**Template Letter and Phone Script for MPPs and MPs**

***Sample letter when reaching out to MPPs and MPs about this work:***

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

Over the last few months, community organizations from across York Region have gotten together and shared their concerns regarding how many marginalized groups have been badly impacted by COVID-19, and how they were left vulnerable by the way our social safety net has failed them. Everyone agreed we can’t let this continue.

As a ***resident in/organization serving*** your riding, I am writing to seek your support in building a resilient recovery that works for everyone.

The pandemic starkly showed just how inadequate our support systems are for people who are marginalized due to poverty, oppression and inequality. These communities have felt the impact of COVID-19 more deeply than most. We have an obligation to ensure that we have addressed these inequities before the next wave or pandemic. And we know, from what governments have already accomplished during the pandemic, that they can tackle these issues when they make them a priority.

***If you want a meeting:***

I and some of the other residents/service providers from your riding would like to meet with you and talk to you about these issues.

We want to make sure you appreciate how important it is, to people in your community, that governments at all levels commit to these 5 steps to build a recovery that works for everyone:

* Create adequate and accessible income supports
* Ensure decent work with 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

For more context we have attached a copy of a statement that I/we support, as do many organizations across York Region.

Please let us know a date and time when we can come and meet with you, at a physical distance, to discuss these issues.

***If you want to write a letter:***

We ask that you write to the relevant Ministers to express the need for action outlined here and to raise the same issues in your caucus.

**At the Federal level reach out to**: Prime Minister, Finance Minister; Labour Minister; Families, Children and Social Development Minister; Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Transportation Minister

**At the Provincial level reach out to**: Premier, Finance Minister, Labour, Training and Skill Development Minister, Children Community and Social Services Minister,Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Transportation Minister.

\* If you reach out to MPPs and/or MPs in opposition, please ask them to bring up these issues in question period.

***Sample Letter***:

I/we are asking that you speak up about these issues and convey your community’s concerns to others at the Federal/Provincial level.

We want to make sure you appreciate how important it is, to people in your community, that governments at all levels commit to these 5 steps to build a recovery that works for everyone:

* Create adequate and accessible income supports
* Ensure decent work with fair pay, benefits & protections in safe workplaces
* Expand and preserve safe, adequate and affordable housing
* Increase the use of flexible funding and core funding that lets nonprofits adapt to new and unanticipated challenges, and contributes to sustainability and predictability
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We have been through a lot with COVID-19. As we hopefully move toward recovery, I/we are counting on you and on our other elected representatives to make sure that, in future, we are better prepared, and in particular, that the people who bore the brunt of this pandemic are not left behind again when the next one hits.

We look forward to hearing from you about your actions on this issue.

Sincerely,

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| Please update us regarding communications and responses to elected officials by emailing us at socialplanningcouncilyr@gmail.com |