



Encouraging and Connecting Communities of Faith

April 7, 2021

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, PC, MP
Prime Minister of Canada

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, MP
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance

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

Subject: Guaranteed Livable Basic Income

On behalf of Shining Waters Regional Council, I am writing to urge the Canadian Government to create a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income for all Canadians over the age of 18 years old that accounts for regional variations in the cost of living, and does not require participation in the labour market for eligibility.

As you begin your National Convention, we are hopeful and optimistic that consideration will be given to this important and necessary program that will protect Canadians. With the growing momentum in support of this initiative by Canadians of all political persuasions, including many Senators and MPs, the time is right to take steps toward implementing a Guaranteed Livable Income.

Poverty can happen very quickly to anyone. A guaranteed livable income would help address the persistent inequities within our country.

The United Church of Canada has actively advocated for a Universal Basic Income (Guaranteed Annual Income) since 1972, seeing it as a means of ensuring financial security for all people, while being more equitable and less costly than the myriad of provincial and government support programs currently in existence. Since then, national and international studies have shown that Universal Basic Income is both affordable and has beneficial effects in the areas of health, justice, education, and social welfare. As a church, we advocate for a Universal Basic Income because following Jesus' example means believing in the inherent value of all people — regardless of the spiritual and economic circumstances in which they find themselves.

Poverty is never the fault of the poor.

Over and over again, we see the effects of poverty disproportionately affecting Indigenous peoples, racialized peoples, women, those who live with mental illness and physical disability. A

Main Office: 59 Line 4N, Oro-Medonte, ON, L0L 2L0 **Phone:** 416-231-7680/1-800-268-3781, ext. 6144
Toronto Office: 963 Pharmacy Ave., Toronto, ON, M1R 2G5 **Phone:** 416-231-7680/1-800-268-3781, ext. 6145

Website: www.shiningwatersregionalcouncil.ca

Guaranteed Livable Basic Income would be one more step towards creating a just and equitable society — one that lives up to the values professed by the current Federal Government, as well as The United Church of Canada.

Shining Waters Regional Council is one of 16 administrative groupings within The United Church of Canada, with approximately 170 Communities of Faith spanning an area from the shores of Lake Ontario to northern Muskoka. We come from a tradition where loving God is inextricably tied to loving our neighbour. In this case, loving our neighbour means advocating for the resources that allow everybody in our communities to live a life of peace, health, dignity and agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Leyton-Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Leyton-Brown, President
Shining Waters Regional Council
The United Church of Canada

c.c:

Erin O'Toole, MP
Leader of the Conservative Party of Canada

Jagmeet Singh, MP
Leader of the New Democratic Party of Canada

Annamie Paul
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

Rob Oliphant
Member of Parliament for Don Valley West