



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES  
CANADA

*Daniel Blaikie*

Member of Parliament  
Elmwood-Transcona

*Rachel Blaney*

Member of Parliament  
North Island – Powell River

The Honourable Kamal Khera  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier  
555 MacKenzie Avenue  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0L5

The Honourable Carla Qualtrough  
140 Promenade du Portage  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0J9

November 2, 2021

Dear Ministers,

For months now, your government has ignored calls to address an intensifying financial crisis for many of Canada's poorest seniors. This crisis is a direct result of your government choosing to count emergency pandemic income support in the calculation of eligibility for the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).

New Democrat MPs have been hearing from seniors across the country that are being evicted just as winter sets in. A government that has not asked for a single penny of wage subsidy money back from corporations who were not only profitable, but paid bonuses to their executives and shareholders as they collected public funds, should be capable of more compassion for people who find themselves in desperate circumstances.

These seniors were not told that accepting emergency benefits would disentitle them to their regular income supports the following year. Among those we spoke to are seniors who used that little bit of extra income to pay bills that were long overdue and got dental work done they had not been able to afford for years.

In addition to the sudden reduction in their GIS benefit amount, they are now being denied other services and supports from various levels of government that tie their eligibility to the GIS.

When we wrote to your government before the latest election, the reply we received from then-Minister Schulte was nothing but an exercise in callous bureaucracy. It is time your government stepped in to help these seniors.

The point of the emergency benefits was to prevent evictions and keep food on the table, not to merely delay homelessness and hunger. If that is to succeed, something needs to change.

We would welcome a meeting with you to discuss how such a change can be made promptly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Daniel Blaikie".

Daniel Blaikie, MP  
Elmwood - Transcona

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rachel Blaney".

Rachel Blaney, MP  
North Island - Powell River