



September 10, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P. *
Prime Minister of Canada
Langevin Block
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Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

Your government's upcoming Speech from the Throne is an opportunity to set Canada on the path of an economic recovery that addresses the inequities in our society laid bare by the pandemic.

A just recovery must also build resilience to withstand future crises.

The pandemic has exposed the inadequacy of minimum wages and the precarity of employment for many. It has exposed the dangerous conditions in our for-profit long-term care facilities. It has exposed the systemic inequality in our society that women, Black, racialized and Indigenous peoples have suffered disproportionately from the pandemic. Your government cannot continue to tolerate these inequities.

On behalf of the 200,000 members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada, I encourage you to include the following measures as part of your government's economic recovery plan.

- Boost the federal public service so that it has the human capacity and resources to advise on, develop, and deliver the policies and programs required to tackle the social and economic gaps highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Of immediate concern is the need to reform the Employment Insurance program to ensure livable levels of income replacement and the provision of paid sick leave.
- Lead the building of a pan-Canadian system of childcare designed and funded to ensure all children 0-12 years of age are able to access high quality, affordable and inclusive childcare programs that put children's development and learning at their core.
- Strengthen the public health care system by including universal prescription drug coverage and set national standards for long-term care to guarantee safe and quality care for residents.
- Address systemic racism in all federal institutions including creating a National Action Plan against Racism and Anti-Black Racism to accompany the national Anti-Racism Strategy, with the necessary resources and concrete strategies with actionable goals, measurable targets, and timetables.

- Accelerate the implementation of the recommendations arising from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the recommendations of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- Expand federal support for publicly-funded and owned research.
- Expand the capacity of the federal government to create jobs and lead the fight against climate change with aggressive targets for conversion to green infrastructure and a green economy.
- Remove the for-profit mandate of the Canada Infrastructure Bank and use it to invest in infrastructure projects that remain in public hands in order to address the deficits in: roads, bridges, transit systems, electricity infrastructure, internet, water treatment, and related infrastructure in Indigenous communities.

We look forward to the return of Parliament and the announcement of the government's recovery plans.

Sincerely,



Chris Aylward
National President
Public Service Alliance of Canada

c.c: Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance