

# Board Correspondence

November 2020

Date	From	Subject
October 13, 2020	Public Health Sudbury & Districts	Resolution #20-20 - evolution of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a basic income for all Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.



**Public Health**  
**Santé publique**  
SUDBURY & DISTRICTS

October 13, 2020

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., MP  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland, P.C., MP  
Deputy Prime Minister and  
Minister of Finance  
Privy Council Office  
Room 1000  
80 Sparks Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Deputy Minister and Minister of Finance:

**Re: Basic Income for Income Security during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond**

At its meeting on September 17, 2020, the Board of Health carried the following resolution #20-20:

*THAT the Board of Health for Public Health Sudbury & Districts endorse correspondence from Ontario boards of health recommending the evolution of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a basic income for all Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.*

*AND FURTHER THAT relevant individuals and organizations be apprised of this motion and supporting materials.*

**Sudbury**

1300 rue Paris Street  
Sudbury ON P3E 3A3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.522.5182

**Rainbow Centre**

10 rue Elm Street  
Unit / Unité 130  
Sudbury ON P3C 5N3  
t: 705.522.9200  
f: 705.677.9611

**Sudbury East / Sudbury-Est**

1 rue King Street  
Box / Boîte 58  
St.-Charles ON POM 2W0  
t: 705.222.9201  
f: 705.867.0474

**Espanola**

800 rue Centre Street  
Unit / Unité 100 C  
Espanola ON P5E 1J3  
t: 705.222.9202  
f: 705.869.5583

**Île Manitoulin Island**

6163 Highway / Route 542  
Box / Boîte 87  
Mindemoya ON P0P 1S0  
t: 705.370.9200  
f: 705.377.5580

**Chapleau**

101 rue Pine Street E  
Box / Boîte 485  
Chapleau ON POM 1K0  
t: 705.860.9200  
f: 705.864.0820

**Toll-free / Sans frais**

1.866.522.9200

[phsd.ca](http://phsd.ca)



Healthier communities for all.  
Des communautés plus saines pour tous.

Letter

Re: Basic Income for Income Security during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

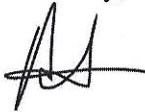
October 13, 2020

Page 2

Income alone is the single strongest predictor of health, and health improves at every step up the income ladder.<sup>i ii</sup> Populations living in low income are disproportionately affected by virtually all physical and mental health problems and challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has amplified income inequities that already exist and has increased the level and depth of poverty across the country.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts has a long-standing commitment to health equity and poverty reduction efforts including previous advocacy in support of a basic income guarantee. Given the devastating financial impacts of COVID-19 on priority populations, Public Health Sudbury & Districts is reconfirming its support for basic income as a long-term policy option for poverty reduction for all Canadians, during the pandemic and beyond. Therefore, we urge your government explore the implementation of a basic income as the Canadian Emergency Response Benefit comes to an end as a viable option for reducing poverty and improving health.

Sincerely,



Penny Sutcliffe, MD, MHSc, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer

cc: Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
Honourable C. Elliott, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health  
Dr. D. Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health  
All Ontario Boards of Health

---

<sup>i</sup> Public Health Sudbury & Districts. (2019, July 16). *Health equity*. Retrieved from <https://www.phsd.ca/health-topics-programs/health-equity>

<sup>ii</sup> Mikkonen, J., Raphael, D. (2010). *Social determinants of health: The Canadian facts*. Toronto. York University School of Health Policy and Management. Retrieved from [https://thecanadianfacts.org/The\\_Canadian\\_Facts.pdf](https://thecanadianfacts.org/The_Canadian_Facts.pdf)