**E-mail Template: Guaranteed Livable Income**

*NB: The main content can be adapted to send directly to your MP or others in federal, provincial/territorial, or municipal government. We encourage you to personalize the message, especially if you know the person you are writing to. Justin Trudeau’s e-mail is* *pm@pm.gc.ca* *and Chrystia Freeland’s e-mail is* *Chrystia.Freeland@parl.gc.ca**. Please cc* *takeaction@united-church.ca* *and your own Member of Parliament. You can find your Member of Parliament's contact information by entering your postal code on the* [*Parliament of Canada website*](https://www.ourcommons.ca/parliamentarians/en/constituencies/FindMP)*.*

(*Date*)

Dear Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance:

Subject: Guaranteed livable income program

*(Introduce yourself. Share a story or particular concern/situation/awareness that motivates you to advocate for a GLI)*

As a member of The United Church of Canada, I call on you to develop a guaranteed livable income program that ensures an adequate living income level for everyone and addresses the persistent inequities within the present wage and social benefit structures in our country. As we emerge out of the pandemic, inflation and the cost of living are skyrocketing.

I urge you to build a program that is universally accessible, preserves human dignity rather than creates stigma, removes discriminatory barriers, does not penalize people for the work that they do, is available with a minimum of bureaucracy, and exists alongside other social supports, including health care, pharmacare, pension, and education supports. Particular attention should address the barriers experienced by Indigenous peoples in accessing relief programs related to COVID-19, recognizing that these are manifestations of a system that leaves Indigenous people out of decision-making and denies their rightful place in Canada’s economy. The program would need to be developed in collaboration with the provinces, territories, and Indigenous leadership

Such a program is possible. Successful income transfer programs already exist in Canada for seniors (Old Age Security and the Guaranteed Income Supplement) and for parents (Canada Child Benefit (CCB). Its implementation can build on the cross-party and jurisdictional cooperation demonstrated in the CERB rollout to respond to income insecurity caused by COVID-19.

Over the past few years, support for such a program has been growing. There are currently bills in both the Senate (S-233) and the House (C-223). Recently, municipalities have voiced strong support for a national guaranteed livable income program with resolutions passed by St. John’s, Saint John, Moncton, Fredericton, Halifax Regional Municipality, and Victoria, and more will follow. The United Church of Canada has been advocating for such a program for more than 50 years; now is the time to make history.

*(Give final message of motivation)*

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

(*your name*)(*your address*)

Cc: takeaction@united-church.ca
(*your Member of Parliament*)