI program which represents a concrete step toward fulfilling those commitments? Please do so.

Sincerely,

<<Your name>>

<<Your street address>>

<<Your City, Province Postal Code>>