



QUAKERS

Canadian Friends  
Service Committee

## Email template for a Guaranteed Liveable Basic Income program in Canada

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

Subject: Guaranteed liveable basic income program

(Date)

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

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

I ask that you develop and implement a guaranteed liveable basic income program that safeguards people's wellbeing and upholds their dignity by establishing an income floor that people cannot fall below.

This program should be income-tested, remove barriers, and have a minimum of 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 to entrench the harmful realities of poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, and incarceration when there is a viable solution and growing support for 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. 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 are recording the highest levels of income inequality ever according to a recent StatsCan report.

I believe a GLBI program is possible and necessary.

Firstly, it was called for in the *Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, Call 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 when we are talking about a GLBI in Canada, which is why I am so happy to bring to your attention the PEI Basic Income Report. It details a basic income model for a fully funded 5 to 7-year long demonstration program with federal-provincial considerations. The demonstration project could serve as the basis for a GLBI in Canada that also speaks to the jurisdictional issues that persist; it is a promising and hopeful start. I hope the negotiations between the province and the federal government to implement the model are positive.

There are growing networks and faith communities discussing GLBI as one way to address poverty and Senate *Bill S-233* remains an encouraging legislative effort in that direction, especially after *Bill C-223* in the House was voted down at second reading. This was a small set back, but support is growing. 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