



HOUSE OF COMMONS
CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
CANADA

Francesco Sorbara
Member of Parliament
Vaughan-Woodbridge



June 20, 2023

The Honourable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance
Department of Finance Canada
90 Elgin Street Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G5

Dear Minister,

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with passionate Canadians who care deeply about the role 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 Goals, creating spin-off crises, and reversing decades of hard-won progress. Fortunately, there are two key opportunities in 2023 for Canada to be a game changer for the SDGs. One opportunity aims to end tuberculosis (TB) and the other to ensure the continuation of quality education for millions of women and girls around the world.

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 HLM on TB happening this September, Canada must follow through with commitments to end TB. I urge you to attend the UN High Level Meeting on TB this September and commit to eliminate TB in Canada and the world.

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

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lifechanging programs were not renewed in Budget 2023. Four million girls are facing an uncertain future, and millions more will not receive their 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, 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. I urge you to act and renew investments in quality education for women and girls in crisis and conflicts.

Canada has a 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 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Sincerely,

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