

Date:

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am writing to thank your government for the actions taken, in the 2016 and 2017 budgets, to address child poverty in our country. Specifically:

- **The increase in the maximum Canada Child Benefit to \$6,400 for children up to 6 years and to \$5,400 for children ages 6-17, for those families most in need**
- **The allocation of \$8.4 billion to Indigenous peoples for educational, infrastructure and social projects and the addition this year of \$3.4 billion more to that amount, spread over the next 3 years**
- **The allocation of \$2.3 billion to increase funding for affordable housing and in 2017 the further 11.2 billion added over the next several years**
- **The initiation of the process to create a national Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy and a National Housing Strategy**
- **The commitment to a long-term partnership with provinces and territories, to invest \$7.5 billion in child care and early learning over the next 11 years, creating up to 40,000 new spaces across Canada over the next three years**

These are much welcomed steps forward.

As a member of The United Church of Canada, I am alarmed, though, at the high rate of child poverty still evident in this affluent country, especially among racialized and Aboriginal populations.

According to Statistic Canada's latest figures, the current rate of child poverty in our country sits at 18.5% (LIM-AT). This includes more than 50% of First Nations children on reserve. In light of this reality, I ask you to consider the following policies as well:

- **Immediately close existing funding gaps for all services for First Nations children on reserve.**
- **Implement a \$15 minimum wage across the board for every worker nationwide.**
- **Address extreme global income inequality by working with other nations to eliminate all tax havens, both in our country and abroad.**

I encourage your government to move forward with these initiatives, before the costs of child poverty become even more of a social and economic drain. Along with sincere appreciation, I offer you my prayers and my support.

Yours sincerely,

Address: