



INDIGENOUS ACTION CANADA

**613 Hart's Way
Kemptville, Ontario
K0G 1J0**

September 12, 2023

Hon. Anita Anand
House of Commons

Dear Hon. Anita Anand:

We are writing to about the issue of income and personal security for women in Canada and calling for the implementation of a Guaranteed Liveable Income (GLI) for all Canadians.

As Indigenous people working with our allies from Indigenous Action Canada, we plead with you to take direct and immediate action as a legislator in the House of Commons to make meaningful change to improve the livelihoods of people in Canada while simultaneously taking concrete and meaningful action to protect vulnerable women from further violence.

Women in Canada are in crisis, and this is especially true for Indigenous Women and their children.

We are asking you to take action to ensure Women, particularly Indigenous Women in Canada, are removed from the vulnerable position of poverty. Assurance of personal economic security will guarantee safety for people and undergird their basic human rights which includes a basic standard of living and security of the person. Addressing these needs through economic and social programming is within the power of Parliamentarians.

The Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) Inquiry acknowledged that impoverishment of Indigenous women is disempowering and leaves us at risk and vulnerable. Canada must remedy the inequities and assure the safety and protection of all people.

There are nearly 4 million people living below the poverty line, according to the 2019 Canada Income Survey. In a recent report by Canada's Parliamentary Budget Officer we learned that a federal national basic income program would cost around \$85 billion and cut poverty rates by almost half.

Furthermore, the Senate of Canada acknowledged the perils of poverty and advocates for a Guaranteed Liveable Income. The Senate recognized that Canadians need access to economic support.

The Canadian government showed brave leadership by implementing initiatives such as the CERB and wage subsidy measures. It was an action that serves as a testament to the viability of such programs.

As poverty and risk for the personal safety of women (and children) escalates, we must ensure everyone is treated fairly and no one is left out. GLI could help ensure that we will alleviate the crippling effects of poverty and improve the lives of all people in Canada.

Statistics Canada has reported that family violence has increased for the fifth consecutive year in Canada. Numerous organizations across Canada are calling this an epidemic of domestic violence and demanding urgent action to address this humanitarian crisis, a crisis that is felt by vulnerable women and children daily.

Statistics Canada released a report in October 2022 showing there were 127,082 victims of police-reported violence committed by spouses, parents, children, siblings or extended family members in 2021, a rate of 336 victims per 100,000 population.

According to a 2020 report from the Canadian Labour Congress to The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and United Nations Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women, frontline domestic violence organizations are reporting varying service use trends across Canada. A consultation with service organizations led by the Ministry of Women and Gender Equality Canada found that in some regions calls to these services are up by 20 to 30 percent, with some shelters reporting increases in calls as high as 400 percent.

The MMIWG inquiry released their final report in 2019 and made calls for essential change. The MMIWG Inquiry found Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or go missing than others in Canada. Statistics Canada has reported that sixty-three per cent of Indigenous women have experienced violence and nearly half have experienced sexual assault.

We ask you directly as a parliamentarian, will you introduce legislation to implement a GLI in Canada and/or will you vote to support such a bill?

We await your favourable response.
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On behalf of the Indigenous Action Canada