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*Elizabeth May*

Member of Parliament / Député(e)  
Saanich — Gulf Islands

*Circonscription*

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The Right Hon. Justin Trudeau,  
Prime Minister of Canada,  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington St  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

June 29, 2023

Dear Prime Minister,

I am writing to request that you attend the UN High Level Meeting on Tuberculosis (TB) on September 22, 2023 and commit to eliminating TB in Canada and around the world. I also urge you to act and renew investments in quality education for women and girls in crisis and conflicts.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with passionate Canadians who care deeply about the role that Canada must play in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. However, the triple threats of COVID-19, climate change and conflict have impacted progress towards the SDGs, creating spin-off crises and reversing decades of hard-won progress.

In 2021 alone, over 10 million people fell ill with TB, including 3.4 million women. 1.6 million people died of the disease. Here in Canada, over 1,700 people fell ill with TB in 2020, with newcomers and Indigenous peoples disproportionately affected. Inuit people are particularly impacted, facing a burden of active TB over 290 times the rate of Canadian-born, non-Indigenous people. At the UN High Level Meeting on TB in 2018, member states, including Canada, signed a political declaration to confirm their commitment to TB elimination. Nearly five years later, little progress has been made towards the declaration's targets. With the next UN High Level Meeting on TB happening in September, Canada must follow through with commitments to end TB.

Canada's 2018 G7 Charlevoix Declaration led to investments in education that reached four million women and girls across 55 projects in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Yet, these life-changing programs were not renewed in Budget 2023. Four million girls face an uncertain future and millions more will not receive an opportunity



to learn. This is especially concerning as new figures from the World Bank estimate that 70% of 10-year-olds are unable to read and understand a simple text. This generation of students now risks losing \$21 trillion in potential lifetime earnings. This is the equivalent of 17% of today's global GDP. Canada's investments in quality education are key to building a healthy, peaceful, prosperous and equitable world for all.

Canada has an important role to play on the global stage. I support political commitment and leadership in the fight to end TB, and renewed investment in global quality education for women and girls. Canada must be a real game changer to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Elizabeth May". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Elizabeth" and the last name "May" clearly distinguishable.

Elizabeth May, O.C.  
Member of Parliament  
Saanich – Gulf Islands  
Leader of the Green Party of Canada

