



QUAKERS

Canadian Friends
Service Committee

Template to email elected officials about a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income in Canada

This email can be adapted to any elected official, be it your Municipal Councillor, your Member of Parliament, or a Senator. To find your MP please put your postal code in the [Parliament of Canada website](#).

Subject: Guaranteed livable basic income program

(Date)

Dear PM (name), MP (name), Senator (name), Councillor (name):

(Please take the time to introduce yourself and share a personal reflection on why a GLBI should be implemented in Canada)

As a concerned citizen I ask that you develop and implement a guaranteed livable basic income program. Such a program needs to safeguard people's wellbeing and uphold their dignity by establishing an income floor that they can't fall below.

This program should be income-tested, remove barriers, and achieve an adequate income level to address the social harms that structural inequities cause for everyone. Our community is struggling through crises that do not have to continue. The harmful realities of poverty, homelessness, and food insecurity could all be improved on through the viable solution of a GLBI.

While support for such a program is coming to you from many concerned people, including myself, this does require political will to enforce, so as your constituent, I urge you to work towards such a program. It is an important and logical step forward when data indicates we are moving in the wrong direction on poverty and now we're seeing the highest levels of income inequality ever recorded as stated in a recent [StatsCan report](#).

I believe a GLBI program is possible and necessary.

Firstly, it was called for in the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls' *Calls for Justice* #4.5.

Secondly, there are already income-tested transfer payments working in Canada today—the *Old Age Security* and the *Guaranteed Income Supplement* for seniors, and the *Canada Child Benefit* for parents.

Lastly, the *Canada Emergency Response Benefit*, while it had some hiccups, did show the potential for cross-party and jurisdictional cooperation.

The issue of federalism and jurisdiction is a sticking point that is often brought up, which is why I'm so happy to bring your attention to the *PEI Basic Income Report*. It details a basic income demonstration project for a fully funded five to seven-year long program with Federal-Provincial considerations already considered. It represents what amounts to a rounding error in terms of cost to the Federal government. The demonstration project could serve as the basis for a GLBI in Canada and address any jurisdictional issues. It's a promising and hopeful start. I hope that updates from the Working Group tasked with negotiations between the Province and the Federal government to implement the model are released to the public and are ultimately positive.

There are growing networks and faith communities discussing GLBI as one way to address poverty. Senate *Bill S-206* remains an encouraging legislative effort in that direction. I believe that now is the time to be bold and courageous.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

(your name)

(your address)

Cc: Sandra@QuakerService.ca