

Subject: Income insecurity and Prince Edward Island's Guaranteed Basic Income Demonstration Project (a GBI for PEI)

Dear Mr./Ms./MP or Hon. (if they are a cabinet minister)/ MLA or MPP (Last Name),

Hello, I live in your riding, and I am concerned about the rising cost of living and the income security of many of my neighbours, friends and family (consider adding a couple of sentences to explain your concern in more detail).

The Canadian government has identified the need to bring our economy into the 21st century to ensure we can sustain – and build – our economic strength. But we also need to bring our social support system into the 21st century to ensure all people in Canada have the ability to live healthy, happy, and productive lives. Our economy is rapidly changing – we need to recognize how this can affect all Canadians and adapt.

The poverty rate in Canada is at 10.2% and rising. This is unacceptable. Our current social support system keeps people in poverty, is expensive, is cumbersome to administer, and undermines people's dignity and well being. It also prevents people from developing their skills and improving their lives.

We need to find a better way – and we have an opportunity to do so: a federal/provincial guaranteed basic income (GBI) demonstration project in PEI, which describes how this project could be implemented and studied. The project would evaluate how administrative and other variables would need to be adjusted to address policy and practical concerns as they arise.

Analyses conducted when developing the PEI proposal for a GBI showed, among other impacts, that poverty could be reduced in PEI from 9.7% to 2.1%; that the cost of a GBI would be 40% lower than previous estimates; and that there would be very little effect on hours worked by recipients.

I would like to meet with you to discuss my concerns about growing income insecurity in Canada, and to hear your views and questions regarding the GBI for PEI demonstration project.

Kind regards,

Your name, address, postal code