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

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Dear members of the Senate Standing Committee on National Finance,

Re: Support for Bill S-206: An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income

It is with great interest that we have been following the movement of Bill S-206: *An Act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income* through the Senate, and with great enthusiasm that **we urge you to [support this Bill](#) and move to a third reading.**

The United Church of Canada is the largest Protestant denomination in Canada. We minister to over a million people in approximately 2,000 congregations from coast to coast to coast. We are deeply connected with ecumenical movements, civil society organizations and community groups across the country.

Since 1972, The United Church of Canada has advocated for 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. Support for a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income is strong across Canada and across many sectors. For example, more than [forty-five municipalities](#), from Victoria to St. John's, have passed resolutions calling on the federal government to implement such a program.

More and more people are unhoused, living in inadequate housing, and forced to choose between food and rent. Even more live with the gnawing anxiety that one emergency could change everything. Churches and numerous community organizations across the country daily seek to

support people who lack the necessary income to live with dignity. It is clearly apparent that the current situation is not tenable; that we are in a polycrisis. Economic, climate, political, health, food crisis occur simultaneously and interact and amplify each other affecting us all. The worst impacts are felt by people who already have the least resources and experience systemic discriminations such as ableism, classism, heterosexism, racism, and sexism. People who live with the intersections of multiple discriminations are particularly marginalized.

Imagine the possibilities and security a Guaranteed Livable Income would bring: To be able to care for a loved one. To be able to return to school. To be able to weather today's economic uncertainty with dignity. A GLI would recognize the value of all persons, the work and contributions of all, and affirm the dignity of our common humanity.

In proposing a new national program of such scale and impact, there are numerous questions and considerations that emerge as to its shape and implementation. Bill C-206 recognizes the importance of thoughtful consideration, and mandates consultation with "the Minister of Health, the ministers responsible for employment, social development, housing and disability, representatives of the provincial governments responsible for health, disability, education, housing and social development, Indigenous Elders, Indigenous governing bodies and other relevant stakeholders, including policy developers and political decision-makers, as well as experts in other guaranteed livable basic income programs." Hence, these should not hinder the passage of this Bill to "develop a national framework for the implementation of a GLBI", but rather compel its passing to get to this stage.

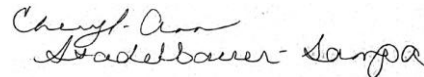
Today, the progress of this Bill through the Senate, is a sign of hope and a sign of the growing support for a system that offers a fundamental, fair level of income security for all – that is a Guaranteed Livable Basic Income.

I urge you to act for the well-being of Canadians and support Bill S-206.

Sincerely,



The Right Rev. Dr. Kimberley Heath
Moderator
The United Church of Canada



Rev. Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
Acting General Secretary
The United Church of Canada

cc. Sara Gajic, Committee Clerk, nffn@sen.parl.gc.ca