



The Honourable Lisa MacLeod  
Minister of Children, Community & Social Services  
Hepburn Block 6th Flr, 80 Grosvenor St  
Toronto, ON M7A 1E9

August 16, 2018

Honourable Minister,

**Re: 100-day review of Social Assistance in Ontario**

We would like to congratulate you on your appointment to Premier Doug Ford's cabinet as Minister of Children, Community and Social Services. United Way is the largest funder of human and social services outside of government, and working with your ministry, United Ways serve the most vulnerable people in communities across this province.

We agree with you that the social assistance system could work better for the people who rely on it and as you have launched your 100-day review, we would like to help. Our expertise lies in our ability to convene cross sector support around systemic challenges, including the development and delivery of socially innovative approaches. Please consider us as a resource that can bring to the table diverse perspectives as co-funders of social services in communities large and small, rural and urban; from those with lived experience as well as service delivery staff, along with research and evaluation proficiency.

As strategic partners and funders in this sector, we are also offering to share with you the concerns that we are hearing on the ground from people impacted by the proposed winding down of the Basic Income pilot, as well as options for moving forward with ideas developed for the ultimate goal which is greater income security.

You know well, poverty is a complex issue that impacts people differently across our province but it truly does not recognize geographic boundaries, or those of age, gender, culture or ability. With our wide network of agencies that are dedicated to fighting economic disparity, addressing labour market participation, and helping to buffer the impacts of poverty, and we can assure you that you and your team will find

our advice to be balanced, grounded in the realities of our work as funders, as well as the experiences we have with our partners in the mental health, housing and jobs and training sectors, amongst many others.

Kindly have your staff connect with Rhonda Bradley, Senior Advisor, Public Affairs with United Way Ottawa, to facilitate a meeting. Rhonda can be reached at [rbradley@unitedwayottawa.ca](mailto:rbradley@unitedwayottawa.ca).

Sincerely, the undersigned.



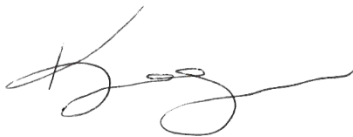
President & CEO  
United Way Prescott- Russell, Lanark, Ottawa and Renfrew Counties



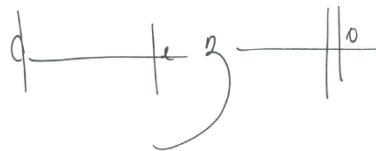
Francesca Dobbyn  
Executive Director  
United Way Bruce Grey  
Communities



Joan S. Fisk  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Way Waterloo Region



Kelly Ziegner  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Way Elgin Middlesex



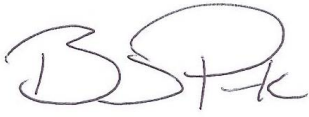
Daniele Zanotti  
President & CEO  
United Way Greater Toronto



Lorraine Goddard  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Way Windsor-Essex County



Jim Russell  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Way Peterborough & District



Brad Park  
President & CEO  
United Way Halton & Hamilton



Michael Cullen  
Executive Director  
United Way North East Ontario

*Copy: Janet Menard, Deputy Minister, Children, Community & Social Services*

*Local MPPs*