

December 6, 2019

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.,
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
Langevin Block
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister:

Subject: A Government commitment to build the Common Good Retirement Plan

We are writing to support the Common Good Retirement Plan, a national, portable retirement plan for Canada's nonprofit sector, and its 2020 federal budget request.

Nearly one million Canadian workers in the nonprofit sector do not have a workplace retirement plan. These workers care for our children, combat poverty, protect our environment, build our health and wellbeing, and enrich our culture. In a female-majority sector where 80 percent of workers are women, nearly half are precariously employed, and many live from modest paycheque to modest paycheque.

With more than 26,000 nonprofits and charities in Alberta, this retirement savings challenge is felt across our province. The high quality of life enjoyed in our communities is built on many of the programs, activities and services delivered by the workers in our sector. Yet, there is currently no workplace savings plan for nonprofit workers in Alberta to ensure their financial security in retirement.

Nonprofit leaders from across Canada have worked with experts to create a solution to this problem: the Common Good Retirement Plan, which would be a national, portable retirement plan for Canada's nonprofit workers, with a focus on lower- and moderate-income workers and those without stable, full-time employment. The plan would be open to workers across the social sector, including social enterprises and co-operatives.

Common Good is backed by a growing national coalition of foundations, nonprofit leaders, social-purpose businesses, and retirement and social policy experts, as well as nearly 100 committed employers from all provinces and territories.



In Budget 2020, Common Good is asking the government to provide \$10 million in funding over four years to build and operationalize the Common Good plan, and support a 4-year retirement security engagement and education to scale to 50,000 plan members. This funding will enable Common Good to become self-sustaining and serve sector workers far into the future.

Common Good is a unifying, pan-Canadian project, that can be launched quickly, cost-effectively, and without legislative change or complex federal-provincial-territorial negotiations. It is strongly aligned with the government's goals to strengthen middle class prosperity, create quality jobs, promote gender equity, and prevent future poverty.

We are looking to your government for leadership in supporting this innovative initiative to offer workers high-quality, portable workplace retirement savings options, and to ensure that mission-driven social sector organizations in communities across Canada can offer fair and competitive benefits to their dedicated workforce.

With thanks and best wishes,

Sincerely,

David Mitchell
President & CEO

cc: The Honourable Bill Morneau, Minister of Finance
The Honourable Ahmed Hussen, Minister of Families, Children and Social Development
The Honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development, and Disability Inclusion
The Honourable Mona Fortier, Minister of Middle-Class Prosperity and Associate Minister of Finance
The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs