



RACHAEL THOMAS
LETHBRIDGE ALBERTA MP

June 7, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, M.P., P.C.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with passionate Canadians who are deeply concerned about access to vaccines for Tuberculosis (TB) and access to quality education for millions of women and girls worldwide.

In 2021 alone, more than 10 million people fell ill with TB and 1.6 million people died of the disease. Here in Canada, more than 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 toward the declaration's targets. With the next UN HLM on TB happening this September, Canada has an opportunity to follow through on its commitment to support the elimination of this terrible disease.

Canada's 2018 G7 Charlevoix Declaration led to investments in education that reached four million women and girl 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 are facing an uncertain future, and millions more will not receive the opportunity to learn. This is especially concerning as new figures from the World Bank estimate that 70 percent 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, the equivalent of 17 percent of today's global GDP. Canada's investments in quality education are key to building a healthy, peaceful, prosperous, and equitable world for all. I urge you to act and renew investments in quality education for women and girls in crisis and conflicts.

I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rachael Thomas
MP for Lethbridge