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Senate Standing Committee on National Finance
Senate of Canada
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A4

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Re: Support for Bill S-233: An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income

Dear members of the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance,

It is with great interest that I have been following the movement of Bill S-233: *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income* through the Senate.

I urge you to [support this Bill](#) and move to a third reading.

Support for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income is strong across Canada and across many sectors. Currently, more than [forty-five municipalities](#), from Victoria to St. John's, have passed resolutions calling on the federal government for such a program.

Since 1972, the United Church of Canada has advocated a policy of guaranteed annual income that is more equitable, and less expensive and complicated to administer, than the numerous government support programs presently available. Since then, national and international studies and programs have shown that a guaranteed livable basic income is both affordable and has beneficial effects on health, justice, education, and social welfare.

Canada's current social welfare system fails to recognize the value of all persons, and the work and contributions of all, denying the dignity of our common humanity. While there have been minimal baseline gains in poverty reduction over the past decade, recent statistics show disturbing increases in unmet housing needs, food insecurity, unmet health care needs, low literacy and numeracy, and slight year-over-year decreases in the median hourly wage.

Even the temporary wage supports put in place in the first two years of the pandemic were only set at 80 percent of the minimum that individuals needed for survival at the time. And those supports were, in many cases, at least double our current provincial income supports for the poorest in society.

In addition, artists, caregivers, and workers in our precarious gig-economy struggle with inadequate incomes that suck the time, energy, and health from those with the fewest resources. These realities contradict the very justice and peace God envisions for creation.

We call for a guaranteed livable income that implements a structure of justice-making and justice-keeping, one that no longer excuses, rationalizes, and tolerates poverty. We call for a system that offers a fundamental, fair level of income security for all. With your leadership and support for Bill S-233, this can become a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carmen Lansdowne".

The Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne
Moderator
The United Church of Canada

cc. Mireille K. Aubé, Clerk, nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca