July 23, 2020

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2
Sent via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister
Privy Council Office, Room 1000
80 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A3
Sent via email: chrystia.freeland@parl.gc.ca

The Honourable Bill Morneau
Minister of Finance
90 Elgin Street, 17th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0G5
Sent via email: bill.morneau@parl.gc.ca

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Freeland and Minister Morneau,

Re: Support for Basic Income for All Canadians During The COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond

At its July 16, 2020 meeting, the Middlesex-London Board of Health voted to endorse correspondence item a) from the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit, recommending the evolution of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a basic income for all Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

a) Date: 2020 May 20
   Topic: Basic Income for Income Security during COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond
   From: Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit
   To: Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Finance Bill Morneau

Background:

On May 20, 2020, the Board of Health for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit wrote to Prime Minister Trudeau as well as Minister Freeland and Minister Morneau to convey their strong support for the evolution of the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) into a basic income for all Canadians, during the COVID-19 Pandemic and beyond.

Recommendation: Endorse.
It was moved by Ms. Elliott, seconded by Mr. Peer that the Board of Health receive items a) through h) for information and endorse item a).

We appreciate your consideration for this very important public health issue and strongly recommend your government take immediate action on developing the Canada Emergency Response Benefit into legislation for a basic income as an effective long-term response to the problems of income insecurity, poverty and household food insecurity, as well as a response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

Maureen Cassidy
Board Chair

Christopher Mackie
Medical Officer of Health

cc: Council of Medical Officers of Health (COMOH)