Address your email to your MP (Mr./Ms. or Honourable, if they are a cabinet minister), and your MP's Last Name. <u>Here</u> is a link to list of all MPs with their email and contact information. Letters can be mailed postage-free, if sent to **House of Commons**, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1A 0A6.

Dear Mr./Ms. or Honourable + MP's last name,

In June of 2024, the Honourable Jenna Sudds and the Honourable Barbara Ramsey established a federal/provincial (PEI) Working Group to discuss the data and administrative requirements of a 5 to 7-year Guaranteed Basic Income (GBI) demonstration project. This Working Group was established after 4 years of work in PEI starting with the Special Committee on Poverty (in PEI) recommending a Federal/Provincial collaboration on a demonstration project. This report was followed up, 3 years later, with A Proposal for a Guaranteed Basic Income for PEI, which addresses issues of cost, financing, labour market effects and more, of such a demonstration project. It was prepared by experienced economists, public servants, and federal and provincial politicians.

I am writing to you to request that you raise a question in the House of Commons asking for an update on this important Working Group.

A demonstration program of a GBI in PEI is an affordable and practical way to test the impacts and outcomes of a GBI. Governments will be able to study both the impacts of a GBI on people's lives, economies, as well as administrative interactions between governments. We have many indications of the positive effects a GBI can have on people's lives, as well as on the criminal justice system, and our health system.

We need innovative solutions to address growing and ongoing crises in our society, in our economy (affordability, food insecurity and housing), healthcare (mental illness and addiction), labour markets (AI and other technological advancements) and climate change (wildfires and floods) that decimate lives and livelihoods. Years of research indicates that a GBI could provide income security sufficient to prevent people from falling into poverty, helping them meet their challenges and needs when they and their families are in crisis. An income guarantee could reduce the need for governments to improvise solutions to economic, environmental, and health crises as they arise. But we need to be able to confirm these outcomes and to understand how federal and provincial administrative systems would interact to deliver a GBI. A 5 to7-year demonstration project in PEI would provide this opportunity. The report noted above provides the basis for such a project, and addresses issues of cost, financing, labour market effects, administrative considerations, evaluation parameters, and more.

The establishment of the Federal/Provincial Working Group is such an important step. Please ask for an update on its work.

Sincerely,

(Your name, address and postal code)