

Peterborough Food Action Network

February 18, 2021

Government of Canada

Re: Let's Talk Budget 2021 – Pre-budget Consultations

budget2021@canada.ca

We are writing on behalf of the Peterborough Food Action Network (PFAN), a broad community network focused on everyone having enough healthy food to eat as part of a long-term food security strategy. PFAN brings together agencies and individuals to build community food security as part of local poverty reduction efforts. We wrote to Minister Freeland in September of 2020, requesting that a Guaranteed Basic Income be included in the Speech from the Throne, and we thank you for the reply we received in January of 2021.

We are pleased that the government is asking Canadians about economic recovery that leaves no Canadian behind. For Canadians to participate in the labour market or contribute to economic recovery, their basic needs, such as food security, must be met. We would like to share the following briefing note, [Addressing Food Insecurity through a Basic Income Guarantee](#), written by Mary Anne Martin and Joëlle Favreau, Elaine Power, Val Tarasuk and Erin Reyce, and signed by researchers, organizations and individuals across Canada. This briefing note concisely demonstrates **Basic Income Guarantee as an evidence-based intervention to address food insecurity, with great potential to contribute to a healthier, more innovative, more inclusive, and more resilient Canada**. We see Basic Income as one vital part of a comprehensive suite of supports to ensure that Canada's most vulnerable are not left behind.

We thank you for your dedication to supporting Canadians during the pandemic, and request that the voices of Canadians asking for Basic Income be considered in the 2021 budget consultation.

Sincerely,

Lauren Kennedy, Joëlle Favreau, and Mary Anne Martin

Working group representatives, on behalf of the Peterborough Food Action Network