



The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., M.P.  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Privy Council Office Room  
1000 85 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

The Honourable Bill Morneau, P.C., M.P.  
Minister of Finance  
90 Elgin Street, 17th Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5

June 22, 2020

Re: Guaranteed Basic Income

Dear Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister Morneau:

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good is a growing organization currently comprised of 30 community, ethno-cultural, non-profit, education, labour and faith groups. These organizations represent approximately 35,000 Calgary citizens.

We applaud the leadership of the Government of Canada during the Covid19 pandemic. In particular, we are pleased with the government's rapid response to providing those in need with the funds to carry them through the Covid19 public health crisis. The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) and additional funding programs have served most Canadians well during this public health crisis.

The Covid19 pandemic, however, has also revealed that existing federal programs such as Employment Insurance, the Canada Child Benefit, and the Guaranteed Income Supplement for seniors have their limitations.

The April 21, 2020 letter from 50 Canadian senators, the May 3, 2020 letter from Bishops of the Anglican and Lutheran churches of Canada and the May 19, 2020 letter from 167 Health Professionals offer sound justification for the application of a Basic Income in Canada.

A guaranteed Basic Income would overcome deficiencies in our social safety net. A Basic Income has been studied in both Canada and around the world with strikingly positive outcomes. A Basic Income results in better population health and social outcomes. It is non-stigmatizing and encourages people to seek work. A guaranteed Basic Income is a mechanism that lifts people out of poverty and puts money in the marketplace.

A Basic Income would reduce administrative costs by folding many current programs into one. In addition, a Basic Income system has been shown to reduce health care, criminal justice costs, and increase rates of school completion. In particular, the Alliance supports a Basic Income for Canadians as a solution to continuing and widespread poverty in our land of abundance.

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good believes that no Canadian should have to live in poverty or be thrust into poverty by a public health crisis or economic emergency. We know that the Government of Canada shares that belief. Accordingly, we strongly urge the Government of Canada to implement a guaranteed Basic Income so that all Canadians have the ability to achieve and maintain a good quality of life.

Sincerely,

The Calgary Alliance for the Common Good

*Membership of the Calgary Alliance for the Common Good:*

Amalgamated Transit Union, Local 583  
Ambrose University  
Anatolian Turkish Islamic Centre of Calgary  
Anglican Diocese of Calgary  
B’Nai Tikvah Congregation  
Beth Tzedec Congregation  
Calgary Climate Hub  
Calgary Interfaith Council  
Christ Church Anglican  
Eritrean Canadian Community Association of Calgary  
General Teamsters, Local 362  
Hillhurst United Church  
Knox United Church  
Lutheran Church of our Saviour  
Lutheran Church of the Cross  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Calgary

Synod of Alberta & the Territories, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
St. Andrews Anglican Church  
St. Laurence Anglican Church  
St. Mary's University  
St. Thomas United Church  
The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 38 (CUPE)  
The Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 1169 (CUPE), Calgary and  
Cochrane Public Library Workers  
Trinity Place Foundation  
UBCJA -2103  
Unitarian Church of Calgary  
Vibrant Communities Calgary