Date

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to introduce you to the Reimagining a Just Recovery campaign. This campaign came about when dozens of community organizations from across York Region came together and shared our concerns regarding how many equity-seeking groups have been particularly harmed by COVID 19; and how much our social safety net has failed so many.

We are hoping you will join with us to ask government and policy makers for clear and specific action.

We have witnessed how quickly the government responded to the pandemic, by enacting a number of social programs and benefits which, though not perfect, offered much needed support. We have seen how effective government action is possible, when it is made a priority.

We now need to ensure that our social safety net is repaired and strengthened for the long term so that historic inequities that have been exacerbated during the pandemic do not continue. In addition, we need to call on our provincial and federal governments to step up to the plate.

People across York Region are asking that government at all levels commit to these 5 steps to build a recovery that works for everyone:

* Create adequate and accessible income supports
* Ensure fair pay, benefits & protections in safe workplaces
* Expand and preserve safe, adequate and affordable housing
* Invest in access to public services like child care, transportation, digital access and eldercare
* Increase the use of flexible funding and core funding that lets nonprofits adapt to new and unanticipated challenges, and contributes to sustainability and predictability

We are reaching out to organizations such as yours who work closely with and for equity-seeking people and who, like us, demand a just and equitable recovery all, not just for the more privileged.

Attached is the final report that includes a detailed breakdown of the five steps governments need to take. We are asking you to be part of this effort, by:

* Endorsing ‘Reimagining a Just Recovery’. You can do this by simply clicking [here](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=uwtaxn28Dk-lruheZjqtUcdV6sa8ex9LoXfs4iZ1VHdUNzNYS1I1MTlBOTIwVEhEVzVFWFU4VDlaMC4u) and endorsing as an individual and/or an organization.
* Reaching out to your local MP and MPP via phone, a visit to their constituency office, or through a letter or email. Please update us regarding any communications, by emailing us at socialplanningcouncilyr@gmail.com (and copying us on any emails you send out). A draft email/letter is attached which you can use when contacting your MP/MPP. Feel free to change or edit it as you wish. Please also share all our information with your contacts, so this initiative spreads as far and wide as possible.

We have been through a lot with COVID-19, and we all now need to work together to ensure that the lessons learned from this pandemic are put to good use, and that we create a society where nobody gets left behind anymore.

Sincerely