E-mail Template: Guaranteed Livable Income

*NB: The main content can be adapted to send directly to your MP or others inside or outside 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 justice@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: COVID-19 Pandemic and a guaranteed livable income program

As a member of The United Church of Canada, I call on you to build on the positive experience of the CERB and recent cross-party and jurisdictional cooperation and roll out a guaranteed livable income program that ensures an adequate living income level for everyone and addresses the persistent inequities that exist within the present wage and social benefit structures in our country.

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, and is available with a minimum of bureaucracy. 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.

Our collective experience as Canadians during COVID-19 and the growing momentum for such a program presents a vital opportunity. Drawing on Canadians’ realization that poverty can happen very quickly to anyone, together we can take important steps to protect the health, safety, and dignity of all Canadians going forward.

I look forward to hearing from your office, and I will be listening for this commitment in the Speech from the Throne as Parliament opens.

Sincerely,

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

Cc: justice@united-church.ca
(*your member of parliament*)

Reference: [Moderator’s letter to elected officials re universal basic income May 2020](https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/create-universal-basic-income-program)