

Date:

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

I am very pleased about an upcoming event on Parliament Hill on **November 21, 2017**. Representatives of the **Bread Not Stones Project to End Child Poverty in Canada** will be hosted by the All-Party Anti-Poverty Caucus at a **Breakfast/Panel Discussion in recognition of the UN's Universal Children's Day**. They are partnering with Citizens for Public Justice and Campaign 2000.

They are asking, as well, to have 338 Dolls of Hope displayed in the House of Commons, one on every MP's desk. This was done successfully on November 24, 2016, in the Ontario legislature, where they were permitted for symbolic purposes only on this special day. It's heartening to know that you personally have received a Doll of Hope named "Jack". Each doll represents a child in poverty in our country. They have been created with care by women, men and children from across our nation. Bread Not Stones is working with both MP and Senate offices and have this request pending. I am hopeful it will be granted and trust they have your support. In honour of Universal Children's Day it would be very moving to see the dolls in the House **as symbols of our commitment to work together for our less fortunate children.**

I would like to thank your government for the actions you have taken to address child poverty in our country. Specifically:

- The substantial increase in the maximum Canada Child Benefit to \$6400 a year per child for children up to 6 years and to \$5,400 for children ages 6-17.
- The allocation of billions of dollars over the next several years for more affordable housing and for Indigenous peoples for education and infrastructure.
- Providing up to 40,000 new child care spaces over the next 3 years.
- The creation of a Canadian Poverty Reduction Strategy and a National Housing Strategy.

These are much welcomed steps forward.

I am concerned though, that 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 these statistics, I ask you to consider the following initiatives as well:

- Immediately close existing funding gaps for services for children in First Nations communities.
- Implement a \$15 per hour minimum wage 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.

Yours sincerely,

Address (or City and Province):